NPL Management Limited Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes NPL Management Limited (NPL) slavery and human trafficking statement for NPL's financial year ending 31st Dec 2020. It sets out the steps taken by NPL during 2020 to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains.

Modern slavery is a criminal offence under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 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.

NPL has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and we are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective measures to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains. This applies to all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, students, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners.

NPL Background

NPL is the United Kingdom's national standards laboratory, an internationally respected and independent centre of excellence in research. It is qualified to provide many scientific and technical measurement services because of the skills, experience and reputation of its professional staff and is engaged in the business of research and development and of providing training and consultancy services.

Relevant Policies

NPL operates the following policies to support its approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and steps to be taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its operations.

- Ethics Policy
- In addition, NPL adheres to the government Office for Science's Universal Ethical Code for Scientists
- Anti-Slavery Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Code of Conduct

NPL's Supply Chain

NPL practices robust due diligence throughout the tender supplier selection process, including use of the UK Government Supplier Questionnaire (SQ) for all contracts valued over £25,000 which contains specific requirements related to the Act. NPL also use supplier intelligence sources, such as CreditSafe to ensure that all our suppliers are financially, ethically and legally sound. If a supplier is found to be in breach of the Act, or found to have misled NPL during the tendering process, immediate steps will be taken to measure the impact of the breach, and if necessary, terminate the contract.

NPL's standard terms and conditions require our suppliers and each of their subcontractors to comply with the Act.

NPL's supply chain mainly falls under the following categories:

- Laboratory equipment and consumables
- IT Hardware, Software and Associated Support
- Professional Services
- FM Services
- Travel
- Fleet

Where possible NPL uses suppliers that have been appointed through London Universities Procurement Consortium (LUPC) and Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Frameworks. Where the company, its clients or suppliers develop any concerns relating to Modern Slavery (or any other matter) for current contracts, they are raised with the LUPC or CCS procurement service for investigation and resolution.

Developments in 2020

NPL has ensured that HEPA Training in Guide to Modern Slavery and Protecting Human Rights in the Supply Chain has been undertaken by all members of the Procurement team. Further training and awareness sessions will be scheduled for the wider business as appropriate. Through its membership of LUPC NPL is an affiliated member of Electronics Watch, the independent monitoring organisation which helps public sector entities to work together to meet their responsibility to protect the labour rights and safety of workers in global electronics supply chains. This also enables us to have access to guidance, resources and contract clauses that support responsible procurement.

Further considerations

NPL is working to increase awareness within our organisation and to ensure a high level of understanding of the risks associated with modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and in our business.

NPL shall carry out periodic reviews of our suppliers, in particular where multi-year contracts are placed to ensure that such contracts contain terms requiring our suppliers and each of their subcontractors to comply with the Act.