



**modern  
slavery  
helpline**

# MODERN SLAVERY IN SCOTLAND

A VIEW FROM UNSEEN'S MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE

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The following report is based on calls and online reports to the UK-wide Modern Slavery Helpline, relating to situations in Scotland, between October 2016 to March 2018.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 2018

Since the Modern Slavery Helpline opened in October 2016, **172 calls** were received regarding Scotland cases and **34 webforms** received, via the Helpline's online reporting system. In total there were **82 cases of human trafficking and exploitation** in Scotland reported to the Helpline with **297 potential victims (PVs)** of human trafficking and exploitation indicated across those cases, as there are often multiple PVs indicated on a single case. The Helpline made **78 referrals** on cases of human trafficking and exploitation including 63 referrals to Police Scotland, 13 referrals to local authorities plus others to the GLAA or an NGO.

	<b>172</b>	Calls
	<b>34</b>	Webforms
	<b>82</b>	Cases of human trafficking and exploitation
	<b>297</b>	Potential Victims
	<b>78</b>	Referrals on human trafficking and exploitation cases



Calls to the Modern Slavery Helpline regarding Scotland cases spiked in **September and October 2017** with **38 and 21 calls received respectively**. This correlated with the Scottish Government running a human trafficking awareness video, issuing a call to action to contact the Helpline to report concerns. This film ran on STV across three separate weeks from the end of August to early October 2017, which raised awareness of human trafficking and the Helpline.

The number of **cases** of exploitation reported, and the number of victims indicated were also highest in September and October 2017, in correlation with the number of calls received by the Helpline during those two months. **In September, 20 cases of human trafficking and exploitation were reported, and 93 potential victims (PVs) indicated, while in October, ten cases were reported, and 35 PVs indicated.**

**Labour exploitation** was the most common type of exploitation reported, comprising **60.9% of cases** (50 out of 82). The second most prevalent type of exploitation recorded was sexual exploitation with 14 cases reported.

Half of all cases of human trafficking and exploitation (41 out of 82) were self-reported from a PV or from someone in direct contact with the PV.

Geographically, the **highest number of exploitation cases** were reported to occur in **Lanarkshire** with 14 cases.

Of the 297 PVs indicated to have been exploited in Scotland, where gender was known, **52% were reported to be male** (156 PVs) and **29% female** (86 PVs).

**68% of the PVs (203 individuals) were reported to be adults, 11% (34 individuals) were reported to be children,** and age was not known for the remainder (60 individuals). 20% of adult PVs (40 individuals) were in the 25-34 age bracket making this the most common age range.

The most prevalent known PV nationality was **Romanian**, with 10% (30 PVs) recorded. This coincides with Helpline data on most common victim nationality across the rest of the UK in 2017, where Romanians also made up the biggest known group.

**5.7% of PVs were of British origin** (a total of 17 individuals made up of 12 from Scotland, three from Northern Ireland, and two from England), making this the third most prevalent known nationality.

# INTRODUCTION

This report seeks to increase the understanding of the nature and scale of human trafficking and exploitation occurring in Scotland. Helpline data provides information about where it is occurring, what sectors are being targeted by exploiters, and who is being exploited – including breakdown by gender, age, and nationality, although there is no single type of victim of human trafficking. This report also demonstrates how the Helpline is supporting potential victims (PVs), referring valuable information to police, and advising callers including the public, statutory agencies, and frontline professionals on a diverse range of situations.

The Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre was launched in October 2016. It is a 24/7 helpline, open every day of the year. The Helpline is free to call, independent and confidential; callers need not provide their name or details if they prefer not to do so. On calls, Helpline Advisors - who have received extensive specialist training - ask strategic questions to gather crucial information to make a risk assessment and form a case response, which may include signposting, safety planning, or sending a referral to police, local authorities, or other NGOs.

The Helpline is operated by Unseen, an award-winning UK-wide national charity working towards a world without slavery. Unseen also runs safe houses for men, women and children who are survivors of trafficking, and works with the police, health workers, government, businesses, and others to help prevent and protect against exploitation.

This report has been published to coincide with the first anniversary of the Scottish Strategy against Trafficking and Exploitation (SSTE) and to support Scotland's efforts to raise awareness of, and prevent human trafficking and exploitation, including the efforts of the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, NGOs, businesses, and others. This report covers October 2016 to March 2018 whereas the Scottish Strategy reporting period is from June 2017 to May 2018; thus, a breakdown by month is included to facilitate comparisons between the two reports.

While we did not detect a correlation between the launch of the SSTE and increased contacts to the Helpline, we did observe a spike when the awareness-raising campaign took place in September and October 2017, specifically surrounding the time when the STV film on human trafficking aired. This resulted in 38 and 21 calls respectively in those months. After the Scottish Government's campaign, calls and online reports to the Helpline decreased, but an overall increase in awareness of exploitation and of the Helpline is indicated by the fact that 34 calls on Scotland cases were received in Quarter 1 of 2018 compared with 18 calls in Quarter 1 of 2017, an 89% increase. Correspondingly, there were 62 PVs indicated in Quarter 1 of 2018 compared with 15 PVs in Quarter 1 of 2017, a 313% increase.

