

Newcastle University Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Year ending 31st July 2020

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 colleagues at our bases in Newcastle upon Tyne, London, Singapore, and Malaysia. We undertake teaching and research and our students and colleagues come from across the world.

Our Commitment

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.

The University is committed to ensuring there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains or any part of its business. 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 Approach

The majority of our procurement is undertaken 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.

Our objective is to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery. We expect the highest standards of conduct and probity throughout our supply chain, and expect all our colleagues undertaking procurement activities to act with honesty and integrity. We are working with the NETpositivefutures on-line assessment tool, and Constructionline for additional assurance in the high risk Estates category. This allows us to engage directly with all of our suppliers to identify their awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking. Currently over 1,000 of these are registered with the Netpositivefutures Tool. 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 colleagues 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. The University will

1. Request all contracted Estates category suppliers to submit their Modern Slavery processes and procedures for assessment using Constructionline and make it a requirement to have been assessed as a low risk prior being awarded a contract by the university.
2. Continue to work with our top 50 suppliers who pose a high and medium risk of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations to improve their processes to prevent and avoid modern slavery within their supply chains and report progress to the university on an annual basis.
3. Integrate the University's Social Justice strategy into the procurement process, with greater emphasis to embed Equality and Diversity into the process.
4. Present a minimum of four University-wide training and awareness sessions to ensure that all colleagues involved in procurement activities are aware of the University's obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the implications and application of the Act.

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 2020. This statement will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Professor Chris Day
Vice-Chancellor and President
Newcastle University