

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 2024.

Organisational structure, business, and supply chains

The University 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 two local partner colleges and wider delivery with other partners. We have an annual turnover of £135 million.

The University also operates a fully owned subsidiary, University of Suffolk Dental Community Interest Company (CIC), providing NHS dental services to the population of Suffolk and North-East Essex. The combined turnover is £137m. Procurement services for the CIC are operated through the University.

Our supply chains fall under the following main categories:

- Estates and facilities management (works, services, goods and utilities)
- ICT equipment and services
- Professional services
- Teaching materials
- Dental consumables

Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

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 embedded Modern Slavery Act requirements into our workplace policies as appropriate.

Our policies include our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implement effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

The University also prioritises sustainable procurement, especially in relation resource extraction and potential use of forced labour. We also prioritise local suppliers, making due diligence and whistleblowing more accessible, those with a local social or civic responsibility, and avoid any manufacturer with known links to tobacco, alcohol, gambling, and adult entertainment and those involved in armaments and exploitation of fossil fuel reserves.

Due diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking

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

- Use a framework of approved suppliers as a first default position when sourcing a new supplier
- Include questions in our supplier questionnaire in all tender procedures to include checks on the prevention of modern slavery
- Have a supplier code of conduct agreement to include a section for Modern Slavery Act 2015 to send out to suppliers
- All directly employed roles within the University require comprehensive Right to Work checks to be undertaken before individuals commence work

Human trafficking risk and risk management

The risk of Modern Slavery in the University's direct and local activities is considered low. However, we recognise the potential risks linked to the supply chain of goods and services we buy across the world. A large portion of these goods are bought through collaborative contracts, and we work with the relevant bodies to ensure anti-corruption activities are addressed during their procurement processes as well as in our own.

The University is a member of the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) who support our ambition to eliminate modern slavery from our supply chain. SUPC subscribe to Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry, through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe, which further supports our ambition.

Training and capacity building

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, the SUPC provide training to the Procurement team. They in turn provide expert advice to departments within the University and CIC. Furthermore, the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) provide training to their members.

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



Mr Ian Ailles
Chair
University of Suffolk