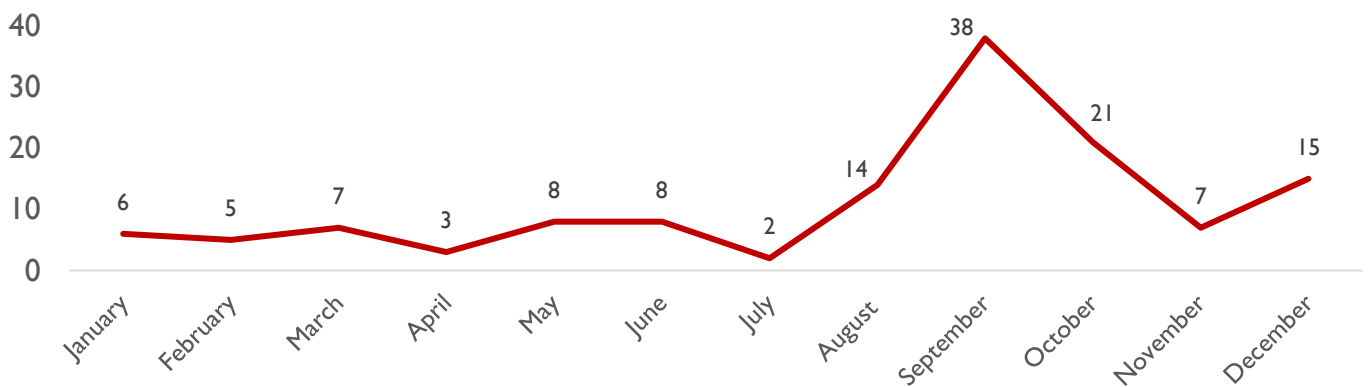
These statistics show that, as more people become aware of human trafficking and the Helpline's services and resources, reports to the Helpline increase.

The SSTE has a particular focus on child victims of trafficking exploitation. This report includes a section on child exploitation to support analysis and understanding around the exploitation of children (those deemed as under 18) in Scotland. There were 34 children reported to the Helpline to have been exploited in Scotland between October 2016 and March 2018, of which 12 were aged 15 and under. The full analysis of child exploitation statistics can be found on p14.

# MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

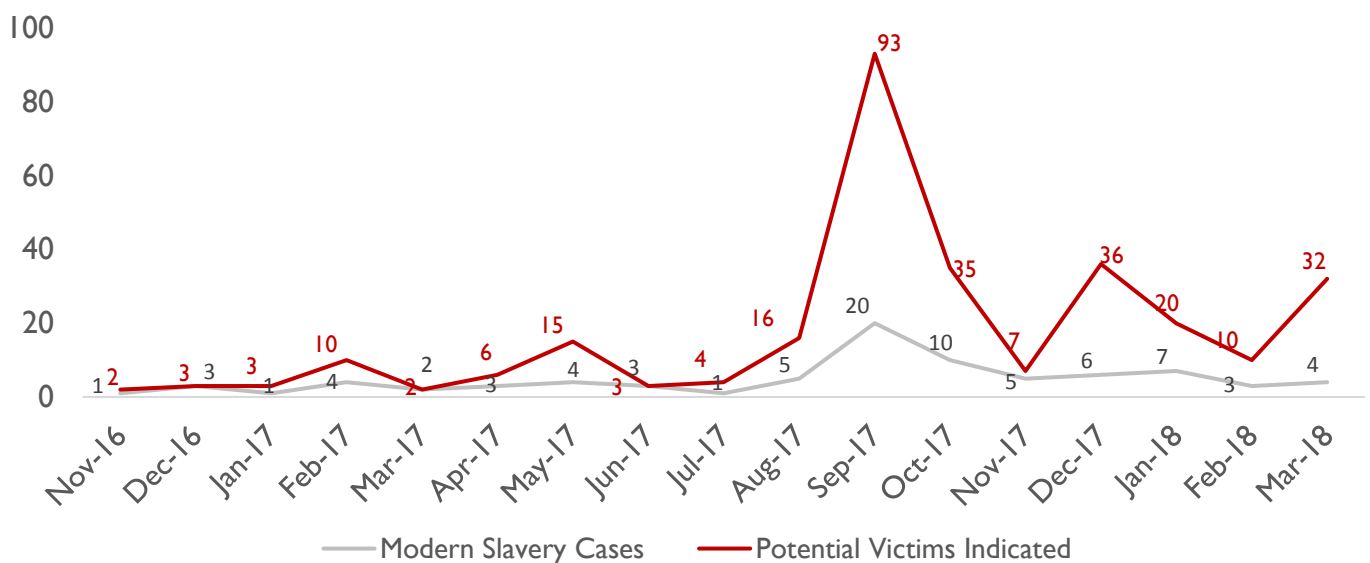
Calls regarding Scotland cases began in November 2016; call figures were low for the first two months, with only four calls received compared to 22 calls in the same months in 2017. In annual comparisons by month, calls have risen across the board as shown in the below table. This increase is consistent with the rise in contacts we have seen generally across the UK for the same period. The peak months for calls regarding situations in Scotland were September and October 2017 when the Scottish Government’s human trafficking awareness campaign was running, including the film shown on STV.

