



**ORGANISED
CRIME**
TASK FORCE

Summary of findings

Strategic Profile - Potential victims of Human Trafficking recovered in Northern Ireland

Period covered: 01 April 2009 - 12 August 2013

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Foreword

This report provides analysis of information on potential victims of human trafficking recovered in Northern Ireland and referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) from 1st April 2009 to 12th August 2013; its key findings should be read in the context of those dates. Since the research was conducted there have been a number of significant developments in respect of the response to human trafficking in Northern Ireland which also need to be taken into account in relation to the final report.

Exploitation types

During the reporting period (1st April 2009 to 12th August 2013), almost half of all potential victims recovered were in relation to trafficking for sexual exploitation. However, there was a significant increase in potential victims of human trafficking for labour exploitation recovered in the 2014-15 financial year. It is clear that Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) operational activity has a definite impact on the profile of potential victims recovered; with Operation Owl (PSNI investigation into child sexual exploitation) leading to a significant increase in female, minor, sexual exploitation cases in 2013-14, and a joint PSNI/Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) investigation into the abuse of workers at a meat processing factory leading to a significant increase in male, labour exploitation cases in 2014-15..

Legislative changes

The legislative framework around human trafficking has also changed significantly since the research was conducted. Of particular note is the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, which received Royal Assent on 13 January 2015. This piece of legislation has strengthened the response to these types of crimes in Northern Ireland, making provision for new offences, increased sentences and enhanced protections for victims, including putting on a statutory footing the support that the Department of Justice is required to provide to adult potential victims whose cases are referred to the NRM during the recovery and reflection period.

In line with the proposed legislation for Scotland and the Modern Slavery Bill in England and Wales, the Act includes a section which is intended to enhance our understanding of the scale and nature of human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour – modern slavery - by placing a duty on specified public authorities to notify the National Crime Agency of any suspected victims of these offences. This will mean that, in future, *anonymised* data can be reported and collected in cases where a potential victim declined to be referred into the NRM. This data should



help to build up a more accurate picture of levels and trends in human trafficking in Northern Ireland and across the United Kingdom.

Provisions in the Westminster Modern Slavery Bill relating to enforcement powers in relation to ships, the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner, and transparency in supply chains will also extend to Northern Ireland and are intended again to reinforce our response to modern slavery. The Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner's role is to encourage good practice in preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting slavery and trafficking, as well as in the identification of victims. The Home Secretary appointed Kevin Hyland OBE to the role of UK Designate Anti-Slavery Commissioner on 13 November 2014, pending the passage of the Modern Slavery Bill through Parliament.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

Of particular relevance, since the report was written there has been a United Kingdom-wide review of the NRM, which Northern Ireland agencies have contributed to. The final report¹ was published on 11 November 2014 and included recommendations aimed at improving identification of victim. Notably, the review has recommended an overhaul of the referral and decision-making processes within the NRM. Work is ongoing to determine how best the review should be implemented in Northern Ireland.

¹ Available at <https://nrm.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Summary of key facts and figures

- There were 97 potential victims of human trafficking recovered in NI and identified through the NRM between 01st April 2009 and 12th August 2013. Almost half (49%) were in relation to sexual exploitation, 22% were in relation to labour exploitation, 8% in relation to domestic servitude and in 22% of cases the exploitation type was unknown. 79% of potential victims were female.
- There was a peak in incidents in 2011/12, largely due to the PSNI investigation of a significant number of internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases, as well as cases in relation to the fishing industry. An increase in the 2013/14 year to date appears to be largely due to five potential victims recovered within one family.
- The age of potential victims range from three years to 59 years, with around a quarter being minors.
- 37% of potential victims were in the UK legally, and a further 26% had an asylum claim or were exploited within the fishing industry.
- Over one third of potential victims were from China, a further 16% were UK or Irish nationals and 8% were from Nigeria.
- Key victim vulnerabilities include those who have been orphaned, have ill family members, were 'sold' by family or offered help by a 'family friend', had debt problems or were 'looked after' children.
- The majority of potential victims were recruited within their home country, however around 20 were recruited in the UK or Ireland (either because they were UK or Irish nationals or because they travelled here of their own volition).
- In some instances the potential victim was exploited in another part of Europe or the UK but then reported this exploitation in Northern Ireland at a later date.
- Identified recruitment methods included through bogus job advertisements, approaches made by individual 'recruiters' and the 'lover boy' approach. In addition there were a small number of potential victims who had been kidnapped or 'sold'.



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- The most common types of coercion were the holding of documents, limited social contact and restriction of movement.
 - Very few potential victims entered Northern Ireland directly from outside the UK and Ireland and it was not unusual for potential victims of sexual exploitation to be routed through a variety of different countries, spending time in each along the way. Other than other countries within the UK and Ireland, the key nexus countries identified were Spain and Holland.
 - Where the data was available it illustrated that potential victims were usually kept in rented accommodation, often with others.
 - Agencies that had contact with potential victims prior to their entry into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process included health trusts, education boards, social services, law enforcement in other countries, airport staff and law enforcement based at ports, solicitors and charities/voluntary agencies.
 - A quarter of all interventions were as a result of individuals coming forward voluntarily, with a further 16% as a result of police investigations and 16% as a result of an intervention by Social Services.
 - Potential victims of sexual exploitation were proportionately more likely to be in the country legally than the overall potential victims.
 - Potential victims of labour exploitation figures were greatly impacted by eight cases involving individuals employed in the fishing industry. Other employment identified included Chinese restaurants, brothels (in a non sexual role), nanny, food factory, computer firm and cleaning firm. In addition there were potential victims who had been working in cannabis cultivation facilities.
 - Half of the potential victims of domestic servitude (four of eight) had previously been involved in some form of criminality, usually drug related.
 - 38% of potential victims were minors, with the majority being female. In the majority of these cases the type of exploitation was not known. 59% of the minors were in the country legally, with half of these being internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases.



