

What is an NRM?

A guide for children and young people



What is NRM?

You may have heard people around you, like social workers, YOS workers, police and others, talking about NRM.

NRM stands for **National Referral Mechanism** and it is a form that must be filled in by professionals supporting you if they believe you may be being trafficked or exploited.

Exploitation means that someone is making you do things to get something for themselves.

For example, they may use you to commit crimes for them, make you work for free, make you do sexual things or make you clean or carry out chores without looking after you properly.

You may not always know or realise that someone is exploiting you. Sometimes it can feel as though this person is looking out for you, that they care for you and are your friend.

Sometimes it can be really hard to think that they might not care about you as much as it seems. Exploiters can be very clever and good at lying to people, so it's really important to remember that **it is never ever your fault if you are exploited.**

What is Trafficking?

Trafficking means when there is movement of a person so they can be exploited.

This can include someone forcing or encouraging you to do something for them or someone else, you being made or told to stay somewhere as part of the exploitation, or you being moved or told to move from one location to another.

Examples of trafficking might include:

- Being told to go from your local town or city to another place, to stay in a house or other property to sell drugs for someone else.
- Being moved from one house to another to carry out tasks such as cleaning, cooking and looking after others with no time for yourself and no one keeping you safe.
- Being taken or told to travel to different places to steal or beg.
- Being taken or told to travel to hotels, houses or other premises and expected to carry out sexual acts. This is a form of sexual abuse.



Understanding all of the different words professionals use about NRM can be confusing, so there is a list of words with explanations at the end of this leaflet to help you.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

NRM is a form that should be filled in by a professional working with you, if they believe you are being trafficked or exploited. Anyone of any age can be exploited, but if it happens to a child under the age of 18yrs, there is a legal duty for them to complete NRM.

If someone has completed an NRM about you, it means they are concerned that you might be being trafficked or exploited, and they are worried that you are at risk of being hurt. It also means they want to help you.

For an NRM to be completed, you do not have to give the names of people who may have been involved in exploiting or trafficking you.



Only certain people can complete NRM forms. These people are called 'First Responders' and can include Police Officers, Social Workers, YOS workers and some charities like Barnardo's.