Calls in 2017 by Month



Corresponding to the increase in calls during the Scottish Government’s campaign, the below table shows a spike in the numbers of cases of exploitation and PVs indicated in September and October 2017.

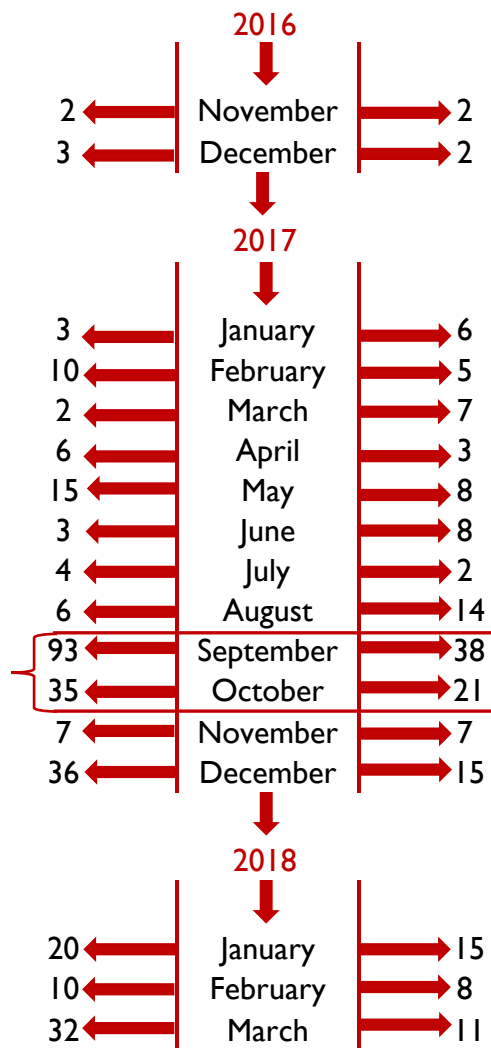
Modern Slavery Cases and Potential Victims Indicated



The below chart comparing calls received by the Helpline with PVs indicated demonstrates a noticeable increase during September and October 2017, coinciding with the period in which the Scottish Government ran the human trafficking awareness campaign.

As to the comparison of calls to PVs, some calls indicate multiple victims, such as a situation of labour exploitation with several workers reported, while some cases may have multiple calls about the same victim. Other cases may not include a report of exploitation at all, as the Helpline receives calls regarding requests for information or training, as well as technical assistance requests from statutory bodies or NGOs. However, this chart indicates an overall pattern showing that when calls to the Helpline increase, the number of PVs indicated also increases.

