

annual assessment 2025

WORKING TOWARDS A
WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY



modern slavery
& exploitation
helpline



unseen



report to helpline leads to prosecution

In July 2023, a British adult male was arrested by South Wales Police at his luxury apartment in Cardiff. Officers recovered evidence from his property including boys' underwear, multiple mobile phones and a card machine to accept payments. Police discovered WhatsApp messages where the perpetrator had shared child sexual abuse images and offered the sexual services of men under his control. They also found evidence that he was prepared to travel internationally to liaise with clients.

After breaching bail conditions, the perpetrator tried to evade capture by the police but was arrested again a few days later.

In December 2025, the perpetrator's trial concluded and he was convicted of controlling prostitution for gain, two counts of possessing indecent images of a child, and acquiring criminal property. He received a custodial sentence of 45 months.

South Wales Police have shared information from their investigation with international police forces, to aid investigation into individuals he may have collaborated with and ensure other victims can be identified and receive support.

"The Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline was invaluable in making us aware of a dangerous individual and his criminality, who has now been convicted for multiple serious offences. Although the initial report was for a concern regarding the sexual exploitation of children abroad, through the investigation we also discovered that the suspect had been exploiting men from abroad and grooming them into sex work in the UK.

The Helpline was particularly useful as the reporting person was in another country which would have made it difficult to report to UK authorities otherwise. The information was disseminated to us in a timely manner which meant we could act swiftly and stop the suspect from travelling and safeguard any potential victims."

Detective Constable Robyn Allen
South Wales Police

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“Working on the Helpline means supporting people to regain control of their lives. The role goes beyond just answering a phone; we can be a lifeline.”

It can be elating finding out that someone has been granted a positive NRM decision and is receiving the support they need. Even though we don't often get to hear how someone's life is progressing, we know that a call to us was their first step towards starting afresh and free from fear.”

**Roisin
Helpline Advisor, Unseen**

foreword

Modern slavery and exploitation are often described as hidden crimes, yet the scale of harm is anything but. In 2025, the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline continued to hear from survivors, professionals, members of the public and businesses, many seeking urgent safety, others seeking advice, and some simply looking for someone to believe them. As we entered our tenth year of operations, what we heard most clearly was that risk is increasing, exploitation is evolving, and too many people are still being left without timely routes to protection and support.

The patterns behind these numbers are deeply concerning, with prevalent risks for migrant workers on skilled worker routes as well as conflict, displacement and transnational criminality continuing to shape vulnerability and harm.

This Annual Assessment provides an overview of the types of calls and contacts the Helpline recorded in 2025. The patterns behind these numbers are deeply concerning. Behind every statistic is a person – someone navigating fear, uncertainty and, too often, complex barriers to safety. We are grateful to all partners who act on Helpline intelligence and referrals, and to everyone who works to identify exploitation earlier and respond in ways that are survivor-centred and trauma-informed. Our service and the reports we produce as a result are intended to support that shared effort: to help policymakers, statutory agencies, businesses and civil society understand what is changing, where risk is rising, and what must be done next to prevent exploitation and improve access to protection and support.

- Justine Carter,
Deputy CEO



Andrew Wallis OBE
CEO,
Unseen



Justine Carter
Deputy CEO,
Unseen



Natasha Mitra
Head of Helpline Services,
Unseen

summary numbers

7,035

helpline
calls

4,196

web forms
and app
submissions

2,954

modern
slavery cases

6,628

modern slavery
potential victims

93

nationalities

15,556

referrals and
signposts

"The Bristol Modern Slavery Operational Partnership continues to benefit from referrals shared by the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline, which provide timely intelligence. This helps us identify and safeguard victims sooner, while enabling a partnership response.

The Operational Partnership is the only one of its kind in our region and has proven invaluable in addressing modern slavery risks. It brings key organisations together in a way that allows a victim-focused approach to be delivered, safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people within our society, but also, just as importantly, ensuring we work together to robustly tackle modern slavery concerns and disrupt associated criminality.

Through collaboration with Unseen and the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline, the Operational Partnership has become an essential and effective way of working, in what is a highly complex area. Through our combined experience and expertise, we'll ensure the Bristol area remains a hostile place for anyone intent on committing these exploitative offences."

Detective Chief Inspector Carlos Filippesen

Serious and Organised Crime Investigation Team, Avon and Somerset Police

high-level overview

Now in its tenth year of operations, the Helpline continues to take calls from survivors, professionals, members of the public and businesses, 365 days a year. In 2025, the Helpline received **11,231** calls, webforms and app submissions, a year that demonstrated a substantial **13%** increase in webforms to **4,150**.

A total of **2,954** cases of modern slavery were reported involving **6,628** potential victims. Whilst the total number of calls, webforms and app submissions handled remained consistent with 2024, there were **41%** more cases of modern slavery reported, leading to a record high in the 10 years of the Helpline. A **37%** increase in potential victims was also indicated alongside.

A potential victim communicated directly with the Helpline in almost half (**45%**, **1,342**) of the modern slavery cases reported, up from **36%** in 2024, suggesting that awareness of modern slavery and the Helpline are growing amongst harder to reach communities. In **75%** (**2,227**) of cases, the Helpline team spoke to either a potential victim or someone in direct contact with them.

exploitation types

With a **41%** hike in modern slavery cases, the Helpline saw increases across every exploitation type recorded. The most notable was the **65%** jump in labour exploitation cases. Where the exploitation type was known (**2,007** cases and **5,547** potential victims), labour exploitation comprised over half of cases (**56%**, **1,131**) and involved **70%** of potential victims (**3,867**). Whilst labour exploitation has historically made up the largest proportion of modern slavery reported to the Helpline, these figures are notably higher than in 2024, with an additional **445** cases and **1,270** potential victims indicated, the highest numbers ever recorded by the Helpline. This is largely a result of exploitation of migrant workers on skilled worker visas, which has been escalating since 2022.

Reports of sexual exploitation made up **20%** of modern slavery cases (**402**) and **14%** of potential victims (**799**), where the exploitation type was known. This demonstrates a slight rise in cases of sexual exploitation but with slightly lower number of potential victims indicated than in 2024 (**373** cases and **804** potential victims).

Criminal exploitation cases rose from **182** to **202**, while potential victim numbers went up from **261** to **305**, with **11%** and **17%** increases respectively. Where exploitation type was known, criminal exploitation cases comprised **10%** of modern slavery cases (**202**) and **6%** of potential victims (**305**).

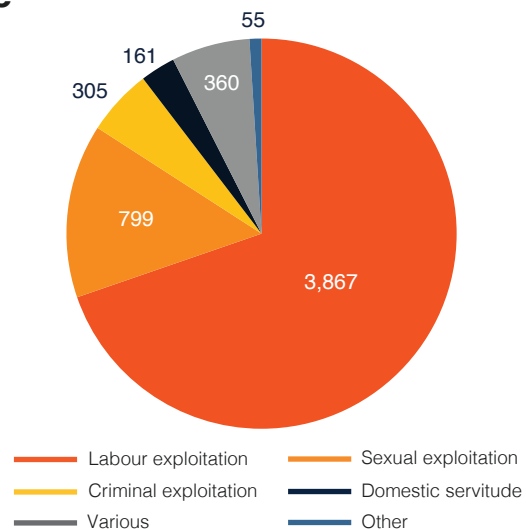
A total of **115** cases of domestic servitude were reported involving **161** potential victims, increasing from the previous

year (**100** cases and **116** potential victims). Domestic servitude made up **6%** of cases and **3%** of potential victims, where exploitation type was known.

The Helpline also receives reports of other less common forms of modern slavery, with **32** cases and **55** potential victims reported in 2025. Most of these situations related to financial exploitation; **29** cases involving **50** potential victims.

