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Note of the Ministers meeting with Kevin Hyland OBE Designated Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

Monday 9 March 2015

Attendees:

Leighton Andrews AM	Minister for Public Services (MfPS)
Kevin Hyland OBE	Designated Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (DIASC)
Stephen Chapman	Welsh Government Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator (ASC)
Zsanett Shashaty	Welsh Government Policy Lead - FGM, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriages (ZS)

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

1. MfPS opened the meeting welcoming Kevin Hyland and congratulated him on his appointment to Designated Independent Commissioner.
2. DIASC then outlined his career prior to undertaking this role, as a Detective Inspector and Head of the Metropolitan Police's Human Trafficking Unit, which was internationally recognised for developing best practice in anti-trafficking operations.

Agenda Item 2 – Designate Independent Anti-slavery Coordinator Role

3. The Commissioner must work closely with law enforcement agencies, local authorities and third sector organisations to encourage good practice in the identification of survivors and the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery crimes, including international collaboration.
4. The Commissioner has a UK-wide remit. The Modern Slavery Bill, when enacted, will cover England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own anti-slavery legislation which incorporates the provision of the role.
5. The role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner is independent outside of Government and will be required to publish annual reports for Parliamentary scrutiny.
6. The DIASC outlined his 5 priorities:

1) Victim Care

7. In April 2014, the Home Secretary commissioned a review of the NRM and in November the Home Office published their findings in the report 'Review of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking.' The aim of the review was to establish whether the NRM provides an effective and efficient means of identifying and supporting potential victims of human trafficking. The review makes recommendations on the following key areas:
 - Identification of potential victims
 - Access to support
 - The level of support
 - Decision-making
 - Governance
 - Data
8. The DIASC stated the Home Secretary has tasked the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to implement the recommendations and he will be working with them to ensure they are fit for purpose.

2) Training

9. The DIASC stated it was important for training across the UK to be consistent.
10. He acknowledged the work of the ASC regarding the Organised Crime and Modern Slavery course for Senior Investigating Officers and Crown Prosecution Service Prosecutors stating the course is robust. DIASC would like to see this training rolled out across the UK and the Association of Chief Police Officers for England & Wales has held this training up to be 'best practice' and will be adopting it.
11. The DIASC stated consideration would be given to cascading the other anti-slavery training courses which are being delivered in Wales across the UK.

3) Partnerships

12. Slavery requires a multi-agency response to tackle the issues and the DIASC will be promoting partnership working.
13. He was impressed by the level of engagement across partners in Wales which became evident from attending the Anti-Slavery Conference held in North Wales in January.
14. The model in Wales of the Leadership Group, Operational Delivery Group and Regional Anti-Slavery Groups, is potentially a 'blue-print' for the rest of the UK.
15. DIASC stated the Welsh Government were to be congratulated being the only UK Government which funded an Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator and he would be recommending the other three UK Governments to follow this example.

16. The Minister extended an invitation to the Commissioner to attend a future Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group meeting.

Action: Stephen Chapman to invite Kevin Hyland to a future Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group meeting

4) Private Sector

17. The Modern Slavery Bill includes a provision compelling companies to publicly state what action they have taken each year to ensure their supply chain is slavery-free. DIASC is particularly concerned that price competition is leading to aggressive cost-cutting in labour-intensive industries in the UK. In response to financial pressure, large companies in the UK are outsourcing and subcontracting at the lower end of supply chains in developing countries, where poor working conditions and trafficking may be commonly found.
18. The UK Government strategy will be working with source countries to ensure supply chains are slavery-free. The UK has an established footprint in countries such as Bangladesh, Thailand and South East Asia. The role of the Commissioner will be to monitor these existing groups with the help of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office to ensure partners and plans are adhered to with these countries.
19. DIASC informed MfPS, the Department of International Development has launched a review into the outcome of their overseas projects and to establish if any benefits to tackle sexual exploitation and labour exploitation in the transparency of employment chains have been achieved in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nigeria. Nigeria is of particular concern as the Ido State has the highest number of women being trafficked into the UK.

5) Evaluation

20. The National Crime Agency UK Human Trafficking data for 2014, reports 2,700 victims having been referred into the National Referral Mechanism compared to the Home Office estimate of there being between 10,000 and 13,000 people held in slavery in the UK.
21. Of the 2,700 NRM referrals there were only 151 prosecutions across the UK in 2014.
22. DIASC stated the UK Police had to increase their activities to tackle slavery and he will be holding Chief Constables to account for not investigating offences of slavery.
23. He was pleased to hear about the evidence base which has been established in Wales and in particular the use of 'secondary data' to assist in building the picture of slavery in Wales.

Agenda Item 3 - MOU

24. DIASC has met with Ministers from the devolved administrations of Scotland and Northern Ireland in preparation for Royal Assent of the Modern Slavery Bill in order to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of how the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner will work with the UK Government and Devolved Administrations. DIASC wishes to build on the good work already taking place in Wales and this would be reflected in the MOU with the Welsh Government.

Action: DIASC will keep ASC updated on the development of the Memorandum of Understanding

25. DIASC updated MfPS on the 'Santa Marta' Group which is a project launched in 2014 by the Pope which brings the Catholic Church, other religious leaders and Law Enforcement Agencies together to tackle slavery world-wide. The Home Secretary, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the Commissioner attended the meeting and future learning from this Group will be cascaded across the UK.
26. MfPS thanked DIASC for the meeting and welcomed further updates on his role in tackling slavery across the UK.

Stephen Chapman
Anti-Slavery Coordinator