**POTENTIAL VICTIMS CALLS RECEIVED**

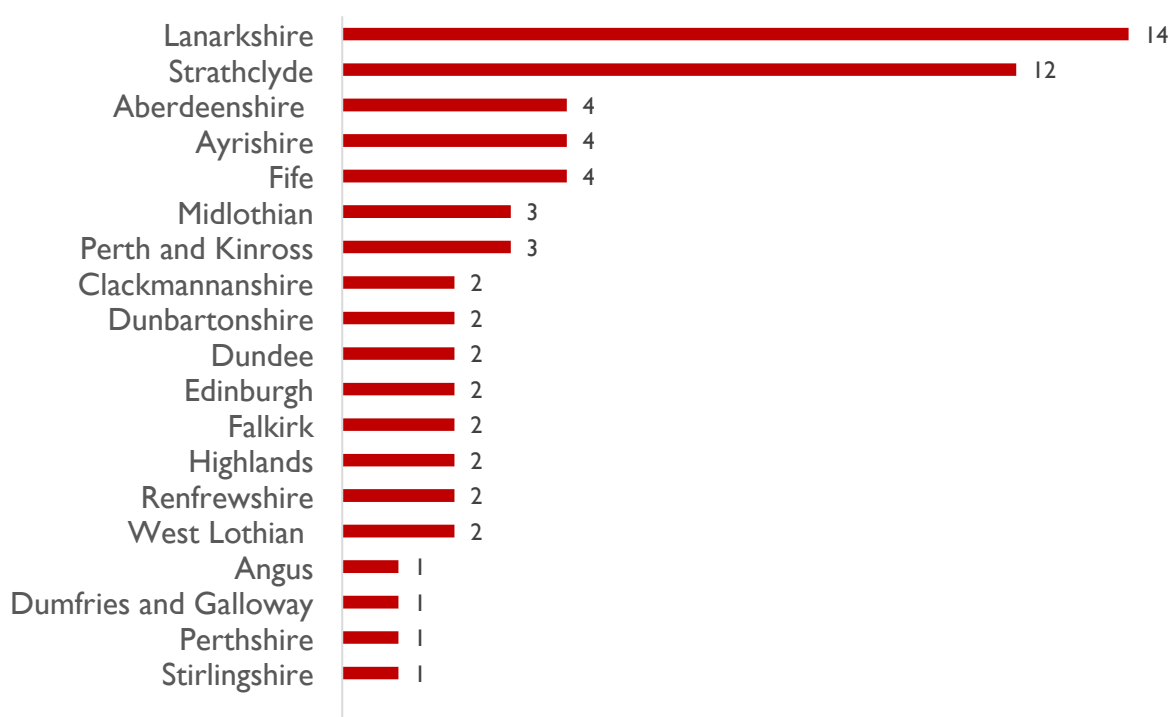


# GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

There were cases of exploitation reported in 19 out of the 33 Scottish counties, right across the country, in metropolitan and more rural areas. Lanarkshire had the highest number of cases reported with 14 cases. The below table illustrates the geographical spread of cases of exploitation which totals 84 cases when summed by county, as one instance of exploitation was reported across three counties. There were 20 cases where the county was unknown.

Regarding the significantly higher number of exploitation cases reported in Lanarkshire (14) and Strathclyde (12), the types of exploitation recorded in these two counties are varied but generally in line with the overall picture of exploitation in Scotland. 79% of exploitation cases were reported in Lanarkshire to be labour exploitation and in Strathclyde 58% were reported to be labour exploitation. Locations and sectors of exploitation were also varied across these counties, with nail bars being the most common location in both counties, followed by car washes. The Helpline has repeatedly seen correlations between increased contacts with knowledge of human trafficking possibly resulting from awareness campaigns. Higher case numbers in Lanarkshire and Strathclyde could be a result of local awareness raising.