Whilst reported in small numbers, **five** potential victims across three cases that involved organ harvesting were recorded in 2025, some in conjunction with other types of modern slavery as well. Across **125** cases involving **360** potential victims, indicators of 'various' forms of modern slavery were present. The most common combination was labour exploitation and domestic servitude, indicated in **26** cases. In **947** cases with **1,081** potential victims, indicators of modern slavery were present, however, the specific form was unclear.

Potential victims by exploitation type*



*Excludes **1,081** unknowns.

Alongside the **41%** increase in modern slavery cases, there was a **37%** rise in potential victims from **4,839** in 2024 to **6,628** in 2025, with increases across labour, criminal and financial exploitation, domestic servitude and organ harvesting, as well as in situations indicating various exploitation types. As with cases, the most notable change in potential victim numbers was the **49%** jump in relation to labour exploitation.

countries

The country or countries where exploitation took place were known in **2,173** cases of modern slavery. Where location was known, the majority of cases reported exploitation taking place in the United Kingdom (**81%**, **1,768**). Of these **1,768** UK cases, the highest proportion were reported in England (**78%**, **1,382**). Lower numbers were reported in Scotland (**5%**, **84**), Wales (**2%**, **42**), and Northern Ireland (**1%**, **20**), while **14%** (**240**) reportedly took place in the UK, but the

specific nation was unknown. Overall, there was a **37%** increase in cases of modern slavery indicated in the UK.

Top 10 countries of exploitation*

Country	Cases
United Kingdom*	1,768
Libya	209
France	28
Somalia	28
Sudan	25
United States	23
Turkey	20
Ethiopia	14
Albania	13
Italy	11

*United Kingdom includes England (**1,382**), Scotland (**84**), Wales (**42**), Northern Ireland (**20**) and UK nation unspecified (**240**).

A total of **405** cases were reported that took place internationally, **94** of which involved the UK and another country. More than half of these reports related to exploitation taking place in Libya (**209**), which has been the most indicated each year since 2020 and more than doubled (**115%**) between 2024 (**97**) and 2025. **28** cases were reported in relation to both Somalia and France, followed by **25** in Sudan. Most commonly, international cases are historic situations reported by survivors now residing in the UK following forced displacement, although a small number do relate to active situations overseas. While the Helpline operates within the UK, it is essential to look at modern slavery in the global context. The landscape of modern slavery in the UK is so impacted by geopolitics and transnational issues that the UK should not be viewed in isolation.

referrals and signposts

The Helpline receives a wide range of reports, many of which do not exhibit sufficient indicators to be assessed as modern slavery. Many of these cases relate to other worker rights abuses: labour abuse (**801, 10%**). Other adjacent issues and types of crime are also reported, which are classified as non-modern slavery (**3,527, 44%**). A smaller number of cases relate to requests for general information (**102, 1%**) or are non-substantive cases (**638, 8%**), such as wrong numbers. Modern slavery situations comprised **37%** of the **8,022** cases handled by the Helpline in total.

Whilst modern slavery cases are the Helpline's priority, signposting to more suitable organisations takes place on other case types where appropriate. The Helpline also provides signposts in relation to modern slavery cases, where individuals require tailored support around specific needs that are beyond remit. Across all case types, a total of **13,721** signposts were made, **53%** more than the previous year (**8,985**). **6,517 (47%)** of these signposts related to modern slavery cases.

The Helpline also makes onward referrals to certain organisations and agencies to inform intelligence, aid investigation, initiate safeguarding response or to advocate for a potential victim to be entered into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by a designated first responder organisation. **1,835** referrals were submitted in 2025, **15%** more than the previous year (**1,597**). **1,494** referrals (**81%**) were made in response to modern slavery cases.

Referrals by case type

Referrals to	Modern slavery	Labour abuse	Non-MS	Total
Law enforcement	1,115	25	141	1,281
Government*	258	155	10	423
NGO	85	0	0	85
Local authority	36	0	10	46
Total	1,494	180	161	1,835

*Includes UKVI, Border Force, GLAA, HMRC and EAS.

A substantial majority of the referrals (**70%, 1,281**) were submitted to law enforcement, including local police forces (**1,200**) or the National Crime Agency (NCA) (**81**). **87% (1,115)** of law enforcement referrals related to modern slavery cases. Labour abuse cases have historically been referred to government agencies including the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) or the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate (EAS). In 2025, the Helpline made the decision to stop referring on labour abuse cases to reserve resource for tackling higher risk modern slavery situations, which were on the rise. Where possible and appropriate, signposting took place in relation to labour abuse cases instead so individuals could contact these agencies directly.

Top 10 referral agencies and organisations*

Agency or organisation	Referrals
Metropolitan Police	243
UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI)	147
Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)	116
HMRC	92
National Crime Agency (NCA)	81
West Midlands Police	75
Greater Manchester Police	67
Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate (EAS)	61
Police Scotland	56
Thames Valley Police	51

*Includes referrals on modern slavery, labour abuse and non-modern slavery cases.

potential victim and exploiter demographics

The Helpline records potential victim and potential exploiter numbers conservatively; therefore, if a group is reported but without specific numbers or details, the smallest possible number will be recorded, which is often two. In 2025, **6,628** potential victims of modern slavery were recorded, following a **37%** rise. The average number of potential victims indicated per case has reduced from **2.3** in the previous year to **2.2** in 2025. The average number of potential victims per case varies amongst different exploitation types, from **3.4** in labour exploitation to **1.2** in sexual exploitation.

potential victim age

Where age status was known (**4,258**), most potential victims were reportedly adults (**90%**, **3,823**), while **10%** (**435**) were reportedly children. While the proportion of child victims was largely the same as the previous year (**11%**), the actual number (**435**) rose by **34%** from **325**. **435** is the largest volume of child victims ever recorded by the Helpline. Where the specific age bracket was reported (**1,141**), 20–29-year-olds were most prevalent (**483**), while over 60s were the least reported (**30**). Amongst child victims, 16–17-year-olds were the most prominent age bracket in sexual exploitation (**17**), labour exploitation (**42**), and criminal exploitation (**12**). However, 16-17 was the least prominent age bracket in domestic servitude situations (**1**), with under 12s the most common (**10**).

Potential victims by age status*



*Excludes **2,370** unknowns.

Potential victims by age and exploitation type*

Age range	Labour exploitation	Sexual exploitation	Criminal exploitation	Domestic servitude	Other	Various	Unknown	Total
≤12	19	7	2	10	0	4	4	46
13-15	25	7	10	2	0	5	4	53
16-17	42	17	12	1	0	5	10	87
Child (age unknown)	116	46	24	2	0	29	32	249
Child total	202	77	48	15	0	43	50	435
18-19	29	10	24	8	0	4	20	95
20-29	257	61	40	36	6	40	43	483
30-39	111	30	25	8	2	14	15	205
40-49	55	21	6	7	4	5	5	103
50-59	19	6	4	6	0	1	3	39
60+	15	0	6	5	1	0	3	30
Adult (age unknown)	1,785	175	87	45	35	135	606	2,868
Adult total	2,271	303	192	115	48	199	695	3,823
Total	2,473	380	240	130	48	242	745	4,258

*Excludes **2,370** unknowns (**419** in sexual exploitation, **1,394** in labour exploitation, **65** in criminal exploitation, **31** in domestic servitude, **7** in other, **118** in various and **336** in unknown).

