

## **University of Worcester**

### **Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement**

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

The University of Worcester is committed to ensuring that slavery or human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our supply chain or in any part of our own business.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes The



The University has in place a number of frameworks which underpin its ethical standards across all business activities, these include a Sustainable Procurement policy, Fairtrade status and Environmental policies.

The University is a member of the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC) which is a membership based buying consortia for Universities and some Further Education colleges. NWUPC is a member of Procurement England Limited (PEL) which has a shared sustainability policy to which all consortia are committed. The University also have the opportunity to purchase from various other consortia including Crown Commercial Services (CCS), Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) and various NHS frameworks, these consortia have all published their own modern slavery statements.

The NWUPC is an affiliate member of Electronics watch, on behalf of its members. This membership highlights the overall desire of the HE sector to protect the rights of workers within the supply chain, and that we are committed to taking positive action. A significant proportion of the University's demand for ICT equipment/products is fulfilled by using national framework agreements. The consortia work closely with Electronics Watch to monitor contracts closely to ensure that slavery and

Within the Procurement Team, as the area most actively engaged in the University's operational response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, all members have undergone training. Ongoing collaboration is sought within the HE sector on best practice. The University will continue to ensure that those who are involved in activities in which modern slavery and human trafficking could be an issue will continue to receive support and training, the University will continue to generally raise awareness across the organisation.

Members of the Procurement Team have delivered lectures to students within the Business School to raise their awareness of sustainability issues arising within the supply of goods and services into the University of Worcester.

### **Plans for the future**

UW intends to take the following further steps to combat slavery and human trafficking

- x Continue to better understand our supply chains and work towards greater transparency
- x Continue to promote the use of the framework suppliers and lobby via the purchasing consortia to ensure all suppliers have stated anti-slavery and anti-trafficking policies and procedures
- x Ensure all contracted suppliers have signed up to and are complying with our terms and conditions which include commitments relating to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- x Continue on an annual basis to review this statement and look at ways to enhance.
- x Continue to encourage supplier engagement with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool
- x Monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains
- x Protect whistle blowers

### **Actions Taken during the reporting year**

The Head of Procurement has developed and