Introduction

This report has been requested by DOJ Organised Crime Branch and aims to provide the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) with a better understanding of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. The report aims to profile victims of human trafficking recovered in Northern Ireland by gender, age, nationality, exploitation type, background, country of recruitment, recruitment method, level and type of coercion, signs of ongoing coercion, interaction with any statutory or voluntary agency prior to recovery, immigration status, and engagement with the criminal justice system. The report will be used by partner agencies to help them to better target their prevention and support approaches.

As the number of potential victims remains relatively small, any analysis in relation to potential victims of human trafficking recovered in Northern Ireland can be **greatly influenced by a small number of cases**, for example where five children suspected of being exploited within one family are recovered on the same day. In addition, trafficking is a complex crime type that can be complicated by the different categories and the way in which it can manifest (e.g. internal and external trafficking, victims who are adults or minors, and trafficking for the purposes of different types of exploitation). Internal trafficking of children for the purposes of child sexual exploitation is one such example of an issue that requires a distinct approach in terms of operation, intervention, prevention and support.

Information gained through National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data will only give part of the picture in relation human trafficking in Northern Ireland. Adult potential victims of human trafficking are required to 'opt in' to the NRM, however failure to do so does not necessarily mean they are not genuine victims, or that they were not provided with help by statutory agencies or charities.

There are already **significant awareness raising strategies and partnership work ongoing, and the information held on victims suggests this has targeted the correct areas**. As a quarter of all potential victims have been **minors** there is a need for continued partnership work between law enforcement and Social Services.

Methodology

All data was provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (part of the National Crime Agency). In total, National Referral Mechanism forms in relation to 97 potential victims recovered in Northern Ireland between 01st April 2009 and 12th August 2013 were examined.

Background

What is human trafficking?

A full definition of human trafficking is given in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which the UK ratified in December 2008.ⁱ Trafficking involves a combination of three main elements – recruitment and movement, control and coercion, and exploitation. In short, a person who has been trafficked has been moved into or through a country for the purposes of exploitation. The control exercised by the trafficker may be physical or psychological.

Human trafficking in the UK

In the UK as a whole in the 2012 calendar year there were a total of 1,186 potential victims of human trafficking identified through the National Referral Mechanism. 66% (786 of the total 1,186) were female and 34% were male (400 of the total 1,186). Northern Ireland made up just 1% of this figure, with 15 potential victims recovered during this time period.ⁱⁱ In the Republic of Ireland there were 48 people reported as victims of human trafficking in the 2012 calendar year. This represented a reduction on reported cases in previous years.ⁱⁱⁱ

Internal trafficking of UK nationals for child sexual exploitation – POINT OF NOTE

It is worth noting that there are a number of potential victims of human trafficking identified in Northern Ireland who are believed to have been UK nationals trafficked internally for the purposes of child sexual exploitation. These cases meet the criteria of trafficking, however their circumstances are usually slightly different to what most people would initially think of in relation to a 'traditional' trafficking victim. They often involve teenage girls, with those living in local authority care being particularly vulnerable. This is not a new phenomenon, research has shown that children in care are significantly more likely to go missing and are particularly vulnerable to abuse and sexual exploitation^{iv}. Following the infamous Fred and Rose WEST murder trials, it was established that at least six young girls from a Gloucestershire residential home had visited the WESTS at 25 Cromwell Street. Three of the West's victims were in, or had recently left, local authority care.^v Internal trafficking of minors for the purposes of sexual exploitation has been seen in Northern Ireland, and the rest of the UK, for a number of years, however prior to the establishment of human trafficking legislation, suspects would have been charged with other offences, e.g. In 2005 PSNI dealt with a case in which a number of young females were frequently absconding from a children's home. The girls had been lured by an older male who provided them with alcohol and drugs before persuading them to become involved in sexual activity with a number of men. In this



instance the main principal was convicted of child abduction, unlawful carnal knowledge and was placed on the Sex Offender's Register. If this case were to occur now, trafficking legislation may be used.

Whilst it is right that potential victims of this type of internal trafficking are included in overall trafficking victim figures, it is also important to note that preventative measures and support in relation to these victims will need to be tailored.

The National Referral Mechanism

In March 2007 the Home Office launched the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking. This was then updated after the UK ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings on 17th December 2008.

