

MODERN SLAVERY

DUTY TO NOTIFY THE HOME OFFICE OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY - GUIDANCE FOR SPECIFIED PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

WHAT IS THE 'DUTY TO NOTIFY'?

From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

It is estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2013. In 2015, 3,266 potential victims were identified and referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The Duty to Notify is intended to gather better data about modern slavery in England and Wales.

The 'duty to notify' provision is set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and applies to all police forces and local authorities in England and Wales, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and the National Crime Agency.

Home Office staff within UK Visas and Immigration, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement are also required, as a matter of Home Office policy, to comply with the duty to notify.

VOLUNTARY NOTIFICATIONS BY AGENCIES NOT COVERED BY THE DUTY

Other organisations, including NGOs, are also encouraged to put forward notifications where they encounter a potential victim of modern slavery who does not want to enter the NRM.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED?

The information that must be provided is set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Duty to Notify) Regulations 2015 (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1743/pdfs/ukxi_20151743_en.pdf).

This information can be provided by completing a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) form or an MS1 (Notification of a Potential Victim of Modern Slavery) form.

The NRM form should be used if the victim is an adult and consents to provide their personal details and would like to receive Government funded specialist support, or for a child victim (where consent is not needed). NRM forms and associated guidance are available on the gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>).

An MS1 form should only be used if the potential adult victim wants to remain anonymous and does not want specialist support (or if you are not able to contact the potential victim and do not know their personal details). The MS1 form is available on the gov.uk website (www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery).

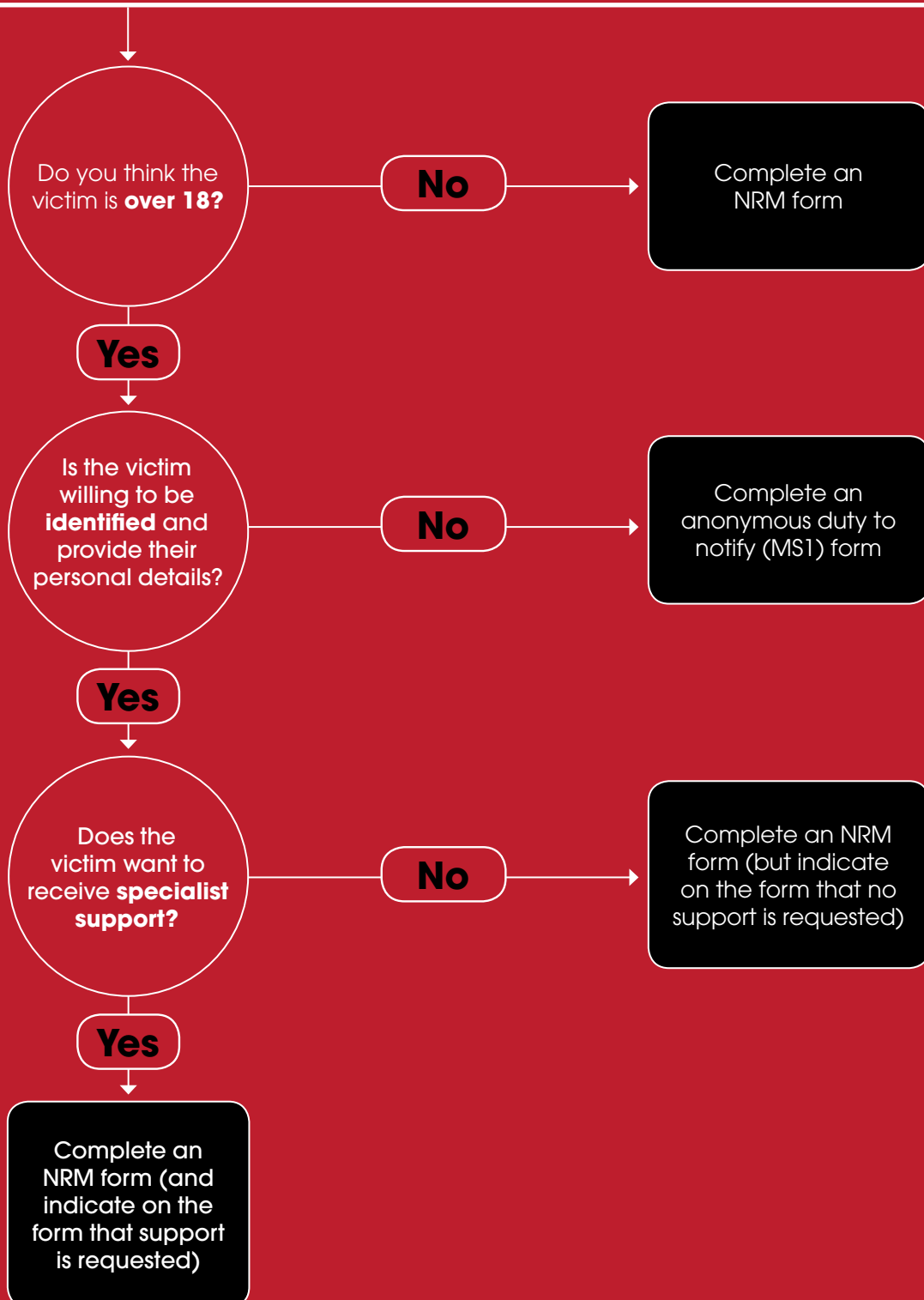
For more information about when to use an NRM or MS1 form please see the chart overleaf. To complete and download the forms and guidance for completing forms visit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>



How to report a victim of Modern Slavery

If you have encountered someone who may be a victim of modern slavery. (Modern slavery is defined by the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and can include human trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation). Please follow the steps below.



*Please note that existing safeguarding processes should still be followed in tandem with the notifications outlined above. If the person you have encountered or anyone connected to them may be in immediate danger, you should call the police as normal.