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FIN POL009
Modern Slavery Statement 2025

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1. Introduction

This statement has been produced in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As a 'commercial organisation' defined by the Act, YPO has a legal duty to produce a statement and as a professional, responsible and socially conscious public procurement organisation, we recognise the importance of operating to high standards and expect the same of our supply chains. We take a zero-tolerance approach to non-ethical practices and are committed to always treating people in our business and supply chains fairly, with integrity to uphold ethical standards.

We're committed to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from our business and supply chains, guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact.

2. Our Business

YPO is the largest publicly owned public sector buying organisation in the UK. Established in 1974 by a group of 13 local authorities, we're governed by a joint committee and operate under the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970. A full list of our member and associate member authorities can be found at https://www.ypo.co.uk/about/governance/structure. However, as a central purchasing body, defined by the Public Contract Regulations, YPO catalogue items and frameworks are open for use by any public sector organisation in the UK.

From our base in Wakefield, we supply around 30,000 products and resources from our warehouse, as well as offering around 100 public sector framework agreements.

Our customers are UK-wide and include schools, local authorities, charities, emergency services, the wider-public sector and other businesses such as nurseries and care homes.

Our categories of spend normally fall into one of the following areas.

Corporate and Financial Services Education, Learning and Office Supplies Emergency Services Facilities Management Fleet and Highways	Food and Catering Furniture Health and Social Care HR Services Technology and Communications Utilities

As a drive to offer our customers value for money, we've invested in an own brand range, typically covering products such as stationery, arts and crafts, sport and early years products. Some of these are sourced direct from overseas suppliers with 804* out of 1842 product lines classified as globally sourced. Following Brexit YPO now classify any factory outside of the UK as globally sourced including those in Europe, therefore the number of global factories has increased from 32 to 42 factories across China, Taiwan, Thailand, Denmark, France, Italy and Bulgaria.

3. Due Diligence

With numerous categories of spend, we have a wide range of supply chains each with individual characteristics, covering both product and service-based supply chains. We therefore identify the areas of high risk to human rights and act accordingly.

Global Sourcing

Whilst we are aware that modern slavery can occur much closer to home, we believe that our global sourcing activity presents the highest risk of all, to human rights within our supply chains. Therefore, we have put in place a robust procurement and audit process. Ethical audits to the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) Base Code as a minimum are requested as part of the tender process and we request factories are re-audited at least every three years.

We work with Société Générale de Surveillance SA (known as SGS) as our appointed independent test house; however, we also accept audits from other independent test houses where appropriate. Currently 94% of our suppliers are ethically audited to a satisfactory standard.

Each year our Quality Assurance team sends a Global Sourcing Review to the category teams to inform them of the status of the factory audits within their categories to enable them to

chase any outstanding audits as part of their supplier relationship management programme.

All supply chains (including global sourcing)

As a UK Public Sector Buying Organisation, we have applied the approach set out in PPN 02/23 – Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains in our procurements. Following this guidance our Quality Assurance team undertake a Modern Slavery Risk Assessment for all new procurements during the pre-procurement/tender planning stage taking into consideration:

1. Industry type
2. Nature of workforce
3. Supplier location
4. Context in which the supplier operates
5. Commodity type and
6. Business / supply chain model

This risk assessment flows throughout the procurement process including, where appropriate, into writing the specification, selection and award criteria, evaluation and contract management.

We include in the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SQ) the following questions relating to a supplier's commitment to preventing modern slavery.

Section 7 – Modern Slavery Act 2015: Requirements under Modern Slavery Act 2015			
I	7.1	Are you a relevant commercial organisation as defined by section 54 ("Transparency in supply chains etc.") of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("the Act")?	Yes N/A
P/FF	7.2	If you have answered "Yes" to question 7.1, are you compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained within Section 54 of the Act 2015?	Yes (PASS) Please provide the relevant URL to view the statement

			No (*FAIL) Please provide an explanation. *The information provided will be taken into account by YPO in considering whether or not you will be able to proceed any further in respect of this procurement. N/A

There are also sections relating to ethical sourcing and supply chain visibility which are included if relevant to the tender in question.

