



Department of Health

*From the Lord Prior of Brampton
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (Lords)*

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07 SEP 2016

Ms Collins,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July to Theresa May about organ donation and the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As some of the matters in your letter concern health, your correspondence has been passed to the Department of Health and I have been asked to reply.

I note that you wrote directly to Jeremy Hunt about organ donation on 26 July, and an official replied on 9 August (our ref: TO-1044402). I trust you have now received that letter, but I enclose a copy for ease of reference.

Modern slavery is a hidden crime that can have a long-term impact on its victims. It is a crime that happens across the world, and also here in the UK, and we welcome projects that help to raise awareness and prevent modern slavery.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Assent in March 2015. The Act gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensures that perpetrators can receive a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and enhances support and protection for victims. More information about the Act can be found at www.gov.uk by searching for 'Modern Slavery Act'.

Section 52 of the Act requires specified public authorities, such as local authorities and police forces, 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. The Government is working closely with these authorities to raise awareness of this duty, to ensure victims of these vile crimes are identified and supported appropriately.

The Government is absolutely committed to doing it all it can to tackle modern slavery, and that is why the Prime Minister announced last month that she was launching a new taskforce to drive further progress in the battle against this cruel exploitation.

I would like to thank you and the Townswomen's Guilds for your interest in this important issue. I can assure you that the Government is working very hard to tackle modern slavery and that supporting and protecting the victims is at the heart of our work.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours Sincerely
David

DAVID PRIOR