



Modern Slavery Statement

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Modern Slavery Statement

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is made in accordance with section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the University of Hull's modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the period of 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025.
- 1.2 This statement informs our students, staff, suppliers, stakeholders, community, and the public about the steps the University has taken, and will take, to mitigate any risk of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations within the organisation and supply chains.

2 About the University

- 2.1 Founded in 1927 as University College Hull, the University of Hull was granted its Royal Charter in 1954, making it the 14th oldest university in England.
- 2.2 The University is a pivotal partner in local growth and regeneration within the Humber region and beyond with more than 14,000 students, 1,700 members of staff and a turnover of more than £200 million.

3 The Wilberforce Institution

- 3.1 In 2006, the University opened the Wilberforce Institute—named after renowned abolitionist William Wilberforce—as a centre for the study of historical and contemporary enslavement and emancipation.
- 3.2 In 2015, the Wilberforce Institute partnered with organisations across the region to establish the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership which works to identify and support victims of modern slavery and bring those responsible to justice.
- 3.3 Since its inception, the Wilberforce Institute has campaigned nationally and internationally for an end to contemporary slavery, working with key partners, including the United Nations, EU, UK Government, Anti-Slavery Internationalⁱ, Walk Free Foundation, Oxfamⁱⁱ, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Free The Slaves, Beecher House Centre for the Study of Equal Rightsⁱⁱⁱ, Windrush Foundation and the International Slavery Museum.

4 Our supply chains

- 4.1 The University purchases works, goods and services from a wide range of suppliers across a number of categories and is committed to acquiring these in a responsible manner.
- 4.2 The University requires the same high standards from all contractors, suppliers and other business partners and, as part of the contracting process, include specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory or trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude, whether adults or children.
- 4.3 In addition, the Wilberforce Institute produces learning resources on contemporary slavery and has set up a Business Supply Chains Risk Assessment department, working with cross-functional teams of researchers, ethical trade experts, social auditors and business advisers to help businesses identify and address modern slavery risks in their supply chains.

5 Our policies

- 5.1 The University reviewed all policies, processes and procurement documentation following the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and is committed to carrying out further reviews to remain compliant with any changes in legislation.
- 5.2 The University has in place the following policies to address modern slavery and human trafficking:
 - a. Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking Policy
 - b. Whistleblowing Policy
 - c. Procurement Policy
 - d. Policy on Socially Responsible Investment
 - e. Ethics Framework

6 Our training

- 6.1 To ensure an understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains, the University provides training on the importance and implications of the Modern Slavery Act, which is mandatory for all employees involved in aspect of procurement and must be refreshed every three years.
- 6.2 In addition, the University provides continuing professional development resources for businesses and stakeholders through the Wilberforce Institute's Justice Hub,



George Garlick
Chair of Council

16 October 2025

7 Version control

Version	Author	Date approved	Relevant sections
2025-26	Governance Officer	16 October 2025	General annual update; full revision of content
2-04	Governance Officer	20 March 2025	General annual update; minor amendments
2-03	Governance Manager	22 February 2024	General annual update; minor amendments; new template
2-02	Governance Manager	6 July 2023	
2-01	Governance Manager		General annual update

ⁱ [Towards a Holistic Approach to Contemporary Slavery and Climate Change](#)

ⁱⁱ [Turning the Tide: How to best protect workers employed by gangmasters, five years after Morecambe Bay](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Venture Smith Project](#)