"... [The Convention] is a comprehensive treaty focussing mainly on the protection of victims of trafficking and the safeguard of their rights. It also aims to prevent trafficking and to prosecute traffickers. In addition, the Convention provides for the setting up of an effective and independent monitoring mechanism capable of controlling the implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention."^{vi}

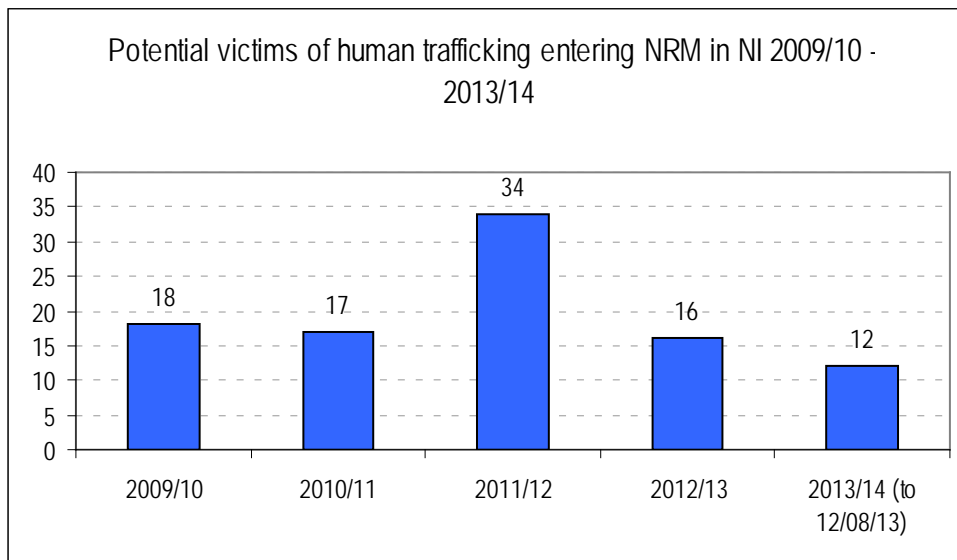
As part of the UK's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) was set up.

"The NRM is a multiagency framework that allows us to systematically identify victims of trafficking and refer them to support where necessary."^{vii}

The initial stage of this process is the identification of a potential victim by 'first responders'^{viii}. Once a potential victim has been identified they are referred to a Competent Authority^{ix}. The Competent Authority will then decide within five days whether the individual meets reasonable grounds to be treated as a victim of trafficking and enter the next stage of the process. If this is the case then the victim will be eligible for a reflection period of 45 days^x when they can decide whether they wish to assist with a law enforcement investigation. At the end of this recovery and reflection period Home Office Circular 2/2006 can be used to request leave to remain. This circular needs Assistant Chief Constable level approval and states that the person is required to remain due to court proceedings.

Overall potential victims

A total of 97 potential victims of human trafficking entered the National Referral Mechanism process in Northern Ireland between 01st April 2009 and 12th August 2013^{xi}. The number of potential victims per year in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2012/13 averaged just over one potential victim per month, however a peak was seen in 2011/12 when 34 potential victims were recovered in one year.^{xii} 2013/14 is also seeing a higher level, with 12 potential victims recovered in less than five months.

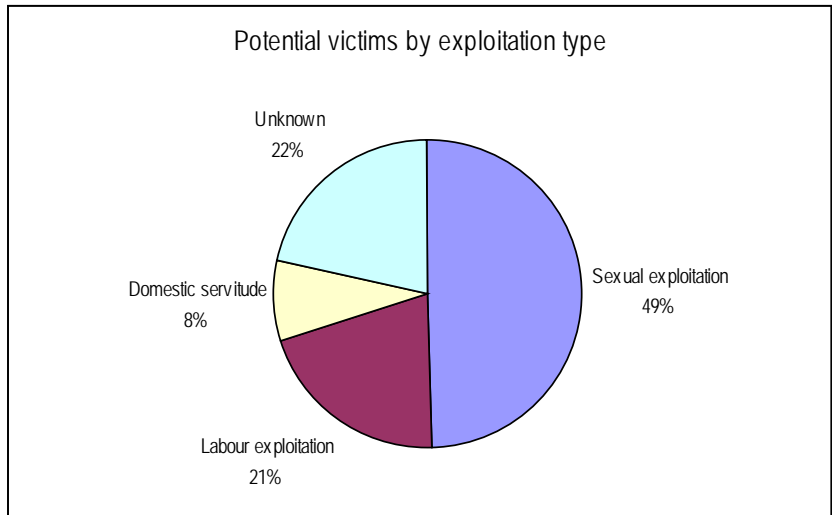


The increase in 2011/12 appears to be partially due to internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases, involving minors being trafficked for the purposes of child sexual exploitation. Whilst these cases meet the definition of human trafficking within the Convention, it is also fair to say that some can be different in nature to the type of cases more 'traditionally' associated with the term 'human trafficking'. (See *highlighted paragraph on page 15/16*). In 2011/12 there were nine such internal trafficking cases and there were also six cases in relation to Ghanaian fishermen. Removing these cases brings the overall figure closer to that seen in the other years. In 2013/14 the increase appears to be largely due to one particular case in which five potential victims were recovered within one family.



Exploitation type

Almost half of all potential victims identified (48 of the total 97) were in relation to sexual exploitation, 22% (20 of the total 97) were in relation to labour exploitation, 8% (8 of the total 97) were in relation to domestic servitude, and in 22% (21 of the total 97) the exploitation type was unknown. The cases where the exploitation type was unknown usually involved minors (71%, 15 of the 21 cases). This may help explain why the exploitation type was not clear, as a minor may be less able or willing to tell their story. Also, in these instances intervention was often fairly early, with potential victims recovered at a port of entry and therefore could be prior to exploitation actually taking place.



