

AN INSPECTION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RECOGNISES, ASSESSES AND RESPONDS TO CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



FOLLOW US: [in](#) [▶](#) [X](#)

WHAT IS CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION?



Child criminal exploitation is child abuse.

It happens when children are used in criminal activity or to commit a crime.



AN INSPECTION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RECOGNISES, ASSESSES AND RESPONDS TO CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



FOLLOW US:   

IMPACT OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION



Child criminal exploitation results in children being harmed with long-term consequences for their:



health



education



**mental and
physical wellbeing**



**future employment
and potential**

AN INSPECTION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RECOGNISES, ASSESSES AND RESPONDS TO CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



FOLLOW US:   

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION?

increasing awareness
and building confidence
and capability



**A cross-Departmental
action plan aims
to tackle exploitation
under four strands
of work:**

protecting and
intervening where
children are abused
and exploited



preventing harm and
abuse to children and
young people



pursuing those who
seek to harm, abuse and
exploit children



AN INSPECTION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RECOGNISES, ASSESSES AND RESPONDS TO CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

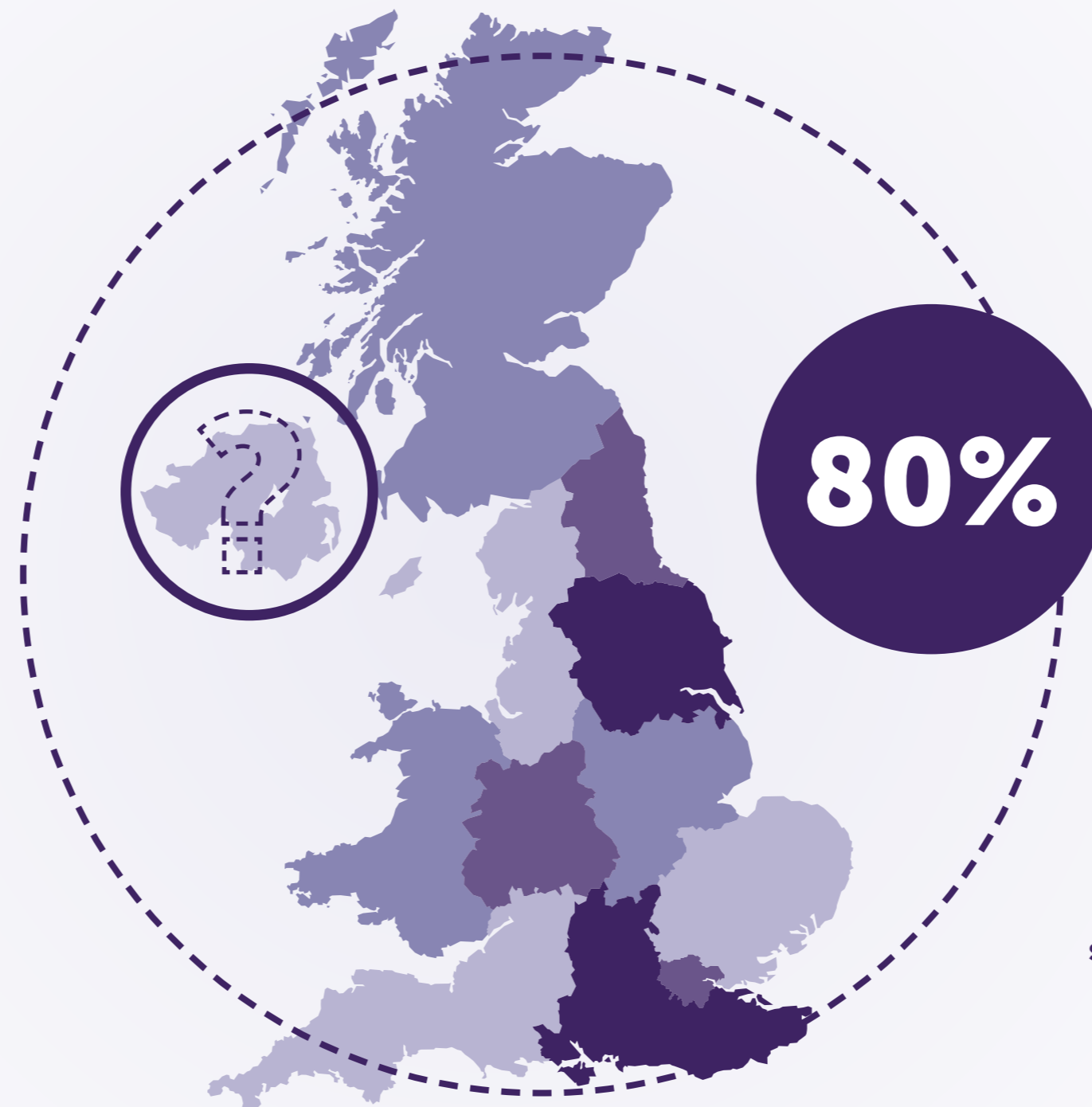
Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



FOLLOW US:   

HOW BIG AN ISSUE IS CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION?

Data from Northern Ireland did not provide the same indication of scale due to the consistently low number of referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism despite the legacy of past, continued presence of paramilitarism and the operation of criminal gangs.



54% of United Kingdom (UK) referrals were for UK nationals of which **80%** involved exploitation in criminal activity

Source: National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data from October 2023 - September 2024

AN INSPECTION OF CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
RECOGNISES, ASSESSES AND RESPONDS
TO CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Criminal Justice Inspection
Northern Ireland
a better justice system for all



FOLLOW US: [in](#) [▶](#) [X](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Inspectors have made:

2 Strategic
Recommendations

and

2 Operational
Recommendations

to secure improvement and better
protect children from harm.