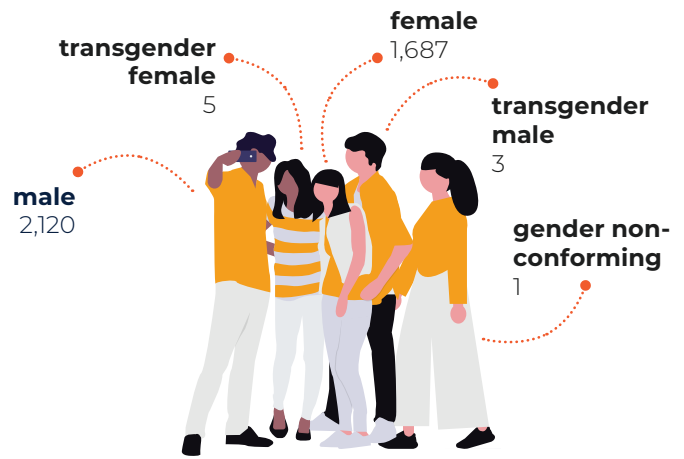
The exploitation types with the largest proportions of child victims, where age status was known, were sexual exploitation (**77**) and criminal exploitation (**48**) where children made up **20%**. This shows a slight increase in children reported in criminal exploitation (**+17%**) but a decrease in sexual exploitation (**-30%**). Despite labour

exploitation being where children comprised the smallest percentage (**8%**), it was the exploitation type that saw the greatest increase (**+215%**).

potential victim gender

Gender was known in relation to **3,816** potential victims. The proportion of female victims overtook males for the first time in 2024, however in 2025 this has reverted to the past split with **56% (2,120)** of potential victims reportedly male in contrast to **44% (1,687)** female. This follows a **62%** increase in male victims indicated. **Five** transgender females, **three** transgender males and **one** gender non-conforming potential victim were also indicated. Amongst adult potential victims, males comprised **61% (1,627)**, whereas amongst child potential victims more females were indicated, comprising **52% (126)**.

Potential victims by gender*



*Excludes **2,812** unknowns.

Potential victims by gender and exploitation type*

Exploitation type	Male	Female	Transgender female	Transgender male	Gender non-conforming
Labour exploitation	1,306	421	1	0	0
Sexual exploitation	21	659	4	1	1
Criminal exploitation	188	46	0	0	0
Domestic servitude	27	111	0	0	0
Other	22	16	0	0	0
Various	106	126	0	1	0
Unknown	450	308	0	1	0
Total	2,120	1,687	5	3	1

*Excludes **5,302** unknowns (**2,139** labour exploitation, **113** sexual exploitation, **71** criminal exploitation, **23** domestic servitude, **17** other, **127** various, **322** unknown).

Women and girls were overrepresented in sexual exploitation (**96%, 659**) and domestic servitude (**80%, 111**). Sexual exploitation was also where the majority of transgender males (**one**) and females (**four**), and gender non-conforming (**one**) potential victims were indicated. **One** transgender male potential victim experienced various forms of exploitation including sexual exploitation. Female potential victims were **19%** more likely to experience various forms of modern slavery than males. A significantly larger proportion of males were indicated in labour exploitation (**76%, 1,306**), and the proportion of males in criminal exploitation continued to grow, reaching **80% (188)**.

potential victim nationality

93 different potential victim nationalities were indicated in 2025. Indian continued to be the most common nationality reported in modern slavery (**310**) for the third year in a row, with numbers growing by **42%** since the previous year (**219**). There were more Indian potential victims indicated than the second and third most prevalent nationalities combined. Indian nationals comprised **17%** of potential victims where nationality was known (**1,817**), with almost two thirds indicated in labour exploitation (**62%, 192**). Indian nationals are commonly exploited whilst on skilled worker visas in a growing range of sectors including care, hospitality and retail. Within labour exploitation, Indians comprised **26%** of

potential victims, where nationality was known (**1,077**).

Vietnamese nationals became the second most prevalent (**144, 8%**) following a **36%** increase since the previous year (**106**). Vietnamese potential victims were in the top three nationalities in labour exploitation (**101**) and criminal exploitation (**19**).

UK nationals were the third most indicated overall (**125, 7%**), with highest numbers in labour exploitation (**54**), as well as being in the top three most prevalent nationalities in sexual exploitation (**27**) and second only to Albanian nationals (**25**) in criminal exploitation (**20**). UK nationals recorded more than doubled (**+115%**) since the previous year (**58**). In relation to child victims specifically, UK nationals were the most indicated (**15, 26%**), where nationalities were known (**57**).

2025 saw a **34%** reduction in Chinese potential victims (**93**), despite remaining as the most prevalent in sexual exploitation (**51**) and in the top ten potential victim nationalities for labour (**35**) and criminal exploitation (**3**). A high volume of Chinese nationals have been targeted for removal in recent immigration raids which may have impacted this reduced figure. Another notable reduction of **90%** related to Zimbabwean potential victims (**10**), who were the fourth most reported in 2024 (**91**), frequently in labour exploitation in the care sector. Exploitation of Zimbabwean

nationals in this sector may have dropped while numbers of Indians surged, due to Zimbabwe being on the World Health Organisation's 'red list' as a country health and care professionals should not be actively recruited from.

Top 20 potential victim nationalities

Nationality	Potential victims	%**
India	310	17%
Vietnam	144	8%
United Kingdom*	125	7%
Somalia	109	6%
Pakistan	102	6%
China	93	5%
Romania	87	5%
Sri Lanka	69	4%
Brazil	68	4%
Albania	68	4%
Nigeria	67	4%
Bangladesh	55	3%
Eritrea	51	3%
Sudan	39	2%
Iran	36	2%
Thailand	27	1%
Poland	24	1%
Ghana	24	1%
Philippines	22	1%
Ethiopia	22	1%

*United Kingdom includes England (26), Scotland (6), Northern Ireland (5) and UK nation unspecified (88).

**Percentage excluding 4,811 unknowns.

Reports of Somalian potential victims (109) have risen dramatically by 990% from only 10 the previous year, becoming the fourth most common nationality, the first time they have been in the top 20 in the Helpline's history. Vulnerability to exploitation has increased due to conflict surrounding Al-Shabaab, as well as forced displacement due to severe drought and flooding in the region. Somalia is now in the top ten most prevalent nationalities for labour exploitation (80) and domestic servitude (4). It was also in the top ten most common nationalities indicated amongst child victims (3, 5%). Somalian also overtook Arabic as the most used interpreter language; Arabic having been the most used language since 2021.

Similarly, 2025 saw a steep 1,050% escalation in Sri Lankan potential victims (69), appearing in the top 20 nationalities for the first time after only six reports the year before. Sri Lankans were mainly reported in labour exploitation (60), in particular in the retail sector where many were on skilled worker visas.

Pakistan has consistently been one of the top ten most common nationalities since 2021, however there was a notable 176% increase on the previous year (37) to 102, featuring in the top ten for labour exploitation (69), sexual exploitation (7) and the most prevalent nationality in domestic

servitude (10) alongside Filipinos. Within labour exploitation, many Pakistanis are indicated in sectors that have high volumes of skilled worker visas, namely care, hospitality and retail. Pakistan was also the third most indicated child victim nationality (4, 7%). Similarly Brazilian potential victims have been frequently indicated for several years, particularly in sexual exploitation. However, numbers have nearly doubled (+94%) to 68 since 2024 (35). While still commonly indicated in sexual exploitation (41) the numbers have risen (+64%), and Brazilian's were also indicated in labour exploitation (20) in the hospitality sector, as well as being in the top ten nationalities in criminal exploitation (5). are also in the top ten in criminal exploitation (5). Brazilian was also the second most common nationality in relation to child potential victims (6, 11%).

potential exploiters

4,915 potential exploiters were indicated across 2,954 modern slavery cases, averaging at 1.7 exploiters per case. Aligning with the 40% increase in modern slavery cases, there was also a 40% rise in potential exploiters indicated, the highest ever recorded. 1.3 potential victims indicated for every potential exploiter. In both criminal exploitation and domestic servitude there were more exploiters than victims indicated, both with 0.7 potential victims for every potential exploiter.

