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The Scottish Parliament  
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30 July 2025

Dear Convener

On 30 May 2017, Scotland's first Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy was published. Implementation of the Strategy has involved extensive collaboration and partnership working across Scotland and beyond to deliver significant progress in our approach to this serious issue.

However, following a statutory review of the Strategy [[Trafficking and exploitation strategy: review - gov.scot](#)] the overwhelming feedback from partners and all those who engaged was that the Strategy required a refresh in order to maintain pace with the changing nature of this appalling crime.

As such, I am delighted to publish Scotland's revised Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy today [[Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy - gov.scot](#)].

The Strategy has been developed in partnership following an extensive period of stakeholder consultation, including valuable input from people with lived experience. The Strategy is informed by a series of evidence reviews [[Preventing human trafficking and exploitation: evidence review - gov.scot](#)] carried out by the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Services, to explore current understanding of prevention strategies and interventions in relation to human trafficking and exploitation in the United Kingdom (UK).

Scotland's revised Strategy sets out a public health approach (PHA) to trafficking in Scotland. This means taking an approach that delivers targeted interventions and resources aligned to the specific needs and challenges of those who have experienced trafficking and exploitation. Prevention is a central component of the PHA and the vision of refreshed Strategy is to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland and to respond effectively when it does occur.

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As we move forward under Scotland's refreshed Strategy, I am also pleased to advise that the fifth and final progress report on implementation of the 2017 Strategy has been published today [[Progress Report - gov.scot](#)]. This sets out the broad range of work delivered since 2022 across the three outcomes of the original Strategy.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with partners, including those with lived experienced, as we move to implement Scotland's refreshed Trafficking Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

**SIOBHIAN BROWN**

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