Cases of Exploitation by County in Scotland



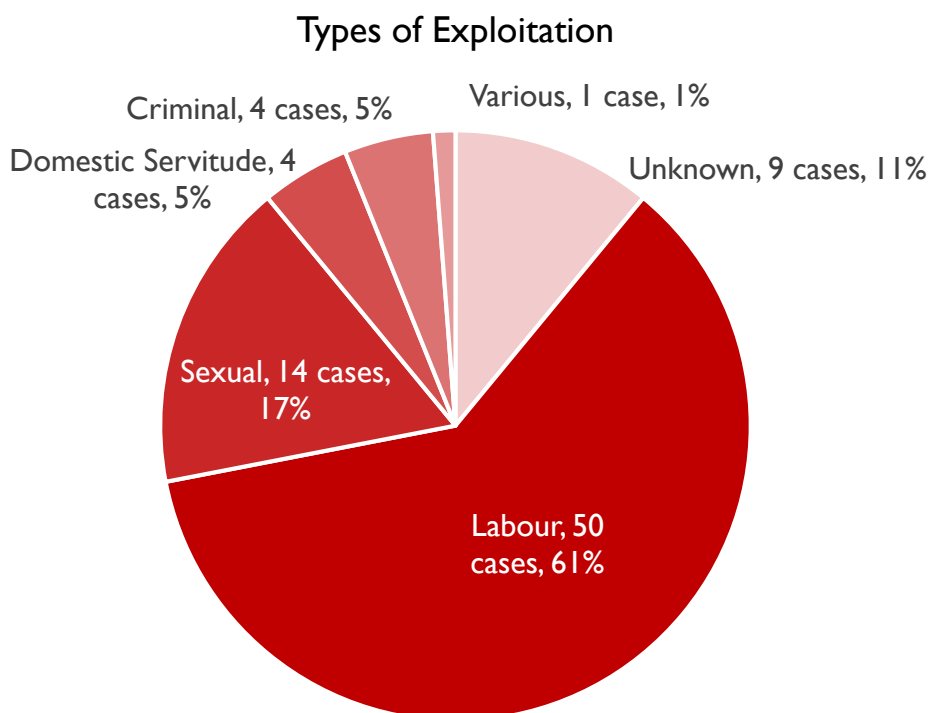
**CASES IN 19 OUT  
OF 33 COUNTIES**

**1/3 OF CASES IN  
LANARKSHIRE &  
STRATHCLYDE**



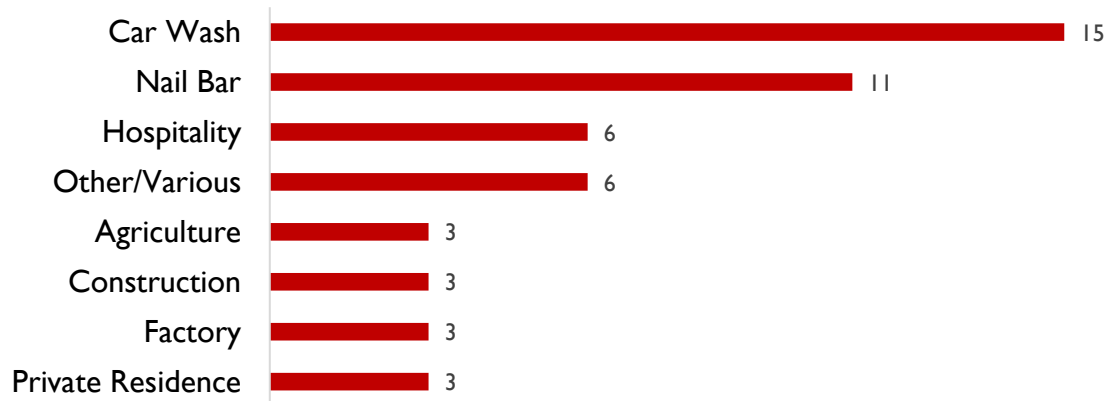
# TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

Various types of exploitation were reported to have occurred in Scotland, including labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and domestic servitude. Of these types, labour exploitation was the most prevalent form reported with 61% (50 cases) – a breakdown of sectors and locations of labour exploitation is demonstrated on the following page. ‘Various’ in the below chart represents when a PV is exploited through more than one means, for example if they worked in car wash but were also forced to commit criminal acts such as shoplifting.



**Labour exploitation** occurs within various sectors and industries and may be hidden within legitimate sectors. The industry with the highest number of labour exploitation cases in Scotland was car washes, with 15 cases indicated. This parallels the Modern Slavery Helpline’s 2017 Annual Assessment which also listed car washes as the most common location with a total of 194 cases (27%) reported throughout the UK. Again, similar to the Annual Assessment, nail bars (11 cases) and hospitality (6 cases) featured highly, demonstrating that Scotland encountered labour exploitation in similar sectors and locations to the rest of the UK. Labour exploitation in private homes includes activities such as painting and decorating, window cleaning, block paving and other works undertaken at private residences.

## Labour Exploitation by Sector or Location



**Sexual exploitation** was indicated in 17% of cases of exploitation (14 cases) reported to the Helpline. Sexual exploitation may include forced prostitution or situations where an exploiter threatens or coerces someone to work in a brothel or provide commercial sexual services in private residences, to the profit of the exploiter.

Of the 44 PVs reported to have been sexually exploited, an overwhelming 41 (93%) were female, which is remarkably higher than the percentage of female victims in Scotland, 29%, when considering all types of exploitation. However, this increase in female victims is consistent with the picture across the rest of the UK when considering sexual exploitation.

### Case Study

The Modern Slavery Helpline received a call regarding a website offering escorts in a city in Scotland. The website included a profile of an escort, who was advertised to be 20-years-old from the account.

The escort was reported to be working out of a flat; however, someone else (the potential exploiter) answered the door and guided visitors to a room where the woman from the site was huddled up in the corner of the room, looking frightened, thin, underfed, and unwashed.

The person who opened the door appeared to be in control of the potential victim and in control of the service, including handling the money.

After receiving an online report with additional detail, the Helpline sent out an urgent referral to the National Human Trafficking Unit within Police Scotland who responded swiftly to the information, identified a victim of sexual exploitation and made arrests.

This brave call and report from a member of the public led to the safeguarding of multiple individuals and disrupting the criminals behind this exploitative practice.

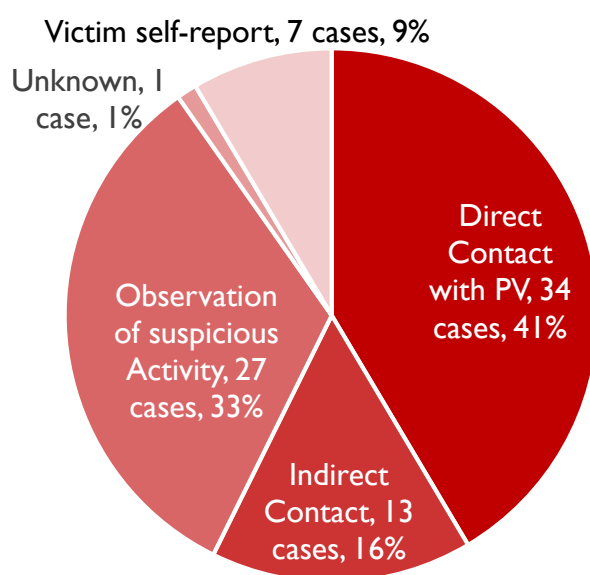
**Domestic servitude** is one of the most hidden forms of human trafficking or exploitation as it generally takes place behind closed doors, in a private household. Nevertheless, four cases of domestic servitude in Scotland were reported to the Helpline. All four victims of domestic servitude recorded were reported to be female.

Victims are often isolated and may not regularly encounter others and often have their passports confiscated. However, some victims of domestic servitude may leave the home to take children to school, attend church or run errands for the family that is exploiting them. Even if these encounters with the outside world are rare, they are vital access points at which PVs may be identified.

