



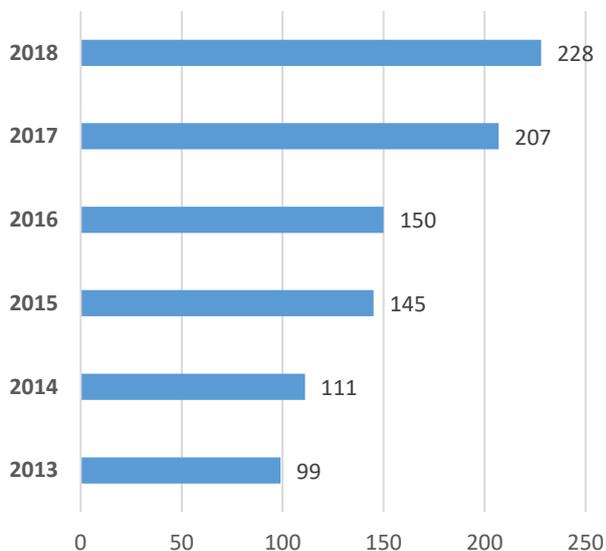
## Human Trafficking and Exploitation

### Newsletter, May 2019

#### Number of victims being identified is increasing

*The National Referral Mechanism figures for 2018 were published on 20 March 2019. Since 2013 referrals to the NRM from Scotland have increased by 130%.*

#### Scottish NRM Referrals



#### **Other key factors of Scottish referrals are:**

- **A significantly higher number of males (139) than females (89) were referred in 2018.**
- **175 referrals were for adults with 53 referrals for children in 2018**
- **Labour exploitation was the most common type of exploitation for adult males in 2018 (86%, 93)**
- **Sexual exploitation was the most common type of exploitation for adult females in 2018 (78%, 52)**
- **Labour exploitation was the most common type of exploitation for male children in 2018 (94%, 29)**
- **Sexual exploitation was the most common type of exploitation for female children in 2018 (50%, 11)**

#### Vietnam

Vietnamese nationals continue to be the largest group referred to the NRM in Scotland. On 21st November 2018 the UK and Vietnamese Governments signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) on anti-human trafficking cooperation. The MOU was signed in London by Vietnamese Minister of Public Security Sen. Lt. Gen To Lam and UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid. As a result of funding received from the UK Government, via the Police Transformation Fund, Every Child Protected Against Trafficking and the Pacific Links Foundation have been carrying out research in the UK and in Vietnam to gain a better understanding of why Vietnamese children are trafficked to the UK.

## Modern Slavery Helpline

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2018, the Modern Slavery Helpline saw a 100% rise in cases of modern slavery. This rose from 9 cases to 18 cases. In the same period the number of potential victims identified by the Helpline rose from 29 to 68 – a 134% increase. These numbers increased in correlation with the Police Scotland ‘In Plain Sight’ campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. You can find further data on the Modern Slavery Helpline website:

<https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/information/stats>

### Edinburgh Airport

The Behavioural Detection Officers (BDOs) at Edinburgh Airport have been working in Partnership with Immigration Enforcement Officers (IEOs). The first joint operation ran in October 2018 with a further operation took place in March 2019. Each one is targeting routes of interest which are known to be used by Immigration offenders & often linked with Modern Slavery. The 2019 plan is to have these on a quarterly basis some of which will cover arriving flights and some departing flights.

### Operation Heathyard – Update

Operation Heathyard was Police Scotland’s response to a Latvian organised crime gang operating in West Lothian and Manchester. Although not prosecuted in terms of the Act, in November 2018, 4 people were convicted at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of contravening section 28 of the Criminal Justice & Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 involving the recruitment, facilitation of travel and exploitation of young men from Latvia. They were each sentenced to 4 years and 11 months imprisonment and Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs) were imposed on two of the convicted persons.

The terms of the order mean that, for five years after the men are released from prison, both will be restricted in whom they can associate with, employ or plan travel for and the property they can use. They must notify Police Scotland of any travel plans to Scotland. They are also restricted in the number of communications devices they may own and they are prohibited from using third party bank accounts and possessing over £500 in cash.

### Vulnerable Witnesses Bill Passed

**Legislation to ensure more child witnesses are able to pre-record evidence ahead of jury trials has been passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament.**

#### **The Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal**

**Evidence) (Scotland) Bill** creates a new rule that child witnesses in solemn cases (cases heard before a jury) will record their evidence in advance of trial for a list of offences, including: murder, culpable homicide, assault to the danger of life, abduction, plagium, sexual offences, human trafficking, domestic abuse and female genital mutilation.

This will minimise distress and improve the quality of evidence given as it will be recorded at an earlier stage in proceedings for the most serious offences. Once in place, the changes are expected to benefit hundreds of children each year.