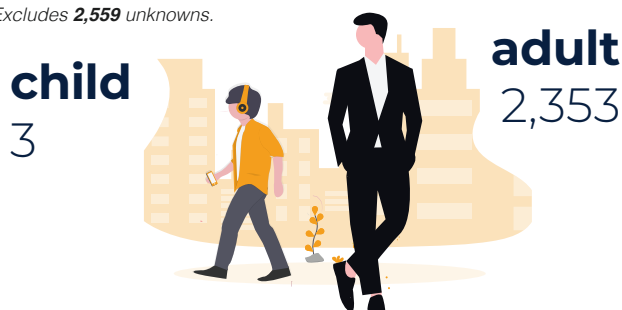
potential exploiter age

Where the age status of potential exploiters was known (2,356), almost all were adults (2,353, 99.9%). Three potential exploiters were reportedly under the age of 18, all aged 16-17-years-old and male.

Overall, the most common age bracket of potential exploiters was 30-39 (60, 29%), slightly older than the most common potential victim age of 20-29. Only slightly fewer potential exploiters were aged 40-49 (58, 28%).

Potential exploiters by age status*

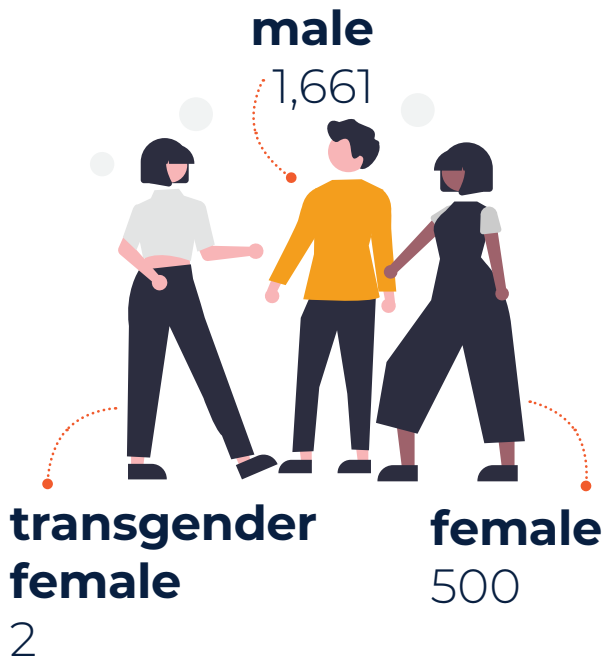
*Excludes 2,559 unknowns.



potential exploiter gender

Where gender was known (2,163), as has been seen in previous years, male potential exploiters (1,661, 77%) were more common than females (500, 23%). Two potential exploiters were recorded as transgender females.

Potential exploiters by gender*



*Excludes 2,752 unknowns.

Female potential exploiters were most common in labour exploitation (50%, 244), with the highest numbers indicated in the care sector (77), the only industry where female exploiters were more common than males (69). Female exploiters were indicated across all industries apart from tech and utilities. Sexual exploitation (86) was the second most common form of modern slavery involving female exploiters. Financial exploitation was where numbers of female (16) and male (18) exploiters were most aligned, followed by domestic servitude with only slightly fewer females (83) than males (89).

potential exploiter nationality

69 different nationalities were indicated in relation to potential exploiters. Where nationality was known (796), the most reported potential exploiter nationality continued to be Libyan (113) comprising 14%, a 51% increase since 2024 (75). Libyan potential exploiters are predominantly reported by potential victims from the Horn of Africa and parts of North Africa who have been forcibly displaced due to conflict. They flee through Libya and are captured by militia who typically exploit them for agricultural labour in camps. UK nationals are the second most recorded exploiter nationality (88), followed by China (54). Only Libya and Sudan (26) are present in the top ten exploiter nationalities but not in the top ten victim nationalities.

recruitment and control

recruitment tactics

Where recruitment tactics were recorded (1,805), the

Top 10 potential exploiter nationalities

Nationality	Potential exploiters	%**
Libya	113	14%
United Kingdom*	88	11%
China	54	7%
India	47	6%
Somalia	46	6%
Albania	45	6%
Pakistan	36	5%
Vietnam	33	4%
Romania	27	3%
Sudan	26	3%

*United Kingdom includes England (14), Northern Ireland (4), Scotland (2), and UK nation unspecified (68).

**Percentage excluding 4,119 unknowns.

most common continued to be through job offers or advertisements (655). However, in 2025 this only comprised 36% down from almost half (49%, 771) in 2024, despite the large increase in labour exploitation potential victims (+49%). Job offers and advertisements, alongside offers of accommodation (135, 7%) have both reduced by 15%, having previously been very common amongst migrant care workers being recruited to the UK. Following changes to Health and Care Worker visas in July 2025, prohibiting new overseas recruitment of care workers, more cases are being reported where exploitation began at the point of visa renewal, which may account for these reductions.

The second most reported recruitment tactic was making false promises or statements (412, 23%). Proportionately, this was indicated most in domestic servitude (27%) and sexual exploitation (27%). Situations beginning with smuggling became 54% more common (276, 15%) as forced displacement escalates globally.

Recruitment into exploitation through utilising a familial relationship (253, 14%) is where the greatest variance was seen, increasing by 146% from 103 the previous year where it comprised only 7%. Familial recruitment comprised the largest proportions in domestic servitude (43, 38%) followed by sexual exploitation (35, 18%).

In labour exploitation, the most common recruitment tactic remains job offers or advertisements (509, 46%), followed by false promises or statements (234, 21%) and smuggling (227, 20%). In sexual exploitation, false promises or statements (52, 27%) were most common, followed by abduction (36, 19%) second, and then equal numbers of job offers or advertisements (35, 18%) and familial relationships (35, 18%). Coercion (25, 29%) was the most common in criminal exploitation, followed by grooming (28, 23%) and false promises or statement (21, 17%). In domestic servitude situations, utilisation of familial relationships (43, 38%) was the most common recruitment tactic, followed by intimate partner or marriage propositions (31, 28%) and false promises or statements (30, 27%). Job offers and advertisements (16,

Potential victims by recruitment tactic and exploitation type*

Recruitment tactic	Labour exploitation	Sexual exploitation	Criminal exploitation	Domestic servitude	Other	Various	Unknown	Total**
Job offer or advertisement	509	35	18	20	16	49	8	655
False promises or statements	234	52	21	30	13	54	8	412
Smuggling	227	3	11	11	1	22	1	276
Abduction	161	36	20	6	2	25	6	256
Familial	88	35	10	43	12	42	23	253
Offer of accommodation	87	13	7	12	0	10	6	135
Coercion	34	15	35	4	1	11	0	100
Intimate partner or marriage proposition	11	28	4	31	4	12	7	97
Friend	36	8	13	9	1	8	3	78
Grooming	14	20	28	0	2	10	4	78
Posing as benefactor	9	5	3	1	0	4	1	23
Other	13	10	10	0	0	2	1	36

*Excludes 4,823 unknown recruitment tactics.

**Sum of table may exceed overall number of potential victims, as multiple recruitment tactics may be indicated per potential victim.

31% continued to be the most common in relation to other forms of exploitation, followed by false promises or statements (**13, 25%**) and familial relationships (**12, 23%**).

