

Newcastle University Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Year ending 31st July 2018

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. Newcastle University was first recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade University in 2006. 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.

Procurement Category Management

The majority of our procurement is with suppliers who are pre-approved either by a purchasing consortium 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, office supplies, 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 our goods and services. The principal categories which carry material risks are office supplies, laboratory consumables, computing equipment, and estates works. We will manage our suppliers using a category management model so we can understand and manage risks within the high risk categories.

We expect the highest standards of conduct and probity throughout our supply chain, and expect all our staff undertaking procurement activities to act with honesty and integrity. We are working with the NETpositivefutures on-line assessment tool which allows us to engage directly with all of our suppliers to identify their awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking. Our procurement processes include standard enquiries about modern slavery and human trafficking and we assess our suppliers in this area prior to awarding a tendered contract. Our category strategy for computing utilises agreements set up through the London Universities Purchasing Consortium who are affiliated to Electronics Watch whose mission is to help public sector organisations work together to meet their responsibility to protect the labour rights and safety of workers in electronics supply chains.

We support awareness amongst our staff of the risks in our supply chain. We provide guidance and training to ensure 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 to continue to aim to achieve greater transparency and responsibility towards people working within them.

Pursuant to our commitment made in 2017, we will continue 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 or suppliers (such as estates works, office supplies, computing 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.

We will continue to review our procurement processes and documentation to ensure they keep pace with developments in this area. Underpinning our commitment has been our adoption of the DEFRA Flexible Framework which allows organisations to monitor their progress on sustainable procurement over time. We have been independently assessed as achieving Level 4 and will strive to achieve Level 5.

During the coming year, we will:

- Map all Tier 1 and 2 contract suppliers for the high risk category areas;
- Deliver a minimum of 4 training sessions to staff highlighting the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in the supply chain; and
- Review procurement procedures and documentation to ensure they keep pace with developments in human trafficking and modern slavery.

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 2018. This statement will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Professor Chris Day
Vice-Chancellor and President
Newcastle University