Gender

The majority of potential victims recovered have been female (79%, 77 of the total 97).

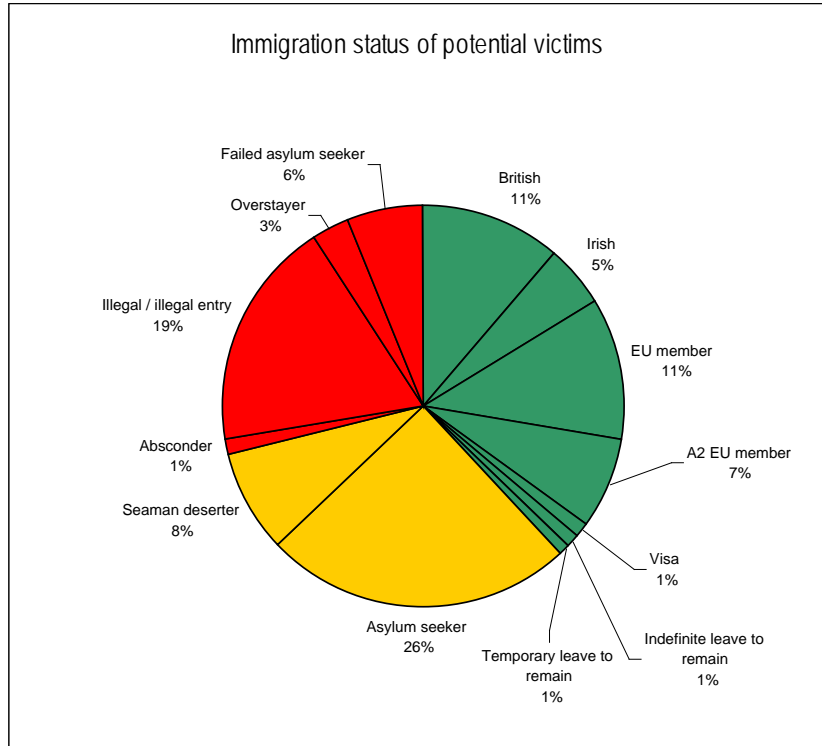
Ages

This table shows the age ranges of potential victims recovered. Around a quarter of all potential victims identified have been minors.

Age range	Number of potential victims
< 18	26
18 – 24	20
25 – 29	15
30 – 34	13
35 – 39	4
40 +	17
Unknown / disputed	2

Immigration status

Of the 97 potential victims, around 37% were in the country legally. In the majority of cases (34%) the potential victim was a UK, Irish or European Union national. In a further 26% of cases the potential victim had an asylum claim (or was exploited within the fishing industry. In these cases the potential victim was working on a fishing boat legally, probably with legitimate permits to fish outside of UK waters, but has since left the boat). Just over a quarter of potential victims (29%) were in the country illegally.



Nationalities

Over a third of all potential victims were from China (37%, 36 of the total 97). A further 16 were UK or Irish nationals (16%), and eight (8%) were from Nigeria.



China (35)	Ethiopia (1)
China/Vietnam (1)	Guinea (1)
UK (11)	Guinea Bissau (1)
Nigeria (8)	India (1)
Romania (7)	Latvia (1)
Ghana (6)	Lithuania (1)
Ireland (5)	Poland (1)
Zimbabwe (3)	Sierra Leone (1)
Czech Rep (3)	Slovakia (1)
Philippines (2)	Tanzania (1)
Hungary (2)	
Afghanistan (1)	
Albania (1)	
Austria (1)	
Estonia (1)	

Background

Where background information in relation to the potential victims was available, there were certain key vulnerabilities that appeared consistently –

- *Orphaned* – Eleven of the potential victims stated they were orphaned and had either gone to live with a friend or family member, or had been forced to try and get work to support themselves. The vast majority of these cases involved Chinese nationals.
- *Ill family members* – There were 17 cases where the potential victim stated they had an ill family member at home. In some instances the potential victim had actively sought work abroad to help pay for medical bills, and in other instances a friend or family member had offered them a job or put them in touch with someone who they believed might be able to help them.
- *'Sold' by family or offered help by 'family friend'* – In some instances the family appear to have believed this was the best thing for the potential victim. The family may believe that a rich benefactor would be better equipped to look after them, unaware that they would ultimately be exploited.
- *Debt problems* – Some of the potential victims were in debt in their home country and initially travelled willingly in the belief that they were going to be offered legitimate work.
- *'Looked after' children* – There were around nine cases involving the internal trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation who had previously been in the care of the State.

Countries of recruitment

Where the data was available, the majority of potential victims were recruited within their home country (*see nationality data on page 12*). In around 20 cases, however, the potential victim was recruited within the UK or Ireland, either because they were UK/Irish nationals or because they had travelled here of their own volition. Nine of these were the internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases, however a further ten were potential victims from outside the UK and Ireland that had been recruited locally (in the UK or Ireland), often after having lost their job. At least five these potential victims were Chinese nationals who described being recruited in the London area.

In some instances the exploitation actually took place in another part of Europe or the UK but was then reported in Northern Ireland. Investigation of these incidents can prove challenging as they are often historical. These incidents will usually be passed to the police service covering the geographic area where the alleged exploitation took place.

Recruitment methods

There were a number of identified trends in recruitment methods –

- *Job advertisements* – Around a quarter (26%) of potential victims indicated that they had been trafficked after applying for what they thought was a legitimate job. This was predominantly through agencies in their home countries, but also through websites and newspapers (both locally and in victims' home countries) aimed at specific nationalities (e.g. Chinese or Polish).
- *Approaches made by individual 'recruiters'* – Around 14% of potential victims described being approached by individuals who promised them work. This method is used both within the UK, with London specifically mentioned, and in the victims' home countries. Potential victims were approached in their places of work, on the Tube, at church and on the street, and were usually offered more money to work in a different job.
- *'Lover boy'* – Around 8% of potential victims described the 'lover boy' approach, a recognised method of luring young girls into sexual exploitation. The victim, usually a young girl, will be lured into a relationship with an older male who will spoil them with gifts and attention, as well as often alcohol and drugs. Gradually the victim will spend more and more time with their 'boyfriend' and become cut off from their family, before being persuaded to move to another town or country. On arrival the 'boyfriend' will disappear, leaving the victim with a 'pimp' and forced to work as a prostitute.^{xiii} This method has been used locally to target vulnerable young girls in children's homes and has also been used to recruit foreign national females within their native countries.
- *Kidnapped or sold* – Around 8% of potential victims described being kidnapped or 'sold' by a family member. This included allegations of forced marriage of minors with older partners. None of these incidents were alleged to have happened within the UK; with African countries, China and Romania being specifically identified.

Levels and types of coercion

The most common types of coercion described by potential victims were passports or documents being held (38%) limited social contact (38%), restriction of movement/confinement to limited area or workplace (33%), lack of access to medical care (23%), debt bondage (20%), threats against individual or family (15%) and threats of being handed over to authorities (10%).

Routes and methods of entry into NI

Where the information was available, there were very few potential victims who entered Northern Ireland directly from outside the United Kingdom or Ireland. This is perhaps unsurprising due to the limited number of flights available and also due to the fact that 16% of potential victims were UK or Irish nationals. In addition to the UK and Irish nationals, a further 15% of potential victims entered Northern Ireland via Great Britain and 12% via Ireland.

Only 29% of potential victims were in Northern Ireland illegally so it would be unnecessary to enter the country covertly, with most potential victims saying they came in on flights, sometimes with others and sometimes alone. It was not unusual for individuals to have diverted through a variety of different countries, spending time in each along the way. This was particularly true in respect of potential victims of sexual exploitation, who may have been exploited within other European countries before coming to NI. In some instances the potential victims did not know where they had been, or only knew partial routes, however the countries that featured most commonly were Spain and Holland. In addition the following complete routes were identified;

- Africa → Italy → Dublin → Northern Ireland
- Africa → Portugal → Spain → United Kingdom → Northern Ireland
- Russia → Czech Republic → Holland → United Kingdom → Northern Ireland
- Iran → Turkey → Greece → United Kingdom → Northern Ireland
- Czech Republic → Dublin → Northern Ireland
- China → Hong Kong → Malaysia → Germany → France → United Kingdom → Northern Ireland
- China → Dubai → Spain → Northern Ireland
- China → Hong Kong → Holland → Northern Ireland

Nature and location of accommodation

Where information was available, individuals were living in a house or flat within a residential area. These properties were often rented. In many cases they were living with other people; either other potential victims or their traffickers.

Details of interaction with any statutory or voluntary agency prior to entry into NRM process

There were a number of agencies identified that had interaction with potential victims and may be able to assist in early identification;

- *Health Trust staff* – This included staff at hospitals, General Practitioners (GPs) and staff within care homes (in relation to some of the internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases).
- *Education Board staff* – Some of the minors, particularly those in relation to the internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases, had been noted as being frequently truant from school.
- *Social Services* – There were instances where lone minors had entered the country, been stopped and taken into the care of Social Services, but had then left the care setting and been encountered again at a later date. There were also instances where minors had come to the attention of Social Services in other jurisdictions, specifically Ireland, prior to being identified as potential victims in Northern Ireland.
- *Law enforcement in other countries* – There were potential victims who had been arrested in other jurisdictions (e.g. in respect of cannabis factories and brothels) but were not identified as potential victims at that stage. Specific countries identified include Ireland, England and Denmark. There were also potential victims who had entered the asylum process in other jurisdictions, in particular in England, Ireland and France.
- *Airport staff and law enforcement based in local airports* - Some individuals entered Northern Ireland through ports, without being noticed. It would not be possible to identify all victims entering the country, particularly as many are here legally or are UK/Irish nationals. If a potential victim enters the country with no escort or does not experience control factors until they are in the UK then it will be very difficult to identify them at the initial entry stage.



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- *Solicitors* – In some instances potential victims had approached solicitors for advice. This is particularly true in respect of historical cases.
 - *Charities and voluntary agencies* – In some instances the potential victim had sought help via a charity or voluntary body. In the majority of cases these organisations passed the potential victim on to a ‘first responder’.

In addition, there were some potential victims who appear to have been helped by local foreign national communities, particularly the Chinese community. This assistance included providing accommodation for a night, or putting the potential victim in touch with local charities. Taxi companies and public transport staff were also identified as having contact with potential victims, particularly in relation to internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases.

