

Statement on Modern Slavery

2016-17

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps that the University has taken in the financial year ending 31 July 2016 to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. We are committed to acting ethically

Formed a modern slavery compliance group to take responsibility for our response to slavery and human trafficking, led by the University Solicitor and with representatives from Finance, Procurement, Learning and Information Services, Estate Management, Human Resources, and other relevant staff as required from time to time;

Within our modern slavery compliance group and our procurement working group, undertaken an initial risk assessment of our supply chains, to form the basis of a future audit process;

Provided basic training to key procurement managers on the risks involved;

Included provisions within our standard supplier contracts requiring our suppliers to comply with our Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy, or their own equivalent or higher standards;

Reviewed our policies on whistle-blowing to ensure they cover reporting of concerns related to modern slavery or human trafficking;

Engaged with our local purchasing consortia to address the issue of modern slavery within those procurement systems;

Implemented a new tender management system which will enable us to pre-screen potential suppliers for compliance in a more systematic and automated manner; and

Moved our cleaning service staff in-house, ensuring that their working conditions match those of all our employees.

What we will do next year

Following a review of the effectiveness of the steps we have taken this year, in the coming year, we will

Undertake a review of the key risk areas in our business and in our supply chains;

Develop a streamlined system to identify, assess and monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains;

Review further training provision; and

Identify a subset of key suppliers in potentially high-risk business areas and conduct a supply-chain audit in respect of the products and services they supply to us.

We welcome feedback on our progress to date and suggestions for further improvement.

Professor Clive Behagg, Vice Chancellor
University of Chichester, 13 January 2017