

Modern Slavery Act 2015: slavery and human trafficking statement

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This document is available in alternative formats from
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Modern Slavery Act 2015: slavery and human trafficking statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The University of Hull is proud of the steps it has taken to combat slavery and human trafficking and is committed to improving its practices to combat slavery and human trafficking. The University does not tolerate modern slavery and is committed to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to minimise the risk of modern slavery taking place anywhere in the University, its activities, its supply chains or through its collaborative partners.

2. About the University of Hull

- 2.1 The University of Hull is a charitable higher education institution incorporated by Royal Charter which provides a wide range of teaching, research and related activities. The University is based in Hull but involved across the globe. Over 17,500 students are registered on courses in the UK and across the world. The University employs in the region of 1,900 people and had an income of more than £208 million for the financial year ending 31 July 2023¹. The University Council oversees the strategic development of the University and ensures the effective use of resources and the general solvency of the institution. Council members are also the University's charitable trustees.
- 2.2 More information about the University is available here: <http://www.hull.ac.uk>.
- 2.3 The University has been at the forefront of the drive to raise awareness of the need to combat slavery and human trafficking since 2006 when it set up the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE) as an interdisciplinary institute with a view to both ensuring that the world recognises that slavery is not an evil of the past and raising public awareness of issues relating to slavery, emancipation, social justice and human rights, past and present.
- 2.4 WISE has campaigned nationally and internationally for an end to contemporary slavery, working with key partners, including the United Nations, EU, UK Government, Anti-Slavery International, Walk Free Foundation, Oxfam, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Free The Slaves, Beecher House Centre for the Study of Equal Rights, Windrush Foundation and the International Slavery Museum. As well as shaping policy, WISE have produced learning resources on contemporary slavery and 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.
- 2.5 More information about WISE is available here: www.hull.ac.uk/research/institutes/wilberforce.

3. Our Supply Chains

- 3.1 The University of Hull purchases works, goods and services from a wide range of suppliers and across a number of categories and is committed to acquiring these in a responsible manner. The University will continue to work with sector colleagues and others to share best practice and keep up to date on slavery and human trafficking considerations within the supply chain.
- 3.2 The University will require the same high standards from all contractors, suppliers and other business

¹ Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2023 - www.hull.ac.uk/choose-hull/university-and-region/key-documents/docs/annual-report-and-statement-of-accounts-2022-23.pdf

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.

- 3.3 The University has reviewed its procurement documentation and processes to align them with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and will continue to ensure that they keep pace with developments in this area.

4. Our Policies on Slavery and Human Trafficking

- 4.1 The University of Hull is committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains or in any part of its business. As part of this commitment the University has adopted an Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy ('the Policy'). The University will assess any instances of non-compliance with the Policy on a case by case basis and will then tailor remedial action appropriately.
- 4.2 The University has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and is determined to behave ethically and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships. The University of Hull is committed to transparency and expects the same from its contractors, suppliers and other business partners, and their supply chains.
- 4.3 The University has updated its terms and conditions of business to require compliance with the Policy and the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and will continue to review its contractual templates to address modern slavery where necessary.

5. Training

- 5.1 To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in the University of Hull's supply chains and its business, The University provides training in modern slavery which is open to all staff and is mandatory for all employees who procure goods and services on behalf of the University and all members of the central procurement team. This training must be refreshed every three years.
- 5.2 The University publicises the Policy and the requirement to produce this statement on an annual basis to all staff.

6. Our Effectiveness in Combating Slavery and Human Trafficking

- 6.1 The University recognises that there may exist links to historical or modern slavery of which they are unaware. If links are discovered the University, through the University Leadership Team and Council, will consider what, if any, action to take.
- 6.2 The University of Hull will review the effectiveness of the Policy, training and other measures taken to combat slavery and human trafficking on a periodic basis.
- 6.3 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 2023. This Statement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Chair of Council

Date: 22 February 2024

Version Control

Version	Author	Date approved	Relevant sections
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V2-03	Governance Manager	22 February 2024	General annual update; minor amendments