

Statement on Modern Slavery 2020-21

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 of Chichester has taken in the financial year ending 31 July 2021 to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in any part of our business or our supply chains.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls in our business to support the eradication of modern slavery globally.

Organisation structure

We are a university and a charity, established under the laws of the UK, with our administrative offices at our Bishop Otter Campus, College Lane, Chichester PO19 6PE.

Our company number is 4740553. We have nearly 1000 employees and over 5000 students at any one time. Our annual turnover is in excess of £50 million, and while our key expenditure is on our academic and administrative staff, we engage with a range of suppliers nationally and globally to enable us to provide our services.

The University is organised into multiple academic institutions and departments, which are supported by our professional service departments. Our key supply chains include the purchasing of IT equipment and services, building works, printing and design work, catering and accommodation-related services, security services and medical support services.

The University has one wholly-owned subsidiary, Chichester Enterprises Limited (company number 5162778), through which it provides certain services such as consultancy and other commercial services.

The University is associated with, but is legally separate from, the University of Chichester Students' Union (company number 11937134) and the University of Chichester (Multi) Academy Trust (company number 8595545).

Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business or our supply chains.

We have a clear framework of rules and behaviours and encourage the reporting of any concerns or breaches so that they can be dealt with appropriately in accordance with our policies and procedures.

Our Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our business or its supply chains. The policy is binding on all of our employees and is supported by our policies on Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing), Risk Management, and our Financial Regulations. All of our policies are accessible via our website at <https://www.chi.ac.uk/about-us/policies-and-statements/>.

Procurement presents an opportunity to address the risk of slavery and/or human trafficking and as such, all suppliers are issued with contracts referencing the University's policies and the requirements we expect them to meet on modern slavery. As part of our procurement process, suppliers are required to answer questions about their environmental and ethical practices in their business and in their supply chains. The responses to these questions enable us to identify and exclude any supplier who falls short our requirements.

What we have done this year

In addition to our standard procurement practices, in our financial year of 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021, we have:

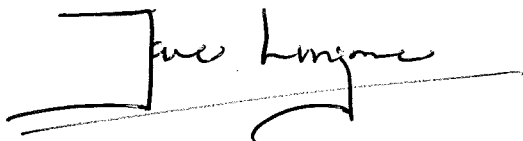
- made our modern slavery e-learning module available to all staff;
- reviewed and updated the terms of reference and working practices of our Procurement Working Group to define its purpose and structure, which includes ensuring that suppliers meet our requirements on modern slavery, environmental and ethical practices;
- reviewed all material procurements within our Procurement Working Group;
- ensured that all major procurements comply with our mandatory policies, including our Modern Slavery and Anti-bribery and Human Trafficking policies; and
- engaged in the Education Sector's efforts to eradicate modern slavery by making use of education purchasing frameworks where possible, on the basis that these effectively evaluate supplier's modern slavery, environmental and ethical practices.

What we plan to do next year

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

- review and (where necessary) streamline our supplier due diligence process;
- hire a Procurement Officer, who will support ongoing compliance and support the Procurement Working Group, and invest further in our legal team to strengthen the support available for compliance activities including modern slavery;
- continue to monitor the practices of major suppliers and significant developments in supply chains for risk in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and any associated government-ordered measures;
- conduct a desktop review of key personnel suppliers to the Estates department;
- attend and contribute to the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium's Responsible Procurement Group events; and
- introduce an annual modern slavery performance assessment for all IT contractors.

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



Professor Jane Longmore, Vice-Chancellor
University of Chichester