

## Annex A

The Scottish Government does not hold the information requested in relation to the following question:

- 1) *Is the Scottish Government aware of how many children have been smuggled into Scotland by gangs to conduct shoplifting crimes in the last five years? (If possible, can this data be split up by financial year).*

Data on potential victims of modern slavery is captured primarily by the UK Government through National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals. More information on the NRM is available on the UK Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>.

Information is also available on the most recent published datasets:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>.

It should be noted that the available datasets only provides general markers like 'criminal exploitation' or 'sexual exploitation' and is not broken down by type (e.g. shoplifting, pickpocketing).

As such, I hereby provide you with formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.