

# University of Stirling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

*Statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2020*

## **Purpose of the Statement**

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ('the Act'). It aims to inform the University Court, our staff, students and the general public about the steps the University has taken during the last financial year in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking.

## **Statement**

The University is committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking from taking place in any part of its own business and in its supply chain.

## **Commitment**

The University's compliance to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is part of the University's Sustainability Strategy. The Corporate Sustainability Steering Group (CSSG) is chaired by the Deputy Principal (Operational Strategy and External Affairs) who is responsible for the strategic direction of sustainability at the University.

The University is a member of the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges Ltd (APUC) and endorses the [APUC Supply Chain Code of Conduct](#). Use of this code of conduct demonstrates our commitment to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place within our supply chains.

Every regulated procurement process undertaken by the University requires tenderers to disclose whether they, or any member of their organisation with decision-making powers, has been convicted in the last five years of any offence under Part 1 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 or under any provision referred to in the Schedule of the Act. Tenderers that confirm such a conviction are excluded unless they can provide evidence that they have taken sufficient measures to demonstrate compliance with this Act.

The University is committed 'to engage with the supply chains to ensure continued value, managed performance and minimisation of risk throughout the life of contracts for the benefit of customers and students'. This strategic procurement objective was approved by Court in December 2016.

## **The University of Stirling**

The University of Stirling is a leading UK teaching and research-intensive university, created by Royal Charter in 1967. Since its foundation, the University has embraced its role as an innovative, intellectual and cultural institution with a pioneering spirit and a passion for excellence in all that it does.

In 2016, the University launched its current [Strategic Plan](#) (2016-2021), with targets to: be one of the top 25 universities in the UK; increase income by £50 million; enhance its research profile by 100 per cent; and ensure internationalisation is at the heart of everything it does. The University's excellence in sports performance, research and education was further recognised when it was named UK Sports University of the Year, in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.

With three-quarters of its research ranked world-leading and internationally-excellent (Research Excellence Framework 2014), the University's ground breaking, interdisciplinary research makes a difference to society and has a positive impact on communities worldwide. Stirling's research is making a positive impact on people's health, education and wellbeing, with key strengths across our research themes of: Cultures, Communities and Society; Global Security and Resilience; and, Living Well. The University collaborates with international governments and policymakers, businesses, industry, and charitable organisations, to tackle and provide solutions to some of the toughest global societal challenges.

## **Overview for Financial Year ending 31 July 2020**

The University adopted the *revised* APUC 'Sustain' Supply Code of Conduct in all its regulated procurements.

Efforts to ensure suppliers adhere to the Supply Chain Code of Conduct continued with all suppliers to new contracts in excess of £50K being asked to adhere to the Code as part of the tendering process.

Sustainability considerations were addressed in all regulated procurement (over and above adherence to the Supply Chain Code of Conduct).

Procurement Services continued to support the various 'live' cross-sectoral initiatives to address modern slavery risk in supply chains.

In 2019/20, there were no requirements to terminate business with any suppliers on the grounds of contravention of the Modern Slavery Act.

## **Actions for Financial Year ending 31 July 2021**

### **Regulated Procurement**

The University will continue to address modern slavery directly in regulated tendering process through minimum standards, specification and contract management

### **Category Management**

Procurement managers will analyse 'at risk' supply chains as part of their ongoing tendering and category management activity. Additional mitigating measures will be adopted as appropriate.

### **Best Practise**

Best practice will be utilised (including the Scottish Government's Sustainability Public Procurement Prioritisation Tool and APUC's new Supply Chain Management Tool) and sectoral initiatives will be supported as appropriate.

### **Training**

All procurement staff will be required to complete the Higher Education Procurement Association (HEPA) 'A Guide to Modern Slavery' and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) 'Ethical Procurement and Supply' e-learning modules.

**Awareness**

Procurement Services will continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking issues across the University's communities – how to identify risks and how to put in place mitigation or management measures – through its ongoing stakeholder engagement.

**Collaborative Working**

The University will continue to support the various 'live' cross-sectoral initiatives to address modern slavery risk in supply chains.

**APUC**

Where appropriate, the University will supplement our own efforts with activities already being progressed by APUC. See the [APUC Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement](#) for reference.

**Electronics Watch**

The University is an associate member of Electronics Watch (EW), an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe. Appropriate engagement with, and support of EW, will continue. See [Electronics Watch](#) for reference.

This statement will be reviewed annually.

Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor