



# Modern Slavery Act 2015

## 2015 CHAPTER 30

### PART 5

#### PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

#### 51 Presumption about age

- (1) This section applies where—
  - (a) a public authority with functions under relevant arrangements has reasonable grounds to believe that a person [<sup>F1</sup>is] a victim of human trafficking, and
  - (b) the authority is not certain of the person's age but has reasonable grounds to believe that the person may be under 18.
- (2) Until an assessment of the person's age is carried out by a local authority or the person's age is otherwise determined, the public authority must assume for the purposes of its functions under relevant arrangements that the person is under 18.
- (3) “Relevant arrangements” means arrangements for providing assistance and support to persons who are, or who there are reasonable grounds to believe [<sup>F2</sup>are], victims of human trafficking, as set out in—
  - (a) guidance issued under section 49(1)(b);
  - (b) any regulations made under section 50(1).
- (4) “Local authority” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 105 of that Act).

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 51(1)(a) substituted (30.1.2023) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), [ss. 60\(6\)\(a\)](#), [87\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2023/33](#), [reg. 3\(a\)](#)
- F2** Word in s. 51(3) substituted (30.1.2023) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), [ss. 60\(6\)\(b\)](#), [87\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2023/33](#), [reg. 3\(a\)](#)

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*Changes to legislation: Modern Slavery Act 2015, Section 51 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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#### **Commencement Information**

**II** S. 51 in force at 15.10.2015 by [S.I. 2015/1690](#), [reg. 2\(b\)](#)

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[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 50A(5A) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(1\)](#)