8.6		**Ethical Sourcing**	
P/F	a.	Please confirm that your organisation complies with any guidelines on ethical sourcing related to the requirements of this tender. Tenderers who self-certify that they meet the requirements will be required to provide evidence of this if they are successful at contract award stage.	Yes (PASS) No (FAIL)

8.7		Supply Chain Visibility	
P/F	a.	Please confirm you have read and comply with the requirements stated within Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 01/18: Supply Chain Visibility.	Yes (PASS) No (FAIL)

As part of our procurement process and due diligence on any tender exercise, additional questions or terms and conditions may be included to assess our suppliers and the supply chain specifically related to their approach to eradicating modern slavery. Including the standard "Mandatory Requirement" below.

Please confirm that if you are successful in this Tender exercise that you would be willing to participate in YPO's modern slavery improvement programme including completion of the modern slavery assessment tool. This will be arranged upon award. https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/msat	YES (PASS)	
If any risks are identified, the Supplier is expected to put in place plans and work towards mitigating this risk and share with YPO progress and the impact. Please confirm your acceptance	NO (FAIL)	

Our procurements are also supported with a "Responsible Procurement Policy" which sets out the social value outcomes that are important to YPO. Theme 3 includes how our supply chains show commitment to Modern Slavery via our procurement activities.

Priority Theme	Example Outcomes
Growing strong, safe and sustainable economies and supply chains	• Engagement and growth with SMEs, VCSE's and other diverse suppliers (e.g. women owned, BAME's etc) • Volunteering opportunities • Ethical supply chain promoted including reducing risks of modern slavery.

	• Risk of cyber security reduced

YPO Supplier Code of Conduct

The YPO Supplier Code of Conduct is now a mandatory condition of contracting with YPO and sets out our base expectations for its supply chains in relation to employment rights, working conditions, anti-slavery, non-discrimination and environmental protection. It is based on the Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code and reflects a number of YPO's own values, which are Be kind, Do the right thing, Embrace creativity and Make a difference.

4. Our Policies

This statement explicitly addresses our position in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking however it also has links to other relevant policies and procedures.

- Social Value and Sustainability Strategy
- Ethical Trading Policy
- Responsible Procurement Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy
- New Product Introduction (Global Sourcing)
- Risk Management Framework
- Quality Policy
- YPO Supplier Code of Conduct

5. Training and Raising Awareness

As a procurement organisation, we already have a large number of staff who hold or are working towards a professional qualification from the Charted Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). CIPS have a wide range of eLearning modules available for members including the Ethical Procurement and Supply which we encourage all staff to complete.

Internal training and guidance is provided to staff who are responsible for sourcing products from overseas.

A small number of staff have reviewed or completed the Home Office e-learning course and the Government Commercial College "Tackling modern slavery in supply chains: PPE case study" course.

YPO are also committed to raising awareness by collaborating with similar organisations to discuss issues relating to Modern Slavery.

6. The Future

As a professional public sector buying organisation, we recognise the responsibility we have to embed social value into our business activities. This includes working towards eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking in our business and supply chains. We remain committed to this and will continue to work over the next 12 months to make further improvements by exploring.

- Inviting more suppliers to take part in the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool as part of the tender process.
- Refine the process for inviting existing supplier to complete the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool using a risk-based approach to supply chain mapping.
- Roll out bespoke training on social value including Modern Slavery to all procurement colleagues by the end of 2024.

We will continue to work with our suppliers, member and associate member authorities, customers, staff and other stakeholders to share best practice and to encourage more commitment to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from all supply chains.

This statement has the support and commitment from the YPO Board who will review it on an annual basis.

*All figures are correct at the time of writing.

Modern Slavery Statement 2025

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