**Criminal exploitation** can take many forms and may involve drug trafficking, coerced shoplifting, forced begging, money laundering, and benefit fraud. Four cases of criminal exploitation based on situations in Scotland were reported to the Helpline between October 2016 and March 2018.

Across the UK, the Helpline has recently begun to receive increased reports of criminal exploitation of British minors. However, for those criminal exploitation cases in Scotland during this period, five of the seven victims were reported to be adults, with the age of 2 PVs reported as unknown.

## PROXIMITY OF THE CALLER

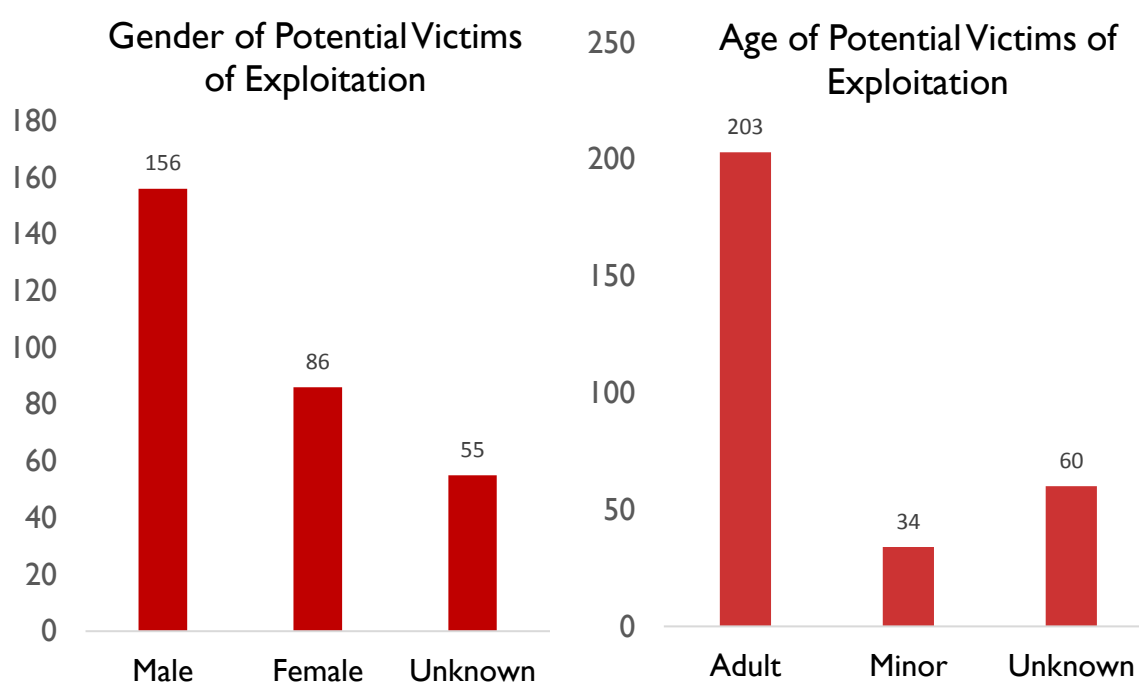


When a Helpline Advisor receives a call, they record where possible the caller's relationship with the PV: whether they are the PV themselves, in direct contact with a PV, learned of the situation from someone else who is in direct contact with the PV, or someone who has observed suspicious activity. In Scotland, the most common proximity of a caller to

the situation was someone calling the Helpline who was in direct contact with a PV, whether that is via text, in person, or over the phone. This was the situation for 34 cases, (41%). A PV called the Helpline directly to self-report or seek services in seven cases, meaning that 50% (41 cases) of human trafficking or exploitation cases in Scotland were reported by the victim themselves or someone in direct contact with them.

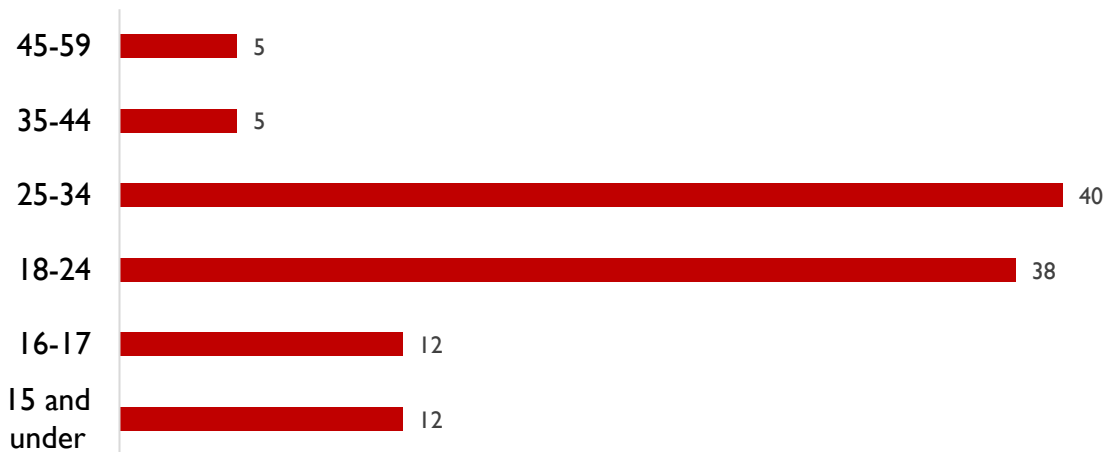
# POTENTIAL VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