In the exploitation of children, the most common recruitment tactic, where these were known (**116**), was through a familial relationship (**41, 35%**). Grooming was the second most common (**21, 18%**), followed by false promises or statements (**20, 17%**), smuggling (**19, 16%**) and abduction (**16, 14%**).

control methods

A wide range of control methods were reported that kept potential victims in situations of modern slavery. The most common overall was confinement or restricted movement, recorded in relation to **71% (3,942)** of potential victims where

control methods were known (**5,581**). Financial control was frequently indicated (**2,471, 44%**), presenting as debt bondage, wage deductions, financial penalties, or withheld pay. Tied accommodation, which can be where someone lives on site or in accommodation provided by their exploiter, was reported in relation to **2,307 (41%)** potential victims. These top three control methods overall were also the most common in labour exploitation, where control methods were known (**3,867**): confinement or restricted movement (**2,609, 71%**), financial control (**1,900, 51%**) and tied accommodation (**1,664, 45%**). Sexual abuse was recorded in relation to all sexual exploitation potential victims (**799, 100%**). The second most common was confinement or restricted movement (**504, 63%**), followed by tied accommodation (**183, 23%**). Similarly to labour exploitation, where control methods were recorded in criminal exploitation (**274**),

Potential victims by control methods and exploitation type*

Control method	Labour exploitation	Sexual exploitation	Criminal exploitation	Domestic servitude	Other	Various	Unknown	Total**
Confinement or restricted movement	2,609	504	219	136	45	212	217	3,942
Financial control	1,900	167	79	72	50	178	25	2,471
Tied accommodation	1,664	183	67	161	16	169	47	2,307
Emotional abuse	1,340	140	73	77	15	112	40	1,797
Monitoring	977	151	80	55	6	106	31	1,406
Sexual abuse	101	799	13	18	2	116	44	1,093
Physical abuse	646	132	85	60	11	86	39	1,059
Threat to harm subject, family or other	532	55	118	26	7	92	20	850
Threat to report to police or immigration	751	10	10	23	10	41	1	846
Isolation	461	75	42	67	5	80	24	754
Threat (unknown)	316	20	22	14	4	11	3	390
Withheld or destroyed important documents	161	50	25	34	14	30	27	341
Induced substance abuse	30	62	32	1	0	35	6	166
Cultural, familial or religious coercion	43	11	5	31	9	29	3	131
Threat to abandon subject or make homeless	77	1	3	5	6	21	2	115
Threat to expose or shame	17	50	2	7	1	4	0	81
Other	15	0	7	2	0	3	7	34

*Excludes 1,047 unknowns.

**Sum of table may exceed overall number of potential victims, as multiple control methods may be indicated per potential victim.

there were also high instances of confinement or restricted movement (**219, 80%**) reported. Threats to harm the subject, a family member or another person (**118, 43%**) was the second most common control method, followed by physical abuse (**85, 31%**). Tied accommodation was recorded in relation to all potential victims of domestic servitude (**161, 100%**). Confinement or restricted movement (**136, 84%**) was the second most common, followed by emotional abuse (**77, 48%**). In other forms of modern slavery, namely financial exploitation and organ harvesting, the most common control method was financial control (**50, 91%**). Confinement or restricted movement was reported in relation to **45 (82%)**, followed by tied accommodation (**16, 29%**).

Amongst child victims in 2025, where control methods were known (**367**), confinement or restricted movement was the most common (**252**) reported in relation to **69%**. Sexual abuse was disproportionately reported in relation to child victims, indicated in relation to **115 (31%)**. In contrast, sexual abuse was reported in relation to **20%** of overall potential victims where control methods were known (**5,581**). Other control methods commonly indicated in relation to child victims were tied accommodation (**91, 25%**), financial control (**85, 23%**) and emotional abuse (**72, 20%**).

emerging trends

criminal exploitation

Of the **202** cases of criminal exploitation indicated involving **305** potential victims, **76% (153)** of cases and **72% (220)** of potential victims related to the drug trade. Much smaller numbers were indicated in relation to other forms of forced criminality, with **10** cases of forced begging, **eight** cases of forced theft, and **six** cases where individuals were forced to commit fraud. There were also **24** cases that involved other types of forced criminal activity. **Five** of these cases related to money laundering or acting as a money mule. Money muling is where an individual's bank account is used to transfer money in order to disguise its origin.

Amongst child victims of criminal exploitation (**48**), **65% (31)** were involved in situations relating to the drugs trade. In drug-related situations, often involving county lines, where the specific age bracket was known (**19**), **47%** were aged 13-15 (**nine**), **42% (eight)** were 16-17-year-olds, and **11% (two)** were 12 or under. Where gender was known (**23**), **88%** were male.

organ harvesting

Organ harvesting is the coerced or forced removal of an individual's organ for transplant. This may involve false promises to a vulnerable individual around significant monetary or other kinds of benefit that do not materialise. Often these fictitious benefits are offered in exchange for an organ they can live without, such as a kidney. Alternatively, it can involve the forced removal of organs without the individual's consent. Organ harvesting was first reported

to the Helpline in 2022, with small numbers recorded in subsequent years. **Four** cases involving organ harvesting were reported in 2025, after only **one** was indicated the year before. Whilst cases of this nature have previously been reported to the Helpline, 2025 saw the highest number that reportedly took place in the UK (**three**).

labour exploitation

2025 saw an escalation in the number of labour exploitation cases reported in every industry recorded. Due to migrant workers on Health and Care visas being exploited in the UK, the care sector has now been the industry with the highest number of modern slavery cases indicated since 2023, with volumes peaking in 2025. **170** cases were recorded, **59%** higher than the **107** recorded in 2024. Where industry details were captured (**1,106**) **17%** of labour exploitation cases were in the care sector. **632** potential victims were recorded, accounting for **18%** of all labour exploitation potential victims where industry was known (**3,624**).

The hospitality industry also saw a significant spike, with **163** cases reported, **85%** higher than the previous year (**88**). In a mirror image of the care sector, many migrant workers have been recruited on skilled worker visas into the hospitality industry only to be exploited. **16%** of labour exploitation cases were in this sector involving **609** potential victims. In 2025 Unseen published a report on exploitation in the hospitality sector, Service not Servitude, shedding light on the emerging risks.

Whilst the care and hospitality sectors reflected higher case numbers, the construction industry was where the greatest number of potential victims were indicated with **710** indicated across **150** cases of modern slavery. This follows a **44%** rise in potential victim numbers, with construction making up **20%** of labour exploitation potential victims and **15%** of cases. Again, construction is an industry where there is high demand, persistent labour shortages and heavy reliance on cheap migrant labour, making it high risk territory for exploitation.

Services was the fourth most common industry, with **141** cases involving **467** potential victims following increases of **38%** and **51%** respectively. Services include car washes, beauty, and repairs and maintenance. Nail bars and car washes in particular continue to be high risk industries for modern slavery and make up the majority of Helpline cases in the services category. **61** car wash cases involving **224** potential victims were reported in 2025. Through ongoing collaboration with The Clewer Initiative, the Helpline receives reports via the Safe Car Wash app. **59** cases involving **208** potential victims were recorded in relation to beauty establishments.

2025 also saw a steep increase of children in labour exploitation (**+216%**), with **202** potential victims indicated under the age of 18, the most ever recorded by the Helpline. This is the most child victims in labour exploitation that have ever been reported to the Helpline, comprising **52%**

where exploitation type was known (**385**). Child victims were indicated in all recorded industries apart from the maritime industry. Where industries were known (**198**), child victims were reported most in hospitality (**42, 21%**) and services (**41, 21%**), which includes high risk businesses such as car washes and nail bars. Smaller numbers were reported in relation to construction (**22, 11%**), security (**20, 10%**) and retail (**11, 6%**), which were the top five. Where gender was known (**108**), boys (**62, 65%**) were more commonly indicated in labour exploitation than girls (**46, 38%**). Despite this, the majority of males was smaller in relation to children than was observed across all potential victims of labour exploitation (**1,306, 76%**).

Labour exploitation cases and potential victims by industry*

Industry	Cases	Potential Victims
Care sector	170	632
Hospitality	163	609
Construction	150	710
Services	141	467
Retail	65	204
Agriculture or farming	61	219
Domestic work	37	82
Janitorial or cleaning services	32	110
Manufacturing	21	115
Logistics	14	28
Entertainment	13	27
Landscaping	10	34
Maritime, boats or shipping	6	18
Tech	6	9
Transportation	5	5
Utilities	1	2
Other	31	91
Various	90	262
Total	1,016	3,624

*Excludes **115** unknown cases and **243** unknown potential victims.

labour abuse

The Helpline receives reports relating to a wide range of exploitative situations with varying degrees of severity. This includes many situations of labour abuse; worker rights abuses without the strong control methods that signify modern slavery. **801** labour abuse cases were indicated, the highest figure ever recorded by the Helpline. **2,345** potential victims of labour abuse were indicated across these cases.

