Forestry Commission

Modern Slavery Statement

2022/2023

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

About us

The Forestry Commission is the governments expert department responsible for forestry, tackling society's biggest challenges through thriving trees, woods and forests. We increase the value of woodlands to society and the environment. We have two agencies: Forestry England and Forest Research.

Forestry England is England's largest land manager and custodian of the nation's public forests. Forestry England has around 1,200 committed staff and volunteers looking after more land and more trees than any other organisation. It generates revenue by sustainably harvesting and selling timber, and by working with commercial partners to offer new ways to experience and enjoy woodlands and develop business activities.

Forest Research is Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree related research and is internationally renowned for the provision of evidence and scientific services in support of sustainable forestry.

Our supply chains

Our supply chains are made up of a diverse range of third-party providers, many of which are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). We procure a varied range of goods and services from corporate clothing and tree shelters, through to services such as harvesting timber, planting trees, forest road maintenance, plant health surveillance and recreation provision. We also award grants to others to protect, improve, expand and connect England's woodlands. In 2022/23 we spent approximately £114 million buying goods and services from our direct (tier 1) suppliers.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking and are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

This statement explains the steps that we took during financial year 2022/23 to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery in our operations and supply chains. We publish this statement on our gov.uk website, and the modern slavery statement registry.

Steps to tackle modern slavery

We have taken the following steps to reduce the risk of modern slavery in our business:

Policies



We pay all our employees at or above the National Living Wage. Our grievance, safeguarding, bullying and harassment, and whistleblowing policies give a platform for our employees and volunteers to raise concerns on any wrong-doing or poor working practices. We have a programme of review for key employee policies.

We require our suppliers to following the Government Supplier Code of Conduct and our grant recipients are expected to follow the Government Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients.

Selecting who we work with

Our tenders follow the due diligence processes of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Concession Contract Regulations 2016. All major procurements explicitly evaluate social value, including the bidders' approach to tackling modern slavery risks where this is relevant. This is completed as part of our assessment of the most economically advantageous tender and accounts for at least 10% of scoring.

We also check the slavery and human trafficking statements of those bidding for our contracts.



Case Study

Our corporate clothing supplier's production facilities are 'Garments without Guilt' accredited and at every stage of their supply chain they follow the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code.

Implementation of PPN 02/23: Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains

We have embedded into our policies and practice the latest guidance from the Cabinet Office that sets out how UK Government departments must take action to ensure modern slavery risks are identified and managed in government supply chains. A risk assessment is completed during the procurement planning stage. This assessment looks at aspects such as industry type, supplier location and nature of the workforce, as well as recent

market intelligence. Where a high level of risk is indicated, detailed supply chain information is required from suppliers as part of the selection stage.

Contract terms

Our standard conditions of contract reflect our zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. This includes requirements to conduct proper and detailed checks on any sub-contractors and to assist the Forestry Commission in identifying any non-compliance.

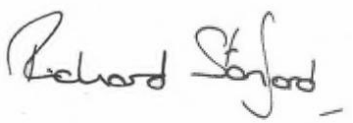
Training and awareness raising

Our Commercial Services & Procurement teams undertake regular Continuing Professional Development which includes the annual Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) ethical procurement eLearning and assessment. In January 2023, the team held a peer information session to share learning about addressing modern slavery risks in procurements.

Signatory

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 31st March 2023.

Signed:



Richard Stanford
Position: Chief Executive Officer, Forestry Commission