

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Modern Slavery Statement 2020-21

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It informs our students, staff, suppliers, stakeholders and the public about the steps that we have taken, and will take, to mitigate any risk of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations within our organisation and supply chains. This statement covers the 12 month period to 31 July 2021.

About the University

The University of Leeds is an independent corporation established by Royal Charter and is globally renowned for the quality of its teaching and research. The University is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK with more than 38,000 students, over 9,200 staff and a turnover of £794 million (2019/20). Governed by its Council, the University is committed to meeting its social, economic and environmental responsibilities. Driven by its values of professionalism, inclusiveness, integrity, community and academic excellence, the University is unwavering in its commitment to meeting the requirements of the Act and we will therefore take all reasonable steps to ensure that modern slavery or human trafficking does not occur in any part of our organisation or supply chains.

Our supply chains

Procurement

The University's [Financial Policy and Guidelines](#) govern the procurement of goods and services. We are committed to sustainable procurement and current legislation and our approach to delivering this is set out in our [Sustainable Procurement Standard](#). We have developed our approach to sustainable procurement using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [Flexible Framework for Sustainable Procurement in Government](#) and have self-assessed to Level 4. The University is a member of the "The University Caterers Organisation" (TUCO), the "North East Universities Purchasing Consortium" (NEUPC), and "The Energy Consortium" (TEC), all of which are members of "UK Universities Purchasing Consortia" (UKUPC). NEUPC, TUCO, and TEC have all published their own Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Transparency in Supply Chains) Statements.

The University has adopted a continual improvement approach to monitoring its supply chains and to working with suppliers to gain a greater understanding of the source of supply, to identifying instances of modern slavery within our supply chains and to working with suppliers to mitigate any identified issues.

Following the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the University updated all procurement documentation and processes to enable more proactive steps to investigate and act upon any indications of Modern Slavery evidenced in the supply chains upon which we rely. Before the University awards contracts of significant value, suppliers are required to confirm compliance with the Act as well as providing confirmation that they will support our ambitions in this regard.

The University takes a category-led approach to procurement. Our categories include:

- Hard Facility Management and Construction
- Soft Facility Management (incorporating commercial operations)
- IT
- Laboratory Products and Services
- Workshop and Engineering Supplies
- Professional Services
- Office Supplies
- Travel

The University has graded each category in terms of risk against sustainability good practice. Analysis of our supply chains in relation to the Act focuses on the first-tier supplier base. The categories that have been identified as likely to bear the greatest risk are Hard Facilities Management, Construction and Soft Facilities Management (including catering and cleaning services). We are aware that these categories rely on lower paid workers to deliver the service and are sectors where modern forms of slavery may be more likely to occur. To mitigate this the University's suppliers which operate in these industries have been categorised into 31 sub-groups to facilitate a more granular approach to both sourcing and management.

Further areas of risk include IT and Laboratory products, owing to the complexity of the supply chains within these industries and the wide range of hazardous materials used in manufacturing. We also review the activities for each category management type and update the risks as appropriate.

The University's Purchasing and Sustainability Services facilitate the delivery of sustainable procurement through the category management process, including tendering activity, contract management and value tracking, seeking continuous improvement where possible. To support this the University is a member of both national and sector specific groups; an example of this Electronics Watch, which helps to manage labour risks in our IT supply chains:

<https://electronicswatch.org/en>

The University also utilises the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool to help Category Managers monitor and combat Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in the supply chain.

Covid-19

- The University has an active executive team managing all activities and risks associated with Covid-19. This is communicated through a comprehensive dedicated website (<https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/>)
- We have continued to pay suppliers for goods and services to standard or improved terms, offering specific support to those identified at risk (such as SME's) or unable to deliver contracted services.
- We have implemented a Covid-19 safe campus for staff, students and visitors.
- The University has not terminated contracts as a result of Covid-19, choosing only to pause or extend agreements where necessary.
- Suppliers and sub-contractors required to work on site have been provided with additional welfare facilities and support to meet the University's enhanced Health and Safety requirements.

Employment of staff

The University's commitment to securing the rights of our staff is set out in our institutional HR policies and procedures: <http://hr.leeds.ac.uk/policies>

Key HR policies of relevance to the Modern Slavery Act are:

- [The Equality and Inclusion Framework 2020-25](#), which sets out the University's commitment to promoting equality across campus and also states corporate and individual responsibilities to adhere to the principles of the policy
- [The Code of Practice on Whistleblowing policy](#), which sets out a process by which concerns can be raised
- [The Policy on Dignity and Mutual Respect](#), which sets out expectations about how everyone should be treated on campus

Training

The University is committed to raising awareness of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our organisation and supply chains. Building on training delivered in 2020, the University delivered further training in June 2021 on Social Value to all of its Procurement team. To further enhance our understanding of modern slavery and human trafficking risks, all category leads are either working towards, or are CIPS-qualified; follow the CIPS Code of Conduct; and, where possible, have completed the CIPS Ethical Procurement and Supply course giving them Chartered Status.

Signed:



.....
Pro-Chancellor

Date: 2-12-2021