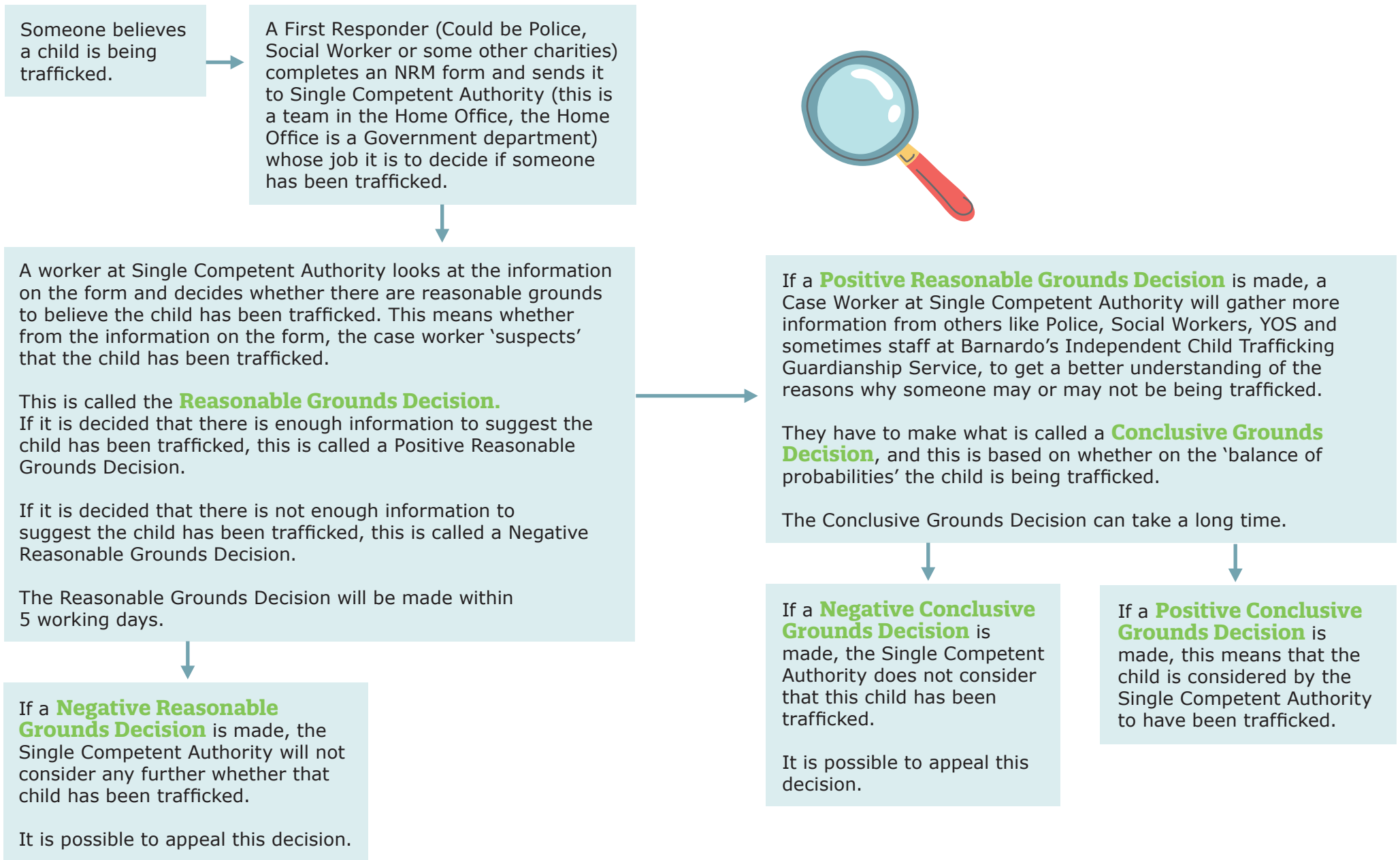


The NRM form asks the person completing it to explain the reasons why they think you are being trafficked or exploited.

The NRM is sent to a team of people (Single Competent Authority) who know a lot about exploitation and trafficking, who look at all the information and make a decision whether they think that has happened to you. During the time it takes for them to make this decision, we have the opportunity to provide them with more information to help with this.

It can take a long time for this decision to be made. In some parts of the UK this decision will not be made by the Single Competent Authority (SCA). Instead it will be made by a team made up of social workers, police officers and other people who know about trafficking, who work in that local area.

This flowchart might help you understand how the NRM works a bit better...



Why is an NRM important?

Having a Positive Conclusive Grounds Decision (or in some cases a Positive Reasonable Grounds Decision) can support you in a number of ways:

- It can help professionals understand that you are not always making decisions about your own life, and that other people may be encouraging or forcing you to act in certain ways and do certain things.
- It can help you to understand what might have happened to you and talk about that to people who can help you.
- It can help professionals to understand some of the things happening to you which may mean you are at risk of harm, and can support them to put things in place to keep you safe.
- It can give Police extra opportunities to investigate what happened or is happening to you, and may give them extra powers to arrest people believed to be trafficking or exploiting you.
- It can help protect you from being charged with certain criminal offences which you may have been encouraged or forced to carry out as part of your exploitation.
- In some cases you may be able to access counselling and /or safe housing because of the NRM decision.
- It can offer additional support if you have to attend court, such as offering different ways to give evidence in a way that feels safer for you.

When you reach 18 years old, you will need to agree to being in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). If you agree, or 'give consent', you will be asked to sign a document that says you want to stay in the NRM. If you do not agree to it, no further decisions about whether you have been trafficked will be made.



If you have any more questions about NRM, or if you think you or someone you know is being exploited, you can speak to:

- Your social worker
- Your YOS worker
- A Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Guardian if you have one
- Other professionals that you trust

What things mean...

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation is when someone uses you to commit a crime for them. This might include things like stealing, harming someone, selling drugs or using your bank account or money to commit fraud. You may not always know or understand that someone is criminally exploiting you.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation is when someone tricks, encourages or forces you into sexual activity with themselves or others, which they benefit from. This can also include sending indecent images. You may not always know or understand that someone is sexually exploiting you.

Conclusive Grounds Decision

Conclusive Grounds Decision is made by the Single Competent Authority, and is a decision about whether on the 'balance of probabilities' someone is being or has been trafficked. It is the second part of the decision-making of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

County Lines

This is a type of exploitation. County Lines is used to describe the movement of drugs from one area to another using mobile phone lines/deal lines. This is usually run by gangs or groups of criminals who use children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money. There are other ways in which people can be exploited linked to drugs which may not involve travelling out of area

Domestic Servitude

This is a type of forced work which usually happens within a home or small community. The person is made to complete chores and tasks with little or no pay and in poor conditions.

Exploitation

Exploitation means that someone is using you to get something for themselves. For example, they may use you to commit crimes for them, make you work for free, make you carry out sexual acts or make you clean or carry out chores without looking after you properly. You may not always know or understand that someone is exploiting you, sometimes it can feel as though this person is looking out for you, that they care for you and are your friend.

First Responder

Only certain people in certain jobs can complete National Referral Mechanism (NRM) forms, and these are called First Responders. Examples of First Responders are Social Workers, Police Officers, Border Force Officers and some charity workers.

Forced Labour

Forced labour is where people are forced to work against their will, and are often threatened or punished if they refuse.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

NRM stands for National Referral Mechanism and it is a form that is filled in by professionals supporting you if they believe you may be being trafficked or exploited.

Reasonable Grounds Decision

Reasonable Grounds Decision is made by the Single Competent Authority, and is a decision about whether there are reasonable grounds to suspect that someone is being or has been trafficked. It is the first part of the decision-making of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Single Competent Authority

Single Competent Authority is a team in the Home Office whose job it is to decide if someone has been trafficked . The Home Office is a Government department.

Trafficking

Trafficking means when someone is moved in order to be exploited. This can include someone targeting you and encouraging you to do something for them, you being held or told to stay somewhere as part of the exploitation or you being moved or told to move from one location to another.



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