

## **Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2021.**

### **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 2021, 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/2021/03/KP25-SUMS-Group-Modern-Slavery-Statement.pdf>

### **Our policies on slavery and human trafficking**

The University Purchasing Policy has been reviewed, updated and approved by the University Executive Board in February 2021. Revisions to the Policy embed sustainability goals, further strengthens the commitment of the University to effectively manage modern slavery risks in our supply chains and to act ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships. The University commits to implement and enforce effective systems and controls, including in relation to combatting modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains.

Action plans and progress against the Policy's objectives will be monitored via the sustainable procurement working group and reported to the Executive Sustainability Steering Group on a quarterly basis.

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**

The University continues to embed due diligence in supplier selection and seeks to improve best practice in respect of its procurement processes and supply chain integrity, by engagement with suppliers, purchasing consortia, internal departments and stakeholders, and student bodies.

Progress has been made this year in several key 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.
- 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.
- Completion of sourcing project for 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.

- Affiliate membership of [Electronics Watch](#) as a full member benefit of Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium
- Meetings with our largest IT hardware provider to gain assurance on how modern slavery is prevented in their supply chains.
- Rationalisation of the number of clothing and workwear suppliers and appoint fewer preferred suppliers, where robust due diligence is conducted around modern slavery risks.

A cross departmental Modern Slavery Working Group continues to meet a minimum of twice 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 28 February 2022.

Signed: .....

Professor Max Lu  
President and Vice Chancellor  
8 March 2022