Circumstances of intervention

Where the data was available, the majority of interventions appear to be as the result of the potential victim coming forward voluntarily (25%), as the result of a police investigation (16% of potential victims), or due to an intervention by Social Services (16% of potential victims). Where potential victims came forward voluntarily this was usually direct to PSNI (around 13 individuals), through a specific named charity (around eight individuals) or via a solicitor (three individuals). Nine of the interventions through Social Services involved internal child sexual exploitation trafficking cases and the remaining seven were other cases involving minors, with five of these in relation to minors recovered from the same family.

Engagement with the criminal justice system

The data available often did not indicate whether the potential victim was engaging with the criminal justice system, however there were a total of 13 cases where there was definite engagement identified. There were ten cases identified where the potential victim had definitively said they would not cooperate with any criminal investigation.

Sexual exploitation

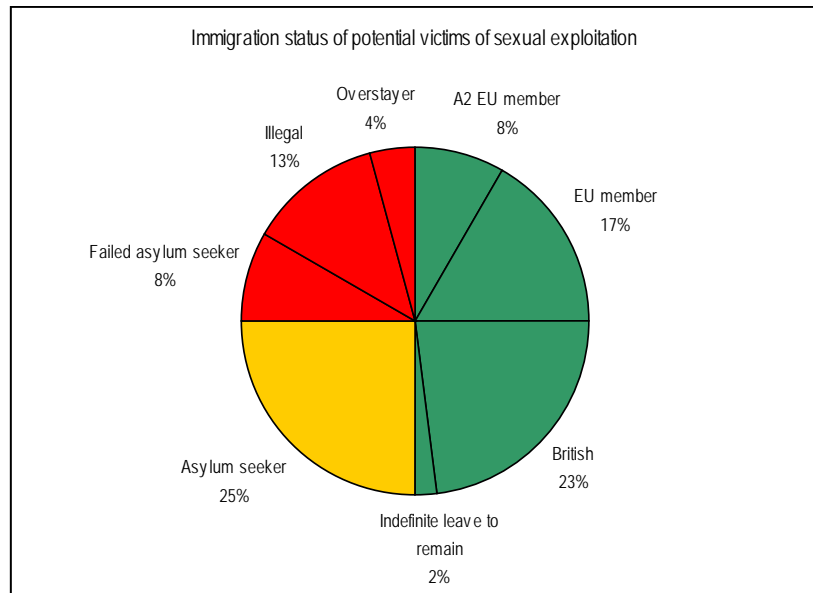
Gender, nationality and age

Potential victims of sexual exploitation make up almost half (49%, 48 of the total 97) of all NRM referrals in Northern Ireland. All, with the exception of one, were females and 77% (37 of the 48) were adults. The majority were Chinese nationals (31%, 15 of the total 48) or UK nationals (23%, 11 of the total 48). Other nationalities were Nigerian (four), Romanian (four), Czechoslovakian (three), Afghan (one), Austrian (one), Chinese/Vietnamese (one), Guinean (one), Hungarian (one), Latvian (one), Lithuanian (one), Polish (one), Sierra Leonean (one), Tanzanian (one) and Zimbabwean (one). There was a wide age range, with potential victims aged between 13 and 52.

Age range	Number of potential victims
< 18	11
18 – 24	12
25 – 29	8
30 – 34	7
35 – 39	1
40 +	9

Immigration status

Half of the potential victims of sexual exploitation were in Northern Ireland legally, one quarter were asylum seekers, and a further quarter were in the country illegally. When this is compared to overall potential victims, there were proportionately more victims of sexual exploitation that were in the country legally.



Labour exploitation

Gender, nationality and age

Potential victims of labour exploitation make up a fifth (20%, 20 of the total 97) of all victims recovered in Northern Ireland. 65% were male (13 of the total 20) and 35% were female (seven of the total 20). 40% were Chinese nationals (eight of the total 20) and 30% were Ghanaian (six of the total 20). Other nationalities were Filipino (two), Albanian (one), Estonian (one), Slovakian (one) and Zimbabwean (one). Potential victim ages ranged from 16 to 49.

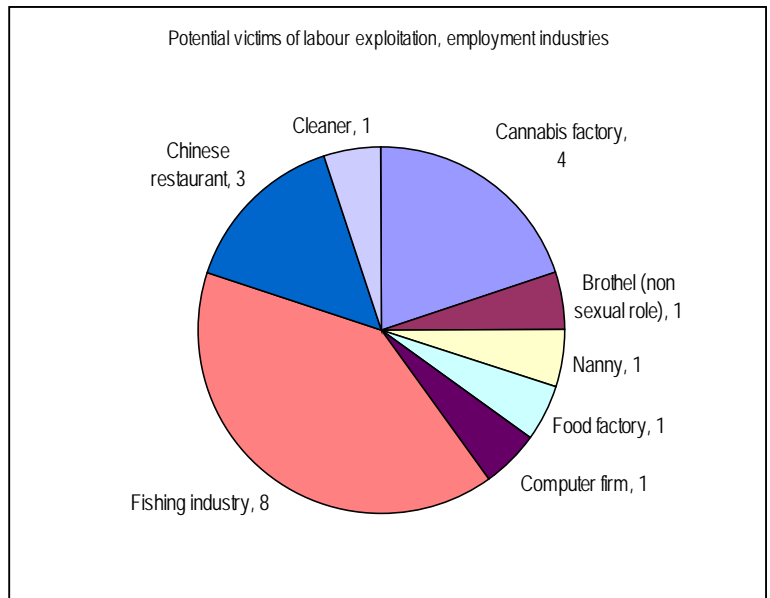
Age range	Number of potential victims
< 18	1
18 – 24	3
25 – 29	4
30 – 34	3
35 – 39	2
40 +	6
Unknown	1

Employment

The majority (40%, eight of the total 20) of potential victims of labour exploitation had been employed in the fishing industry. The immigration status of these workers can be complicated, depending on where the boat is moored and which waters are being fished.

