Funding call: Improving the identification of adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK

Frequently asked questions

What sort of training is available to First Responder Organisations?

Details of some Home Office training modules available for First Responder Organisations are provided in the call documentation. The UK Modern Slavery Training Delivery Group has produced a range of training materials for public sector First Responders, further details available here. There are different modules for different types of organisations and levels of experience, as well as a wide range of training provided by other organisations. These will need to be considered by project teams when making your selection of the types of training you could include.

Will a charity organisation still qualify to apply to this call even if it's not a First Responder to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)?

Yes, charitable organisations don't need to be an NRM First Responder Organisation to be eligible under this call. They just need to be a registered charity with a focus on modern slavery. If you have further questions on eligibility, please email us at office@modernslaverypec.org

Can the successful applicant choose a specific focus (such as a particular background or age group) for people choosing not to join the NRM, or does it have to stay general?

Projects don't have to be general, but the call documentation stipulates that an essential criteria are to explore patterns according to the characteristics of individuals, exploitation type and organisation of First Responder. Therefore, we would expect that there be a very clear justification for why a particular focus has been taken, and that applicants give due consideration to the requirement that the evidence generated has an ability to be used to make recommendations directed at policymakers and First Responders.

Is there any training or workshops that First Responders can attend with regards to how to improve the process of securing informed consent to enter the NRM?

This is partly what has motivated this research call, and something we'd hope the successful project would be able to explore in more detail.

Will charities who are First Responders be able to apply and feed in their own experiences for consideration in the project?

Yes, it's suggested in the call documentation that project teams may include First Responder organisations, so it's appropriate that they may be involved in the project. If you have further questions on eligibility, please email us at office@modernslaverypec.org

Would there be an expectation to directly interview survivors?

Yes, this is something we would expect to see. We expect there to be qualitative research, such as interviews with people who have experienced the modern slavery, however it is open to bidders to give a justification for defining the appropriate number of people that would be interviewed for their project.

How can we include organisations who are not First Responders or registered UK charities, and who may not eligible for this call, but hold lots of valuable data?

There are different types of ways for organisations and individuals to get involved in projects, and the Modern Slavery PEC is keen to have a diverse selection of voices feeding into our research projects. For a charity to be a project lead for this call, you must be a charity registered in the UK with a focus on modern slavery. However, teams can also include UK-based third sector organisations (which has a wider definition) on the project. These organisations would be eligible to receive up to 50% FEC of the project's budget. For more details about eligibility please contact office@modernslaverypec.org.

Can there be a Principal Investigator (PI), with multiple co-investigators from third sector organisations which each look into different things (e.g. specific communities)?

Yes. For project structures, there should be one Principal Investigator who is based at the lead organisation and there can be a number of Co-Investigators who can all feed into a project. However, bear in mind that a maximum of 50% of the budget can go to UK third sector organisations, if there are multiple different organisations listed as collaborators, then they would all need to be included in this budget envelope.

There is no maximum number of Co-Investigators. However, the panel will look for equity between investigators, partners and their roles and remuneration within the project, so it is key that teams consider equitable ways and division of work across the project team.

Individuals may only apply to this call as either a Principal or Co-Investigator once. This limit does not apply to organisations who may appear on multiple applications so long as the named researcher is different.

Many support providers are also First Responders and may be subject to a data ban. Will the Home Office remove this ban for the purpose of the project?

According to the Home Office NRM newsletter issued in April 2022, the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) change notice was agreed in March 2022 to facilitate use of sensitive authority data in research projects by sub-contractors of that contract. Furthermore, we are particularly interested in the experiences of people who do not give consent to enter the NRM and therefore would not be part of the MSVCC, meaning this group would not be affected by this MSVCC change notice.

Is there any supporting data/information to help teams access survivors who chose not to go through the NRM make this process more seamless?

We would hope that the project team would bring together this expertise. To help identify partners that might be able to facilitate access to survivors, sign up to our Google Group as a means to connect with relevant organisations. There are several organisations who work with people with

lived experience of modern slavery who are members of the Google Group. Applications will be assessed on appropriate consideration of the inclusion of people with lived experience (assessment criteria 6.c.).

Glossary of Terms

Principal Investigator (PI) – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

Co-investigator(s) (Co-I) – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

Project Team – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers who are working on the project

Is there an expectation for the Home Office to view project team's data?

There is no expectation for the successful research team to share data with the Home Office. The Data Sharing Agreement to be set up between the Home Office and successful team is to cover the Home Office's sharing of the Duty to Notify referral data.

Has the Home Office lifted their data ban?

According to the Home Office NRM newsletter issued in April 2022, the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) change notice was agreed in March 2022 to facilitate use of sensitive authority data in research projects by sub-contractors of that contract. This was recently confirmed in a written [Parliamentary Question response](#) by the Home Office Safeguarding Minister.

Furthermore, we are particularly interested in the experiences of people who do not give consent to enter the NRM and therefore would not be part of the MSVCC, meaning this group would not be affected by this MSVCC change notice.

Is there scope to widen the target group of people with lived experience beyond those who did not enter the NRM?

The call documentation specifies in essential objective D that we expect the research to 'Explore the reasons why adults with lived experience of modern slavery decide to give or not to give consent to enter the NRM'- so this should include both survivors who choose to enter and who choose not to enter the NRM. We expect that the analysis of the Duty to Notify data will provide some insight relevant to objective D. Your methodology should explain how your chosen approach will respond to the objectives and any change to the project scope needs to be clearly explained and justified. We would welcome suggestions for survivor inclusion in this research and would expect this to be fully outlined and justified in the project details section of the application (paragraphs 17-23 of the call documentation page 13).

Is there a requirement to verify whether people with lived experience involved in the project have entered the NRM, given the safeguarding risks around this?

We don't expect successful research teams to verify whether survivors have or have not entered the NRM. We are keen to have a diverse selection of voices feeding into our research projects which for example could include organisations supporting survivors who don't enter the NRM. As per paragraphs 24-26 of the call documentation on page 13, research teams should design a research project which includes identification of any risks and mitigation strategies as well as their approach to ethics and safeguarding.

Is there a suggested limit for a voucher or payment to a survivor? Can this value also be given in vouchers?

This would be for the lead institution to decide. There are no upper Modern Slavery PEC restrictions on this, although we do expect a minimum hourly rate of £9.90 (outside of London) or £11.05 (within London) for participants which is based on the Living Wage Foundation's current rates. As per the call document, we would encourage applicants to explore best practice in the sector (including the use of vouchers where appropriate) and support higher rates of pay where justified.

There might be challenges working with international survivors who choose not to enter the NRM, is there a requirement to work with this group?

The call documentation requires that bids give a rationale for the number of survivors to interview which we expect to factor in feasibility considerations.