University of Suffolk

Modern slavery and human trafficking statement

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

The University of Suffolk ("the University") is committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking.

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 31 July 2023.

Organisational structure

The University of Suffolk is an educational institution in the higher education sector, operating its central hub in Ipswich, Suffolk and employing approximately 600 staff members. We also provide higher education throughout Suffolk and Norfolk via our 3 local partner colleges and wider delivery with other partners. We have an annual turnover of £135 million.

Our supply chains

From suppliers which are procured via frame works or tending process check, their Modern slavery and human trafficking statements are required from all suppliers.

Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

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

In light of the obligation to report on measures to ensure that all parts of our business and supply chain are slavery free we have put in place a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy and we will update relevant workplace policies as appropriate.

Our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy includes our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implement effective systems and controls in an attempt to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

Due diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk we;

- Currently include questions in our supplier questionnaire in all tender procedures to include checks on the prevention of modern slavery.

- Intend to carry out supply chain mapping process in an aim to ensure clear visibility of our direct suppliers and their supply chains.
- Have a supplier code of conduct agreement to include a section for Modern Slavery Act 2015 to send out to suppliers.
- Use of framework approved suppliers.
- Will direct suppliers to our policy.

We will look to implement systems to:

- Conduct risk assessment to determine where risk may lie.
- Mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains.
- Protect whistleblowers.
- Communicate our expectation to partner organisations, so that they can develop their own summary statements of how they will prevent slavery and trafficking

Supplier adherence to our values

We have zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking. To ensure all those in our supply chain and contractors comply with our values we intend to have a supply chain compliance programme in place.

The University reviews its agreements and dealings with suppliers to ensure compliance with anti-slavery measures.

Raising awareness

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we have updated senior management on our obligations under the Act and have disseminated our policy.

Our plans for the future

As part of the reporting exercise in this and the coming years, the University of Suffolk expresses its commitment to better understanding its supply chains and working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards people working in them.

We will work with our procurement frameworks and suppliers in our product supply chains to map out all those supply chains which represent a medium to high risk of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations.

This statement has been approved and published by the University of Suffolk Board and will be reviewed at least once a year.

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Mr Ian Ailles (Chair of the University of Suffolk Board)

UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK
Date: 28/11/23