53%, or 156 PVs were reported as male, which was almost double the number of females. This may be because of the number of reported cases involving labour exploitation where the percentage of men tends to be higher and is consistent with what we see across the rest of the UK. For 55 PVs, the gender of the PV was unknown – this can be a result of a caller indicating a group of PVs in one case and being unable to say exactly how many were male and how many were female. Of the PVs indicated, 203, or 68%, were adults (aged 18 or above) while 34 were minors. 60 PV ages were reported as unknown. Helpline Advisors will record age as unknown if the caller does not know this information or appears to be guessing.



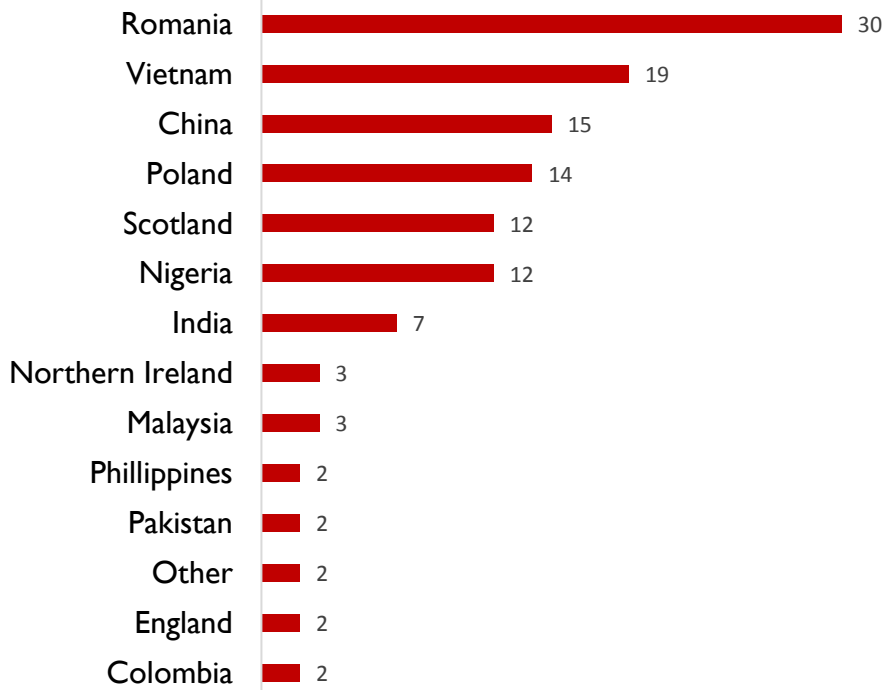
To break the age of PVs down further, the most prevalent known age bracket was between 25-34 years old (40 PVs, 13.4%), while the second most prevalent age bracket was 18-24 years old with 38 PVs recorded (12.8%), as shown in the following table. This mass between 18 and 34 years when considered alongside the fact that labour exploitation is the most common type of exploitation, could indicate a targeting of victims who seem most fit for the work desired. There were 185 PVs indicated whose age bracket was unknown.

## Potential Victim Age Brackets



There was a total of 26 different nationalities indicated. Of those whose nationality was known, 30 were Romanian (10%), 19 were Vietnamese (6.4%) and 17 were British (5.7%). These made up the three most common known nationalities. The British PVs can be further broken down into 12 Scottish, three Northern Irish and two English. Over half of the PVs had no recorded nationality (160 PVs, 54%).

## Common Potential Victim Nationalities



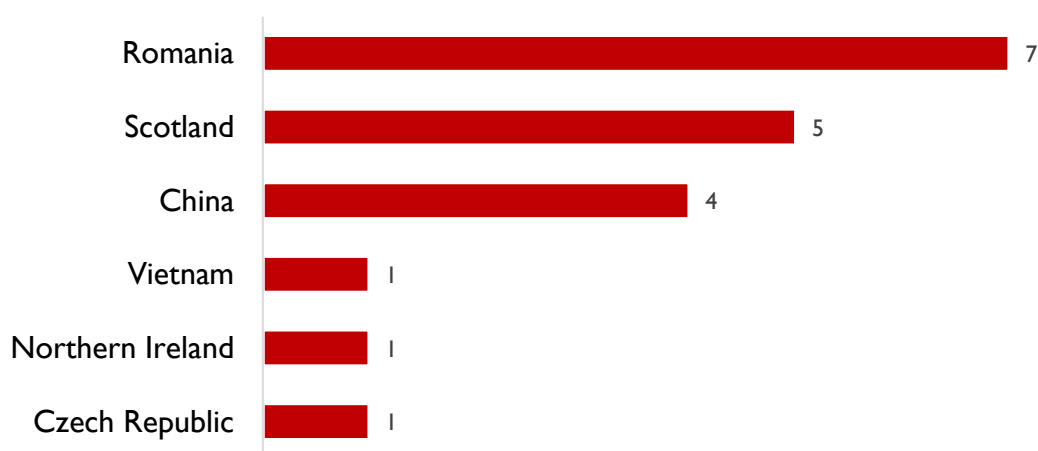
The following countries had one PV indicated each: Argentina, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Gambia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Somalia, South Africa, Ukraine, and USA.

