

SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

The enactment of The Modern Slavery Act into UK law during March 2015 was a pivotal milestone in fulfilling the aims and aspirations to combat Slavery and Human Trafficking here in the UK. The legislation provided authorities and other agen

ICT equipment, products and services
Professional Services
Science, technical, engineering and medical equipment, products and services

Each of the category groups above have been considered and the following specific categories have been identified as having a higher potential susceptibility to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking occurrence.

Construction works sub-contractors and supply chains
Estates; hard and soft facilities management services (such as maintenance, cleaning and security services)
Food and catering
Travel and accommodation (especially international)
Office supplies/stationery
ICT and Audio Visual (AV) equipment and products
Laboratory supplies
Clothing (sportswear and work wear)

The majority of the University's demand for office supplies and laboratory consumables is fulfilled by means of using national and regional agreements made available by the Higher Education Purchasing Consortia. A wide range of products is procured across all of these categories, many of which are sourced from international manufacturers operating in low-cost countries where modern forms of slavery are prevalent. The Consortia requests many of the suppliers in these high-risk areas to commit to the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and is working to persuade all suppliers in these categories to commit to the Base Code.

A significant proportion of the University's demand for ICT equipment and products, including parts and accessories is also fulfilled by means of using national and regional agreements made available by the Higher Education Purchasing Consortia. The Consortia supports the

Due diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk, we have systems in place to:

- Identify and assess potential risk areas in our supply chains
- Mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains
- Monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains
- Protect whistle-blowers

Supplier adherence to our values

We have a zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. To ensure that all suppliers and contractors in our supply chain comply with our values we have the following procedures and controls in place:

- a. We provide robust procurement procedures, which form part of our

Actions taken during the reporting year

The University has undertaken a review of key risks associated with low value spend. As a result, central controls were applied to require prior approval from management within the procurement services team, prior to any purchases from specific e-marketplace suppliers, in recognition of weaker assurance platforms relating to third party suppliers.

Central guidance and information have also been issued to direct all purchases of promotional printed clothing to a consortium approved framework supplier, in recognition of clothing being a high-risk category of supplies, with inherent challenges in obtaining expected assurances from some independent supplier organisations.

Procurement services is undertaking an in-depth review in the higher risk area of ICT equipment and products. This will determine our current performance with key suppliers, in areas such as contract conditions, contract management and due diligence, to then benchmark against best practice suppliers, HE peers and independent bodies such as Electronics Watch. The University intends for areas of identified improvements from this process to be implemented and further progress reported in the financial year ending 31 July 2020.

As approved by the Board of Governors on Date: **21/11/19**

Signed by..........

Ms Lin Hinnigan, Interim Chair of the Board of Governors