Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service support the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act consolidates slavery and trafficking offences, introduces tougher penalties and sentencing rules and provides more support for victims.

Modern slavery includes:

- Forced labour; Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence.

- Debt bondage; Victims are forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to.

- Sexual exploitation; Victims are forced to perform non-consensual or abusive sexual acts against their will, such as prostitution, escort work and pornography. Adults are coerced often under the threat of force, or another penalty.

- Criminal exploitation; Often controlled and maltreated, victims are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick-pocketing against their will.

- Domestic servitude; Victims are forced to carry out housework and domestic chores in private households with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy often sleeping where they work.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service will support this Act through:

- Supporting victim identification through staff training and education
- Partnership Working in collaboration with relevant agencies and groups
- Private Sector engagement and responsible procurement practices

Partnership Working

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service is part of the Devon Safer Partnership and Somerset's Safer Partnership and is working with Devon and Cornwall Police and Avon and Somerset Police and other agencies and Partners

across the South West to develop a collaborative approach to tacking the issue of modern slavery.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service also supports responsible procurement practices which aim to encourage fair pay and working conditions in our supply chain and to assist in the identification and elimination of modern slavery and human trafficking. The Service expects suppliers to be aware of and comply with the requirements of the Act.

To support our partnership aims, the Service will implement communication and education programmes for staff which will highlight the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act, any high risk areas in Devon and Somerset and the referral mechanisms. The Service will engage with suppliers to promote policies to ensure that supply chains are free from slavery.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service will also see what other actions it can take beyond communication and education programmes to further promote the Act and ensure that there is no Modern Slavery in its business or in its supply chain.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service believes that because it has a key role in keeping the communities of Devon and Somerset safe from harm and works with a large number of suppliers it is appropriate that it publishes a statement that is transparent about the actions it will be taking.

Signed by: Lee Howell (CFO Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service)



Date 29th January 2021

Further information on Modern Slavery is available from:

Devon and Cornwall Police - Modern Slavery information

Avon and Somerset Police - Modern Slavery information

Modern Slavery is closer than you think

Modern Slavery Helpline

Help free the UK from Modern slavery, report it. If it's an emergency call **999**. Or, for help and advice from the Modern Slavery helpline call any time on **0800 0121 700** (free from landlines and most mobile phones). Or, you can visit the Modern Slavery website and complete the online form.

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