# CHILD EXPLOITATION

Of the 34 minors (aged under 18) indicated to be PVs, the highest number of known nationalities for child PVs was Romanian, with seven reported. This parallels broader trends as Romanian was the most common nationality among all PVs in Scotland, and indeed across the UK as reported in the 2017 Annual Assessment. In total, 15 child victims did not have a recorded nationality.

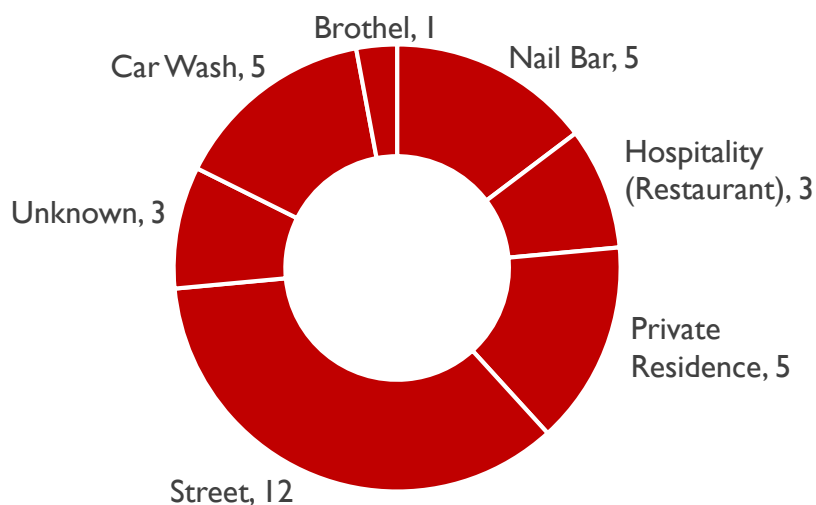
There were six British child PVs indicated, including five who were recorded as Scottish, meaning that 15% of child PVs were Scottish. Of the 15 unknown potential child victims, seven were described to be from Eastern Europe; however, their specific nationality was unknown.

Potential Child Victims by Nationality



Regarding the sector or location of exploitation of children, street exploitation was the most common, with 12 PVs indicated. Street exploitation includes cases where PVs may have been forced to sell goods or beg on a street or in an outside location.

Potential Child Victims by Sector or Location of Exploitation



# CONCLUSION

Unseen is working towards a world without slavery. To achieve this, we need to do many things, not least work in partnership with others, analyse and understand the changing face of slavery, and raise awareness of this crime and how to recognise and report it.

Through the case study and figures around referrals, this report illustrates how effective partnerships work in practice and demonstrates how crucial it is in the fight against this crime. Further, the publication of the report itself contributes to partnership working in that it shares our Scotland-specific data to support the Scottish Government's strategy, Police Scotland and others in the fight against trafficking and exploitation.

Analysis of the data is illuminating in many ways, but two points are worth emphasising here. The first is that according to calls to our Helpline, the picture of human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland is broadly similar to the rest of the UK in terms of victim demographics, locations, and types of exploitation. In both Scotland and the rest of the UK, Romanians made up the biggest known nationality group and British victims the third most known, with labour the most prevalent type of exploitation, followed by sexual exploitation. In correlation with this, Scotland mirrors the rest of the UK in that male PVs now outnumber female PVs, according to call figures. Across Scotland and the UK, car washes stand out as the number one location for reported cases, with nail bars and hospitality being other hotspots, which correlates with multiple media and awareness campaigns focusing specifically on exploitation in these industries.

The other point of emphasis arising out of the data is that awareness **equals** action. When the Scottish Government ran its awareness campaign and the STV film was broadcasting, we saw a clear and sharp spike in calls to the Helpline. More broadly, we are seeing a month by month, year by year rise in calls, as general awareness of how to spot the signs of human trafficking and exploitation increases and as awareness of the Helpline number grows. We must continue to build on this in partnership. For as the case study also illustrates, a call can mean somebody's freedom.

**Disclaimer:** This report represents a summary of the calls received into the UK-wide Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre regarding situations in Scotland between 10 October 2016 and 31 March 2018. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland. The number of potential human trafficking and exploitation cases and victims indicated are based on the information provided to the Helpline at the time of the contact. The Helpline does not corroborate or seek to prove the information provided.