

Newcastle University Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Year ending 31st July 2017

Introduction

Newcastle University is a higher education institution. Our status is an Exempt Charity. We were established by Act of Parliament, the Universities of Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne Act 1963. Our registered address is King's Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. We employ circa 6,000 staff at our campuses in Newcastle upon Tyne, London, Singapore, and Malaysia. We undertake teaching and research and our students and staff come from across the world.

The University is committed to sound corporate governance and supports the Nolan Committee's "seven principles of public life" for the conduct of its affairs, namely: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. We are committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking. Our commitment is expressed in our Procurement Procedure and Supplier Code of Conduct. We will act ethically and with integrity in our business relationships, requiring our suppliers to have systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in the supply chains. We require all our suppliers to abide by our Supplier Code of Conduct.

Our Categories

The majority of our procurement is with suppliers who are pre-approved either by a purchasing consortia or through public tenders managed by our Procurement Services and directly pose a low risk. We predominantly contract with suppliers for works, goods and services in the categories of estates works, food, medical and laboratory equipment and consumables, engineering items, computing and stationery, professional services, travel, business services, and janitorial suppliers. We are however aware of areas posing a risk and will strive to combat them wherever we procure the goods and services. The principal categories which carry material risks are office supplies, laboratory consumables, ICT equipment, and estates works.

We expect the highest standards of conduct and probity throughout our supply chain, and expect all our staff to act with honesty and integrity. Our procurement processes include standard enquiries about modern slavery and trafficking and we assess our suppliers in this area before awarding a contract.

We support awareness amongst our staff of the risks in our supply chain. We will make sure that our funders, students, employees, business partners, research collaborators, suppliers, and any other stakeholders have a clear and effective platform for airing concerns, asking questions and whistle blowing and we will ensure processes to do this are clear.

Our plans for the future

As part of this reporting exercise in this and the coming years Newcastle University expresses its commitment to improving the management of its supply chains and continued working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards people working within them.

Pursuant to our commitment in 2016 we have begun to map out supply chains which pose a high and medium risk of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations. We will continue this work with our purchasing consortia and suppliers (such as estates works, office supplies and laboratory consumables) to encourage

and where possible to require our suppliers and their main subcontractors to commit to the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative. This is founded on the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and is an internationally recognised code of labour practice, requiring that:

1. Employment is freely chosen;
2. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected;
3. Working conditions are clean and hygienic;
4. Child labour shall not be used;
5. Living wages are paid;
6. Working hours are not excessive;
7. No discrimination is practised;
8. Regular employment is provided; and
9. No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st July 2017. This statement will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Professor Chris Day
Vice-Chancellor & President
Newcastle University

19-6-17