

University of Stirling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2019

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 2019

Awareness

A communication action plan adopted in 2017/18 to raise staff and student awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking was implemented. An e-training module to broaden understanding of modern trafficking issues was made available to the University community.

Actions for Financial Year ending 31 July 2020

Category Management

The University will start to develop a Responsible Procurement Plan for each of the 4 main spend areas (ICT, Professional Services, Laboratories and Estates) utilising best practice and engaging with sectoral initiatives as appropriate.

Sustainable Procurement Tools

Procurement staff will continue to utilise the Scottish Government's Sustainability Public Procurement Prioritisation Tool (SPPPT) to inform the formulation of appropriate risk mitigation strategies. SPPPT assigns a risk score for each category/sub-category of spend.

The University will appropriately use APUC's new Supply Chain Management (SCM) tool.

Training

Procurement staff will take advantage of available modern slavery-related training opportunities that broaden awareness, hone skills and enhance knowledge.

Awareness

Further steps will be taken to creatively and intelligently raise the University community's awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking issues.

Code of Conduct

The University will adopt the impending *revised* APUC Sustainable Procurement Code of Conduct in all its regulated procurements.

Collaborative Working

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

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.

This statement will be reviewed annually.

Professor Gerry McCormac, Principal and Vice-Chancellor