

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020.

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the “MSA”) and constitutes the slavery and human trafficking statement of the University of Surrey (“University”, “we”, “our”). It will replace our previous statement, published in January 2020, effective upon approval by the Executive Board.

We are committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking and are committed to significantly minimising the risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place in our supply chains or in any parts of our business.

Our organisation’s structure

The University of Surrey is constituted and founded by Royal Charter within the Higher Education sector. The University has approximately 2850 employees. Our operations are primarily based within the United Kingdom. The University is supported by a centralised procurement and contracting team. Lower value transactional purchasing is devolved to individual departments. The University also owns a number of subsidiaries, including Surrey Sports Park Limited and Blackwell Park Limited.

Our supply chains

Our main supply chains are:

- Laboratory chemicals, consumables and equipment
- IT equipment, software and services
- Estates, facilities, commercial services
- Corporate services including travel
- Academic services

Within these categories we believe the following types of goods and services contracts are likely to carry the highest risks in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking:

- Construction and land development
- Cleaning
- Catering
- Clothing and promotional goods
- IT
- Temporary labour

Many of the above goods and services are purchased under the Southern Universities Procurement Consortium (SUPC) and The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) framework agreements, whom fully support the MSA. The SUPC’s statement and further information



on how they ensure compliance with the MSA can be found via the following link:

<https://www.supc.ac.uk/app/uploads/2020/10/SUPC-Modern-Slavery-Statement.pdf>

Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

The University's Purchasing Policy reflects our commitment to act with integrity and ethically in all our business relationships and to implement and enforce effective systems and controls, including in relation to combatting modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains. The policy is reviewed and approved by the University's Executive Board and communicated to all staff involved in purchasing goods and services.

A newly updated University Purchasing Policy includes clearer guidance on incorporating sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions, as well as explicitly stating that minimum ethical standards should also be incorporated into decisions, including modern slavery.

The University has a Public Interest Disclosure Policy in place that is intended to provide a process for and protection to University workers who wish to raise genuine concerns regarding, amongst other things, our business practices. This Policy makes express reference to modern slavery in a supply chain as an example of a potential concern staff might disclose under the Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

What we are doing now

Since February 2020, at the start of the Covid19 pandemic, the University's focus has shifted to ensuring business continuity in the critical teaching and research areas and ensuring the estate provides our staff, students and contractors with a safe working environment. Consequently, a number of modern slavery related initiatives, including face to face awareness and training sessions had to be postponed.

Nonetheless, reasonable progress has been made this year in several areas that are laying further foundations for better managing modern slavery risks. This includes:

- A requirement for appropriate due diligence on new suppliers with whom we contract, which includes modern slavery checks. All MSA due diligence questions have been incorporated into our tendering documentation.
- Revised University of Surrey Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Goods and Services were developed in 2019, including provisions concerning compliance with applicable modern slavery laws, which have now been implemented.
- Continuing to develop a suite of University standard contract templates covering all key goods and services. These templates now include appropriate modern slavery terms and conditions. We will continue to work on updating all of our JCT contracts for building works, as construction represents a higher risk area.
- Working with our estates building professional services consultants who procure most of our building related capital works, to ensure appropriate due diligence practices are in place in the supply chains.
- Implementing the next phase of a sourcing project to develop a preferred supplier list for temporary labour recruitment agencies, where appropriate due diligence is



conducted on new suppliers and where all new contracts will include appropriate terms and conditions related to modern slavery to help ensure contract management practices are in place to help prevent modern slavery risks in recruitment.

- Work with our catering department and TUCO to proportionately manage risks related to our food and beverage suppliers, including SME's.
- Discussions with the SUPC to try and enable all SUPC members to become affiliate members of Electronic Watch.
- Meetings with our largest IT hardware provider to gain assurance on how modern slavery is prevented in their supply chains.
- Procurement project commenced to rationalize the number of clothing and workwear suppliers and appoint fewer preferred suppliers, where robust due diligence is conducted around modern slavery risks. Completion is due quarter 1, 2021.

A cross departmental Modern Slavery Working Group continues to meet 3-4 times a year to:

- Continue to monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains and consider proportionate ways to mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking.
- Continue to develop or improve enablers such as policies, education and training, processes and guidelines to strengthen how we manage modern slavery associated risks.
- Considering appropriate, effective and proportionate ways of raising staff awareness.

The University also works with the Higher Education Procurement Association (HEPA) and institutions in our region and we are a member of the HEPA Responsible Procurement Group whose scope includes MSA compliance.

This statement was approved by the Executive Board of the University of Surrey on 21 January 2021.

Signed: 

Professor GQ Max Lu
President and Vice Chancellor
26 January 2021

