

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:  
Next steps for tackling modern slavery in the UK**

*Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***



**WESTMINSTER  
LEGAL POLICY  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Tackling modern slavery in the UK - key developments, system pressures and priorities for reform**  
**Professor Alex Balch**, Director, Research, Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing proposed changes to the UK's modern slavery framework**  
*impact of asylum policy on modern slavery survivors / screening and disclosure reform and implications for victim identification / operation and effectiveness of the National Referral Mechanism, including trust and consent / implications of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025, including detention powers and accelerated decision-making / addressing concerns over data and evaluation methods / enforcement capacity and the transition to a single enforcement body / approaches to balancing deterrence measures with trauma-informed practice*  
**Dr Patrick Burland**, Senior Project and Policy Officer, Protection and Labour Mobility Division, International Organization for Migration, UK  
**Hannah Edmonds-Camara**, Special Counsel, Covington & Burling  
**Nicola Bell**, Modern Slavery and Exploitation Coordinator, Oxford City Council  
Senior representative, labour market  
Senior representative, enforcement  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Priorities for protection - the NRM, safeguarding, trust and long-term recovery**  
**Alison Pickup**, CEO, Helen Bamber Foundation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.05 **Approaches to tackling organised exploitation and handling complex cases**  
**Ben Samples**, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor and Modern Slavery Lead, Crown Prosecution Service  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Key considerations for businesses and employers - responsibility, expectations and effective practice, and strategies for compliance**  
Senior representative, business
- 11.40 **Priorities and practicalities for corporate accountability on modern slavery - due diligence, supply chains and enforcement**  
*scrutiny of modern slavery statements and investor expectations, including listings considerations / corporate transparency on identified risks / improving business due diligence models, including mandatory approaches under consideration / capacity, training and practical tools for compliance / supporting SMEs and complex multi-tier supply chains / public procurement duties, including public bodies' capacity and resourcing / high-risk sectors and demonstrating compliance / de-risking and unintended consequences for workers / reporting for organisations operating in multiple jurisdictions, and international alignment / role and remit of the Fair Work Agency*  
**Heidi Barnard**, Head of Sustainability, NHS Supply Chain  
**Dr Martin Buttle**, Better Work Lead, CCLA  
Senior speaker confirmed from **BSI**  
Senior representative, industry
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for policy in tackling modern slavery in the UK**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Legal Policy Forum