Labour abuse situations are characterised by common indicators, the most frequently reported being non-compliance with National Minimum Wage, highlighted in relation to almost two thirds of potential victims (**1,468, 63%**). Almost half indicated long or excessive working hours (**1,003, 43%**), closely followed by harassment, intimidation

or bullying (**982, 42%**). Other indicators reported were insufficient breaks (**533, 23%**), deductions from pay (**397, 17%**), insufficient holiday or leave (**391, 17%**), health and safety concerns (**287, 12%**), and inadequate personal protective equipment (**128, 5%**).

Labour abuse cases and potential victims by industry*

Industry	Cases	Potential victims
Care sector	327	1,082
Hospitality	110	297
Services	56	142
Retail	47	136
Construction	36	86
Logistics	33	190
Manufacturing	17	56
Janitorial or cleaning services	17	33
Domestic work	12	22
Transportation	8	22
Entertainment	8	14
Agriculture or farming	7	17
Tech	6	8
Landscaping	2	2
Other	44	89
Various	7	12
Total	737	2,208

*Excludes **64** unknown cases and **137** unknown potential victims.

Similar industry trends were prevalent in both labour abuse and the more severe labour exploitation cases. Although labour abuse is not modern slavery, this gives a fuller view of the gamut of abuses in problematic industries and can signal growing problems that could escalate to modern slavery. The care sector is where the highest labour abuse figures have been recorded since 2023, increasing each year, comprising almost half of cases (**327, 44%**) and potential victims (**1,082, 49%**) in 2025. Hospitality remained the second most common industry, with **110** cases involving **297** potential victims recorded. Services, which includes car washes and nail bars, had the third highest number of cases (**56**), however, logistics was where the third highest number of potential victims were recorded (**190**) following a **90%** increase.

Just as in labour exploitation, Indian was the most indicated nationality, due to migrant workers on skilled worker visas being taken advantage of in the care sector, hospitality, retail and beyond. **163** Indian nationals were recorded, accounting for **38%** of labour abuse potential victims, where nationality was known (**430**). This is an even larger proportion than in labour exploitation. Nigerian (**42, 10%**), Ghanaian (**31, 7%**) and Pakistani (**23, 5%**) were also nationalities seen on skilled worker visas but reported in much smaller numbers. The number of Indians recorded was equal to the next seven most indicated nationalities combined, showing the disproportionate impact on Indian migrants in the UK.

Vihaan and Aditi's story*

Vihaan and Aditi came to the UK from India as Vihaan had secured a role in a restaurant. They each paid £1,500 for their visas.

Vihaan's employer kept asking him to work more hours beyond what he was contracted for and he was often sent to other premises. The employer offered Aditi some work in a shop that he owned, so she began working for him as well. Vihaan did not receive additional pay for the extra hours he was working and Aditi didn't get paid at all. Their employer claimed that Vihaan's salary was, in fact, for both of them. After deductions of £750 for their rent, they did not have much left.

The employer informed Vihaan and Aditi that they had accrued a debt of over £30,000, predominantly for visa fees that he hadn't previously told them about. As they did not have the money to pay this off, the employer offered to increase their hours and give them some additional pay. Their employer became more and more demanding until both Vihaan and Aditi were working for him seven days a week, but the additional pay never materialised.

Vihaan and Aditi contacted the Helpline who made a referral to the police for human trafficking and labour exploitation. The Police acted as first responders, entering them into the National Referral Mechanism, where they received positive reasonable grounds decisions and were able to access support.

**Some details changed to protect identities.*



conclusion

In the year that marked 10 years of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Helpline recorded more modern slavery cases than ever before; a sure sign that there is more work to be done. Central government has been more preoccupied with reducing net migration than tackling human rights abuses, failing to have adequate impact on the endemic exploitation of migrant workers on Health and Care visas and other skilled worker visas. The alarm was raised around the care sector in 2022, yet in 2025, the problem has been allowed to spread rapidly into other low paid sectors reliant on cheap labour from abroad. Preventing dependents being brought to the UK, increasing minimum salaries and stopping new international recruitment in the care sector have done little to prevent exploitation, improve regulation of sponsors or safeguard victims.

Within the care sector, we are now seeing exploitation beginning at the point of visa renewal, as exploiters realise they can no longer recruit, extort and control new migrant staff. People are recruited into senior roles with high salaries in hospitality and other sectors, only to end up in the most junior positions, experiencing abuse and being forced to return most of their salaries, while on paper everything looks legitimate.

Rhetoric around tighter border control and irregular entrants gaming the system in relation to the NRM is not backed up by evidence and continues to be challenged by Unseen and other NGOs. Helpline data shows that, where the location was known, **81%** of the modern slavery cases reported took place in the UK, the number of UK nationals in exploitation more than doubled, and the largest numbers of modern slavery victims are brought to the UK through legitimate visa routes to plug our labour gaps.

Funding cuts to essential public services have left many people without access to vital support, making them more vulnerable to exploitation. Recruitment through familial relationships rose and child exploitation escalated to record levels.

These growing problems mean demand for the Helpline is escalating, and the value of this independent service can be seen now more than ever. It continues to be a lifeline for people who have experienced terrible abuses, a place for the public to report concerns, and an essential resource for professionals seeking to better support survivors. The Helpline is vital in bridging the gap between the most vulnerable survivors with statutory agencies, aiding investigations and ensuring that much needed support can be accessed.

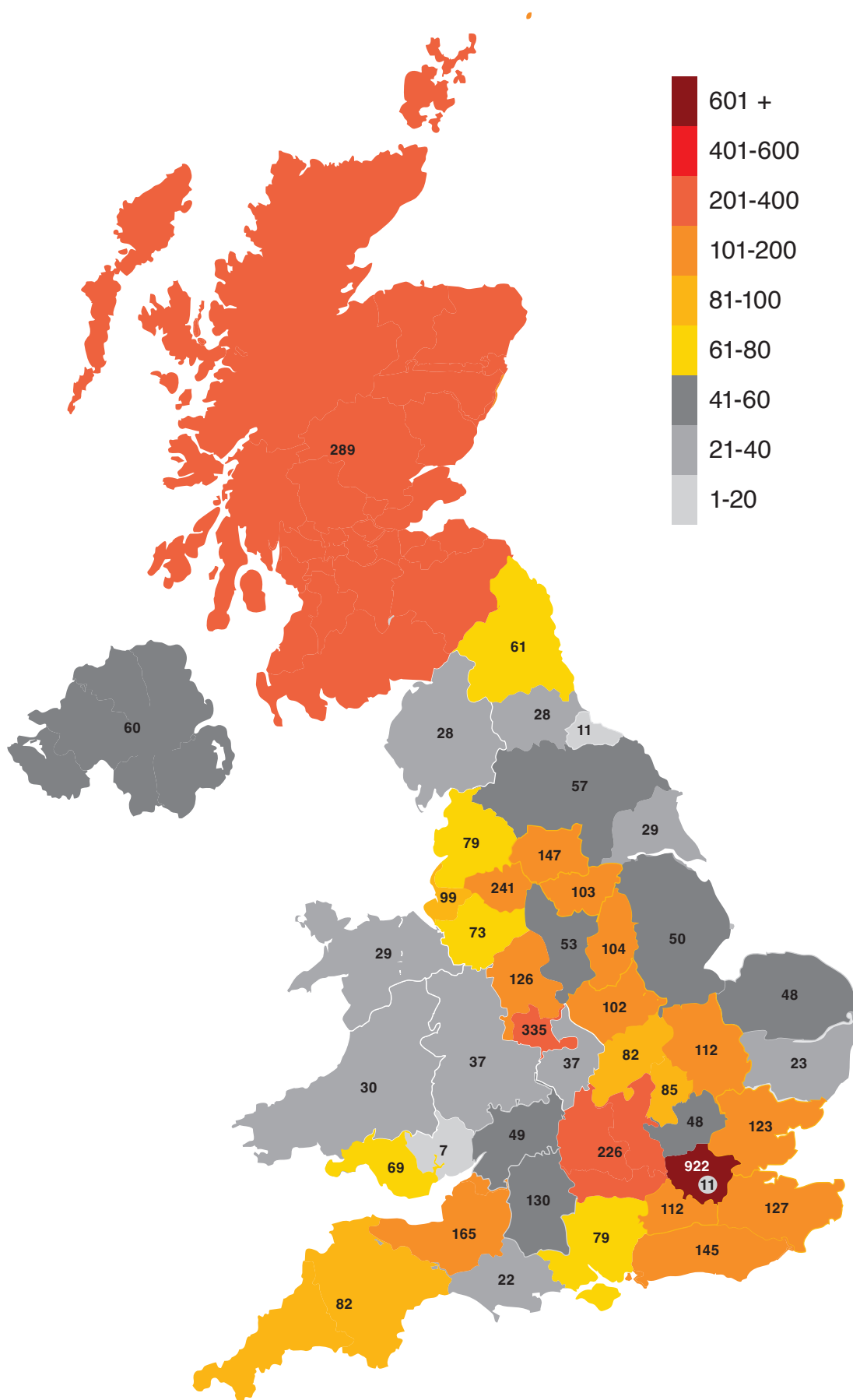
Unseen continues to work with businesses in high-risk sectors, such as construction, to facilitate proactive prevention efforts, with business clients promoting the Helpline as a reporting mechanism to tackle concerns within