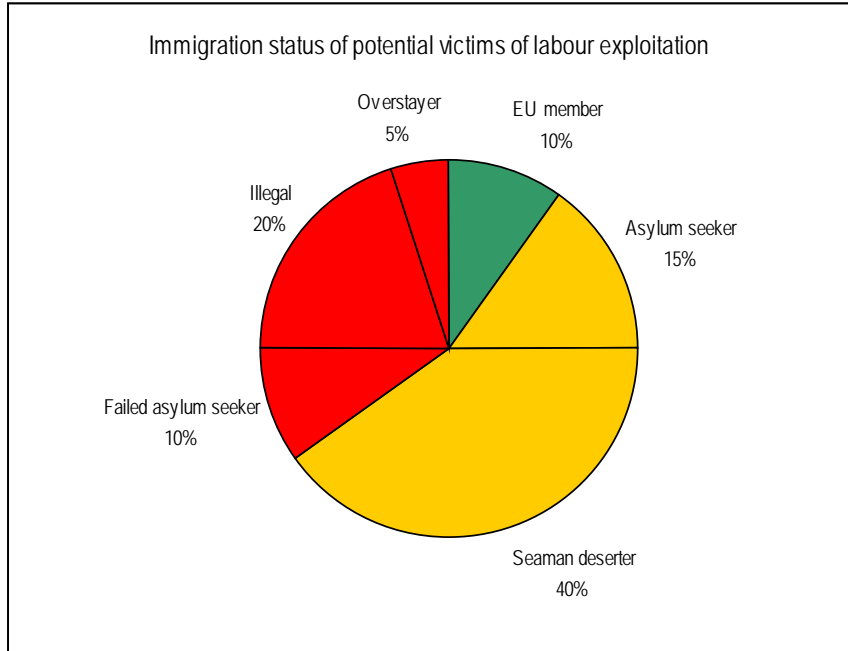
Four (20%) were working in cannabis factories and three (15%) were employed in Chinese restaurants. Other industries identified were brothels (in a non sexual role), nanny, food factory, computer firm and cleaning firm. The majority of these industries are not covered by the Gangmaster Licensing Act. All

individuals discovered working in cannabis cultivation facilities are screened by PSNI for signs of trafficking.



Immigration status

Only 10% of the potential victims of labour exploitation were in the country legally. This is a much smaller proportion than was seen in relation to sexual exploitation (half of whom were in Northern Ireland legally). A further 15% were asylum seekers and 40% were fishermen who had left their ship and sought help.



Domestic servitude

There were eight potential victims of domestic servitude identified (8% of the total potential victims). All were adult females, aged between 21 and 46. There were a variety of nationalities – Chinese (three), Hungarian (one), Indian (one), Nigerian (one), Romanian (one) and Zimbabwean (one).

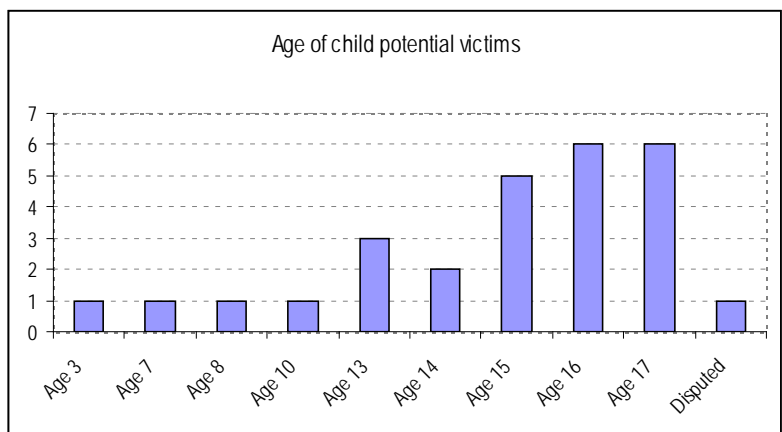
Half of these potential victims (four of the total eight) had previously been involved in some form of criminality; one had been arrested for drug supply and money laundering, two had spent time in prison outside Northern Ireland in relation to cannabis cultivation, and one had been arrested in relation to possession of Class A drugs.

Three of the potential victims were in the country legally (two were EU nationals and one had temporary leave to remain), two were seeking asylum and three were in the country illegally.

