

Meg Hillier MP

Chair of the Public Accounts Committee

29 November 2022

Dear Chair,

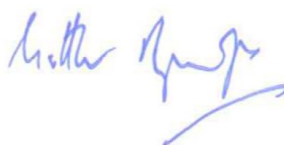
I am writing to you with an update on the Government's Modern Slavery Strategy. The Home Office last issued an update by way of a Treasury Minute in April 2022, which outlined the extensive work to date on developing a new strategy, which refreshed and built on our previous 2014 strategy.

Over the course of the last year, the Government had undertaken significant work to engage with key stakeholders in the third sector, businesses, academia, devolved administrations and cross-government departments to inform future policy direction and to develop a new strategy for publication in summer 2022.

Following the change of Prime Minister in June, and the appointment of a new ministerial team across September and October, Ministers are re-considering the Government's strategic approach to modern slavery, and so a strategy has not yet been published. Over the summer Ministers asked for work to be undertaken to review the interaction between the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the immigration system, to address concerns about potential misuse and abuse of the modern slavery system. Ministers are committed to ensuring genuine victims get the support they deserve, and more criminals are apprehended. The outcome of this work will be reflected in any refresh of the Government's strategic approach on modern slavery in the future.

I hope this update demonstrates that the Department continues to take our commitment to eradicating modern slavery seriously. We continue to review our strategic approach and will update the committee in due course on future plans. In the meantime, our policy and operational response to modern slavery continues, ensuring the vulnerable are protected, efforts to prevent modern slavery are strengthened and those perpetrating these crimes are brought to justice.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Rycroft CBE
Permanent Secretary, Home Office