their supply chains. Alongside the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Unseen is pushing for legislative changes to bring about mandatory human rights due diligence for UK businesses and ban products made with forced labour. The Helpline is referring more cases than ever to Unseen's own frontline services team to act as first responders and directly support survivors through their safe houses and outreach programme. This makes the transition from speaking out to accessing support as seamless and trauma-informed as possible for survivors.

At Unseen, our mission is to end modern slavery. A vision of a world without slavery, however, requires systemic change. With numbers of modern slavery cases increasing and the ongoing damaging rhetoric of system-gaming and intentional conflation of modern slavery with immigration, collaboration is more vital than ever. Only by influencing decision-makers, creating genuine understanding of this issue amongst the public and not allowing exploitative practices to go unchecked can we hope to rid our communities of this crime. To that end, we want to encourage more victims to speak to the Helpline to seek the information and support they need; influence how policy makers view modern slavery as a distinct and real issue that needs separating from wider immigration issues; stop political parties of all persuasions from political point scoring at the expense of vulnerable individuals; and to increase collaboration with stakeholders in the sector and beyond, creating an environment built on knowledge, understanding and action.

Annex

Modern slavery potential victims (PVs) by UK police force region*



Police force region	PVs
ENGLAND	
Avon and Somerset Police	165
Bedfordshire Police	85
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	112
Cheshire Constabulary	73
City of London Police	11
Cleveland Police	11
Cumbria Constabulary	28
Derbyshire Constabulary	53
Devon and Cornwall Police	82
Dorset Police	22
Durham Constabulary	28
Essex Police	123
Gloucestershire Constabulary	49
Greater Manchester Police	241
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	79
Hertfordshire Constabulary	48
Humberside Police	29
Kent Police	127
Lancashire Constabulary	79
Leicestershire Police	102
Lincolnshire Police	50
Merseyside Police	99
Metropolitan Police	922
Norfolk Constabulary	48
North Yorkshire Police	57
Northamptonshire Police	82
Northumbria Police	61
Nottinghamshire Police	104
South Yorkshire Police	103
Staffordshire Police	126
Suffolk Constabulary	23
Surrey Police	112
Sussex Police	145
Thames Valley Police	226
Warwickshire Police	37
West Mercia Police	37
West Midlands Police	335
West Yorkshire Police	147
Wiltshire Police	130
SCOTLAND	
Police Scotland	289
WALES	
Dyfed Powys Police	30
Gwent Police	7
North Wales Police	29
South Wales Police	69
NORTHERN IRELAND	
Police Service of Northern Ireland	60

*The sum of the table may differ from the potential victim totals as some may have been exploited across multiple police force regions.

Modern slavery cases and potential victims (PVs) by exploitation type and UK police force region*

Police force region	2025		Exploitation type													
			Labour exploitation		Sexual exploitation		Criminal exploitation		Domestic servitude		Other		Various		Unknown	
			Cases	Potential victims	Cases	PVs	Cases	PVs	Cases	PVs	Cases	PVs	Cases	PVs	Cases	PVs
ENGLAND**	1,382	3,891	760	2,653	221	493	115	180	76	108	25	45	64	217	121	195
Avon and Somerset Police	53	165	32	111	5	6	5	15	3	3	1	1	3	24	4	5
Bedfordshire Police	28	85	14	63	7	12	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	6	1	1
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	36	112	25	82	7	23	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	1	1
Cheshire Constabulary	19	73	14	58	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0
City of London Police	1	11	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland Police	3	11	2	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria Constabulary	8	28	6	23	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire Constabulary	18	53	13	44	3	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Devon and Cornwall Police	37	82	25	63	5	8	4	6	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	1
Dorset Police	12	22	8	18	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Durham Constabulary	12	28	6	20	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Essex Police	44	123	26	93	5	6	7	14	1	1	0	0	3	7	2	2
Gloucestershire Constabulary	17	49	12	36	2	8	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	3
Greater Manchester Police	90	241	47	154	12	26	9	20	5	5	4	6	5	21	8	9
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	31	79	23	69	3	5	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hertfordshire Constabulary	18	48	11	30	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	8	3	4
Humberside Police	6	29	5	23	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent Police	46	127	24	75	9	18	3	3	3	3	1	1	3	21	3	6
Lancashire Constabulary	30	79	19	60	5	8	2	4	1	1	1	1	2	5	0	0
Leicestershire Police	19	102	10	91	4	6	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lincolnshire Police	19	50	10	34	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	3
Merseyside Police	33	99	13	45	5	14	5	5	0	0	0	0	3	27	7	8
Metropolitan Police	364	922	159	492	75	197	36	57	24	30	10	14	21	53	39	79
Norfolk Constabulary	17	48	12	39	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	1
North Yorkshire Police	19	57	8	20	6	19	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	11	2	2
Northamptonshire Police	21	82	12	71	3	5	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Northumbria Police	21	61	13	45	5	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Nottinghamshire Police	36	104	16	68	8	15	3	3	3	3	0	0	4	11	2	4
South Yorkshire Police	32	103	19	84	6	10	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4
Staffordshire Police	32	126	21	81	5	12	2	6	1	1	0	0	2	25	1	1
Suffolk Constabulary	13	23	7	15	3	5	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey Police	40	112	26	87	8	15	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	7
Sussex Police	33	145	19	120	7	14	3	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	5
Thames Valley Police	67	226	40	178	8	16	8	15	6	10	0	0	1	1	4	6
Warwickshire Police	13	37	8	28	2	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
West Mercia Police	16	37	11	28	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1
West Midlands Police	110	335	63	220	18	35	3	8	9	21	1	1	9	40	7	10
West Yorkshire Police	55	147	24	84	6	19	10	13	3	9	0	0	5	11	7	11
Wiltshire Police	13	130	7	122	1	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
SCOTLAND	84	289	39	202	16	30	14	24	2	3	2	2	4	16	7	12
Police Scotland	84	289	39	202	16	30	14	24	2	3	2	2	4	16	7	12
WALES***	42	142	29	120	5	10	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	7
Dyfed Powys Police	7	30	5	27	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent Police	6	7	4	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
North Wales Police	11	29	9	27	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales Police	16	69	10	59	2	6	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
NORTHERN IRELAND	20	60	9	40	7	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	7
Police Service of Northern Ireland	20	60	9	40	7	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	7

*Sum of table may differ from the total number of modern slavery cases as some may have spanned multiple police force regions.
 **33 cases involving 54 potential victims reportedly took place in England but the police force region was unknown.
 ***2 cases involving 7 potential victims reportedly took place in Wales but the police force region was unknown.