Child trafficking

Gender, nationality and age

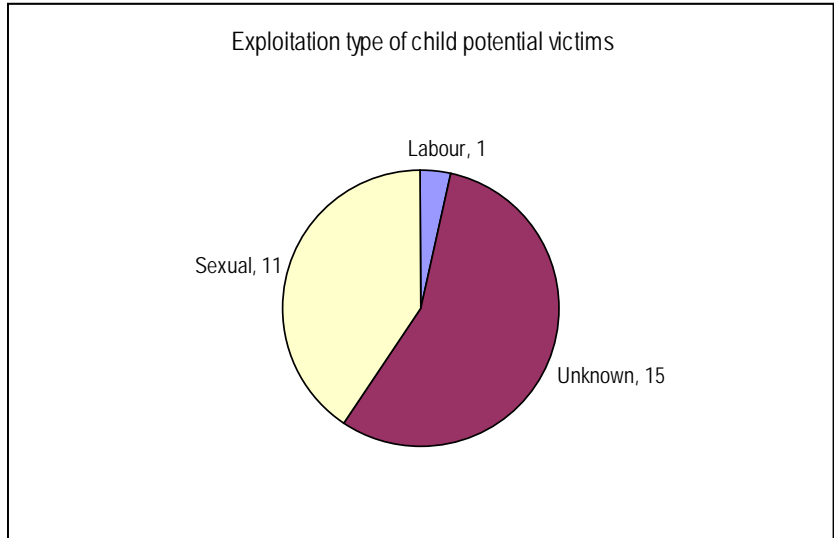
38% of the potential victims of trafficking identified were minors. The majority (74%, 20 of the total 27) were female, with eight of these being cases where the potential victim had been trafficked internally for the purposes of child sexual exploitation. Eight of the potential victims were UK nationals, and a further five were Irish. Seven were Chinese, three Nigerian and one of each Ethiopian, Guinea



Bissauan, Lithuanian and Romanian. The majority of potential victims (70%, 19 of the total 27) fall within the 14 to 17 age bracket, with the remaining seven falling within the three to 13 age bracket.

Exploitation type

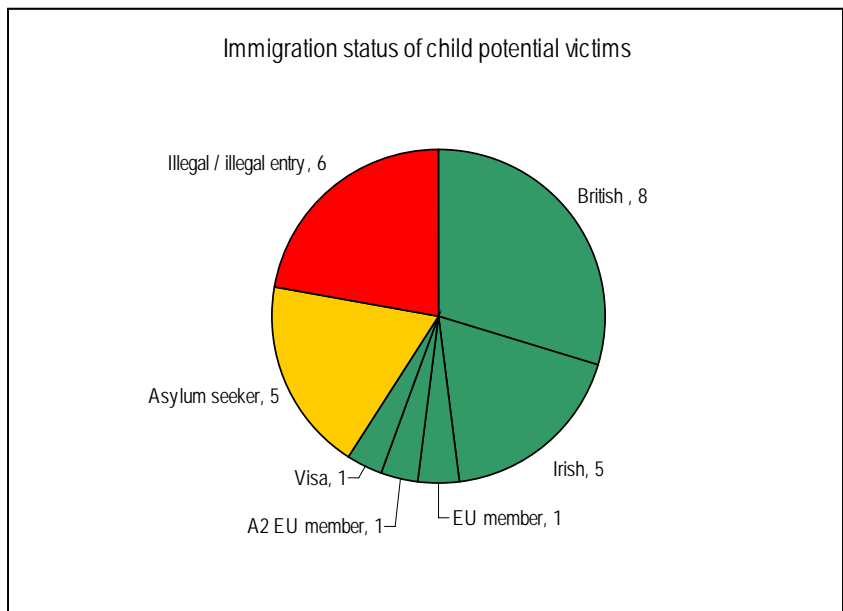
In the majority of cases (55%, 15 of the total 27) the type of exploitation was unknown. As previously mentioned, minors may be less able to cooperate with the NRM as they may not be able to tell their story. They may also be encountered at the port of entry, prior to any exploitation having taken place. Eight of the eleven potential victims of sexual exploitation were internal trafficking for the purposes of child sexual exploitation cases. The



Department of Justice's Educational Resource Pack should help raise awareness within schools of the issue of internal child trafficking.

Immigration status

The majority of child potential victims were in the country legally (59%, 16 of the total 27), with eight of these being cases of internal trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation of a minor. Of the five asylum seekers, four were from China. Of those that were in Northern Ireland illegally, three were Chinese and three were Nigerian.





References

- ⁱ http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Convntn/default_en.asp
- ⁱⁱ UKHTC (2013). *UK National Referral Mechanism Provisional Statistics 2012*.
- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie/website/bbf/bbfweb.nsf/page/keystats-en>
- ^{iv} Wade and Biehal (1998). *Going Missing: Young People Absent from Care*.
- ^v Thompson (2000). *Running Out of Time*. <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/14/06/2000/9789/Running-out-of-time.htm>
- ^{vi} Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Introduction, Page 1.
- ^{vii} Home Office (October 2009). "Update to the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking", Page 6.
- ^{viii} 'First Responders' – for example police, Home Office Immigration Enforcement officers, Gangmaster's Licensing Authority staff, healthcare workers and local authorities.
- ^{ix} In Northern Ireland the Competent Authorities are the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) which is part of the National Crime Agency (NCA) and UK Visas and Immigration (formerly UK Border Agency).
- ^x This may be extended in some circumstances.
- ^{xi} The National Referral Mechanism has recently been reviewed and the findings can be accessed online at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/372960/Review_of_the_National_Referral_Mechanism_for_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf
- ^{xii} N.B. These figures have been provided by UKHTC.
- ^{xiii} For more information on the 'lover boy' recruitment method, see <http://www.mydangerousloverboy.com/>