



Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

2015 asp 12

PART 2

PROTECTION OF VICTIMS

Support and assistance for adult victims

9 Support and assistance: victims of offence of human trafficking

- (1) Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that an adult is a victim of an offence of human trafficking, the Scottish Ministers must, during the relevant period, secure for the adult the provision of such support and assistance as they consider necessary given the adult's needs.
- (2) The relevant period—
 - (a) begins on the date it is determined there are reasonable grounds to believe that the adult is a victim of an offence of human trafficking, and
 - (b) ends on the earlier of the following—
 - (i) the end of the period specified in regulations made by the Scottish Ministers, or
 - (ii) the date on which there is a conclusive determination that the adult is or is not a victim of an offence of human trafficking.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may also secure the provision of that support and assistance for an adult—
 - (a) during the period in which a competent authority is determining whether or not there are reasonable grounds to believe that the adult is a victim of an offence of human trafficking,
 - (b) where the relevant period in relation to the adult ends by virtue of subsection (2)(b)(i), during the period until there is a conclusive determination that the adult is or is not a victim of an offence of human trafficking,
 - (c) for such period as they think appropriate after the conclusive determination.

Changes to legislation: Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, Section 9 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 September 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

- (4) Support and assistance may be provided under this section in connection with (but is not limited to) the following—
- (a) accommodation,
 - (b) day to day living,
 - (c) medical advice and treatment (including psychological assessment and treatment),
 - (d) language translation and interpretation,
 - (e) counselling,
 - (f) legal advice,
 - (g) information about other services available to the adult,
 - (h) repatriation.
- (5) In securing the provision of support and assistance under this section to an adult, the Scottish Ministers must ensure that—
- (a) support and assistance is only provided where the adult consents, and
 - (b) the provision of support and assistance is not made conditional on the adult assisting with a criminal investigation or prosecution.
- (6) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the adult is a victim of an offence of human trafficking if a competent authority has determined for the purposes of Article 10 of the Trafficking Convention (identification of victims) that there are such grounds,
 - (b) there is a conclusive determination that an adult is or is not a victim of an offence of human trafficking when, on completion of the identification process required by that Article, a competent authority concludes that the adult is or is not such a victim.
- (7) In this section—
- “competent authority” means a person who is a competent authority of the United Kingdom for the purposes of the Trafficking Convention,
- “the Trafficking Convention” means the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (done at Warsaw on 16 May 2005).
- (8) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsections (6) and (7) to make provision about the circumstances in which—
- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the adult is a victim of an offence of human trafficking,
 - (b) there is a conclusive determination that an adult is or is not a victim of an offence of human trafficking.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (8) may in particular make provision about—
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person in making a determination,
 - (b) the criteria to be applied by a person in making a determination, and
 - (c) the persons who may make a determination or take any step in the procedure.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 9(1) restricted (20.7.2023 for specified purposes) by [Illegal Migration Act 2023 \(c. 37\)](#), [ss. 24\(2\)\(a\)](#), [68\(1\)\(4\)\(h\)](#) (with [ss. 24\(3\)](#), [55\(9\)](#))

Changes to legislation: Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, Section 9 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 September 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

- C2** [S. 9\(3\)](#) restricted (20.7.2023 for specified purposes) by [Illegal Migration Act 2023 \(c. 37\)](#), **ss. 24(2)(b)**, [68\(1\)\(4\)\(h\)](#) (with [ss. 24\(3\)](#), [55\(9\)](#))

Commencement Information

- I1** [S. 9](#) in force at 31.5.2016 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2016/128](#), [reg. 2](#), [Sch.](#)
- I2** [S. 9](#) in force at 1.4.2018 in so far as not already in force by [S.S.I. 2018/9](#), **reg. 2(b)**

Changes to legislation:

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, Section 9 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 September 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.

[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. 9(10) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(3) inserted by [2023 c. 37 s. 28\(4\)](#)