Modern slavery potential victim (PV) demographics by UK police force region*

Police force region	Total PVs	Adult					Child			Unknown				
		Male	Female	Transgender Gender		Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Transgender Gender		Unknown
				female	non-conforming							female	non-conforming	
ENGLAND**	3,891	857	543	1	1	922	77	100	117	214	353	2	0	704
Avon and Somerset Police	165	34	25	0	0	44	5	5	7	8	16	0	0	21
Bedfordshire Police	85	12	15	0	0	27	1	1	4	2	5	0	0	18
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	112	19	10	0	0	31	0	0	4	4	19	0	0	25
Cheshire Constabulary	73	14	8	0	0	19	4	3	3	2	1	0	0	19
City of London Police	11	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland Police	11	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cumbria Constabulary	28	11	1	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Derbyshire Constabulary	53	16	8	0	0	9	1	1	4	1	4	0	0	9
Devon and Cornwall Police	82	13	10	0	0	38	3	3	4	4	3	0	0	4
Dorset Police	22	13	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
Durham Constabulary	28	4	5	0	0	8	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	5
Essex Police	123	23	13	0	1	15	4	4	5	6	0	0	0	52
Gloucestershire Constabulary	49	5	4	0	0	19	0	1	3	1	3	0	0	13
Greater Manchester Police	241	55	22	0	0	29	0	6	4	66	18	1	0	41
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	79	10	10	0	0	36	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	12
Hertfordshire Constabulary	48	8	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	22
Humberside Police	29	5	9	0	0	6	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
Kent Police	127	38	18	0	0	21	1	7	0	3	10	0	0	29
Lancashire Constabulary	79	15	12	0	0	18	2	1	0	5	5	0	0	21
Leicestershire Police	102	9	8	0	0	22	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	56
Lincolnshire Police	50	16	11	0	0	9	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	5
Merseyside Police	99	17	12	0	0	8	2	8	0	2	17	0	0	33
Metropolitan Police	922	168	182	1	0	217	21	18	39	29	140	0	0	107
Norfolk Constabulary	48	5	8	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	22
North Yorkshire Police	57	5	23	0	0	18	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	3
Northamptonshire Police	82	6	3	0	0	13	1	0	2	0	5	0	0	52
Northumbria Police	61	19	4	0	0	13	1	0	2	3	7	0	0	12
Nottinghamshire Police	104	30	18	0	0	34	1	2	3	2	6	0	0	8
South Yorkshire Police	103	22	8	0	0	6	7	0	4	2	3	0	0	51
Staffordshire Police	126	22	19	0	0	36	4	10	0	4	7	0	0	24
Suffolk Constabulary	23	12	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	2
Surrey Police	112	12	13	0	0	43	1	2	5	5	13	0	0	18
Sussex Police	145	29	8	0	0	79	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	21
Thames Valley Police	226	45	25	0	0	73	5	6	2	14	10	0	0	46
Warwickshire Police	37	2	3	0	0	11	0	0	2	10	3	0	0	6
West Mercia Police	37	3	3	0	0	7	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	17
West Midlands Police	335	60	57	0	0	92	3	17	23	18	25	0	0	40
West Yorkshire Police	147	23	27	0	0	40	6	9	10	6	12	0	0	14
Wiltshire Police	130	113	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	6
SCOTLAND	289	44	43	0	1	34	3	2	4	23	17	0	0	119
Police Scotland	289	44	43	0	1	34	3	2	4	23	17	0	0	119
WALES***	142	34	8	0	0	33	1	2	3	11	3	0	0	47
Dyfed Powys Police	30	12	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	14
Gwent Police	7	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Wales Police	29	9	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	6
South Wales Police	69	10	1	0	0	29	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	20
NORTHERN IRELAND	60	23	6	0	0	0	4	3	5	4	11	0	1	3
Police Service of Northern Ireland	60	23	6	0	0	0	4	3	5	4	11	0	1	3

*Sum of table may differ from the total number of modern slavery potential victims as some may have been exploited across multiple police force regions.

**54 potential victims were reported to have been exploited in England but the police force regions were unknown.

***7 potential victims were reported to have been exploited in Wales but the police force regions were unknown.

Referrals by UK police force region*

*Referrals relate to all case types including modern slavery, labour abuse, non-modern slavery.
 **Police force region relates to the location of exploitation, which may or may not be where referrals were sent.

Police force region**	Law enforcement	Local authority	Government	NGO
ENGLAND	1,225	46	299	37
Avon and Somerset Police	48	10	5	2
Bedfordshire Police	26	0	8	1
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	36	0	9	0
Cheshire Constabulary	20	2	5	0
City of London Police	3	0	0	0
Cleveland Police	4	1	0	0
Cumbria Police	5	0	2	0
Derbyshire Constabulary	15	0	7	0
Devon and Cornwall Police	29	2	9	0
Dorset Police	6	0	2	0
Durham Constabulary	9	1	3	0
Essex Police	36	2	16	2
Gloucestershire Constabulary	17	1	9	1
Greater Manchester Police	76	1	13	2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary	30	0	4	2
Hertfordshire Constabulary	23	0	4	0
Humberside Police	8	0	1	0
Kent Police	32	2	6	0
Lancashire Constabulary	31	1	3	0
Leicestershire Police	23	3	6	0
Lincolnshire Police	18	0	3	0
Merseyside Police	27	1	4	0
Metropolitan Police	261	10	44	17
Norfolk Constabulary	7	0	1	0
North Yorkshire Police	17	0	4	1
Northamptonshire Police	26	0	7	0
Northumbria Police	18	0	7	0
Nottinghamshire Police	26	0	9	0
South Yorkshire Police	16	0	8	0
Staffordshire Police	22	0	6	0
Suffolk Constabulary	7	0	1	1
Surrey Police	40	0	5	1
Sussex Police	31	0	8	1
Thames Valley Police	57	0	9	0
Warwickshire Police	13	3	7	0
West Mercia Police	15	0	8	0
West Midlands Police	90	2	34	4
West Yorkshire Police	46	3	18	1
Wiltshire Police	11	1	4	1
SCOTLAND	63	0	6	2
Police Scotland	63	0	6	2
WALES	33	1	7	1
Dyfed Powys Police	5	0	0	0
Gwent Police	5	0	2	0
North Wales Police	8	0	4	0
South Wales Police	15	1	1	1
NORTHERN IRELAND	17	0	0	0
Police Service of Northern Ireland	17	0	0	0

how you can help

Modern slavery has no place in our society.

If you are a **business professional**, our specialist [business services](#) and [training](#) can support you to prevent, identify and respond to modern slavery risks in your operations and supply chains.

If you are a **statutory or non-statutory professional**, read our Helpline [FAQs for professionals](#) and get in touch about CPD accredited in-person and online [training](#).

If you are an **academic or research professional**, reach out to our [policy and research](#) team to explore collaboration opportunities.

If you are an **individual**, your support matters. By [fundraising](#) or [donating](#) to Unseen, you help fund our vital work supporting survivors, raising awareness and driving systemic change.

You can also join our growing movement:

- Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)** for the latest updates, survivor stories and ways to get involved.
- Learn how to [spot the signs of modern slavery](#)** and report concerns via the [Unseen app](#).
- Follow us on [social media](#)** and help spread the word about Unseen and modern slavery.

Together, we can shine a light on exploitation and create a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



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