

Edge Hill University

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Financial Year 2020/21

INTRODUCTION

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 July 2021.

Our organisational structure

We are a UK Higher Education Institution providing a wide range of teaching, research and related activities. Our main campus is based in Ormskirk, West Lancashire. We have 15,012 students registered on courses in the UK and overseas. We employ 2,903 people and have an income of £130,100m for the financial year ending 31st July 2021.

More information about us and our activities is available here: <https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/>

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 to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

We are committed to combatting slavery and human trafficking in our business practices. This statement identifies our status and the actions we are taking, to prevent acquiring goods and services without causing harm to others. In doing so we are supporting the UK Government's action plan to implement the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

Like most universities we purchase goods, services and works from a wide range of suppliers and from several categories, which have been identified as high risk in terms of the potential for slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking, referred to as Modern Slavery in this statement. These include but are not limited to:

- Security Services
- Hospitality and Catering
- Information Communication and Technology Equipment and Services (IT)
- Cleaning
- Construction
- Clothing

Our supply chains

Edge Hill University is actively engaged with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. An initial briefing and regular updates at the Value for Money (VFM) and Procurement Group has raised awareness across faculties and departments, and

we have continued to engage with consultancy support from NETpositive Futures to consider our actions under the Modern Slavery Act. We remain committed to better understanding our supply chains, working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards the people working in them.

We will be continuing to use the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool to provide a single mechanism to engage contracted and non-contracted suppliers with issues of modern slavery and human trafficking. This Tool was developed by the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC), the University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) and the North Eastern University Purchasing Consortia (NEUPC).

The Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool will enable us to:

- collect data on which of our suppliers are aware of, and engaged with, the responsibilities relating to modern slavery and human trafficking, as well as those which are not;
- offer support, guidance or training to our supply base and to share best practice between them;
- track the actions being taken, and, where required, the progress being made, by our supply chain in addressing aspects of modern slavery;
- have access to this information in real time; and
- build modern slavery into our contract management processes based on action plans developed by our suppliers.

Our effectiveness in combating slavery and human trafficking

The NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool allows us to access data created by our suppliers to enable us to ascertain the percentage of our suppliers which have:

- been **made aware** that modern slavery is a consideration for their business;
- **acknowledged** modern slavery is a consideration for their business;
- **committed** to take action to address modern slavery in their business;
- **completed** actions which address modern slavery in their business; and
- set actions to **undertake training** on modern slavery.

The Tool will also provide **examples and evidence** shared by our suppliers about their activities in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking. The data from the Tool will enable us to differentiate responses by business type so we can identify progress in priority risk areas such as construction, hospitality and clothing.

Actions from August 2020 to July 2021

1. We continued to contact the top 1600 suppliers used at Edge Hill University by value and identified which of those are currently using the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool. When contacting them we asked for them to engage with the tool.

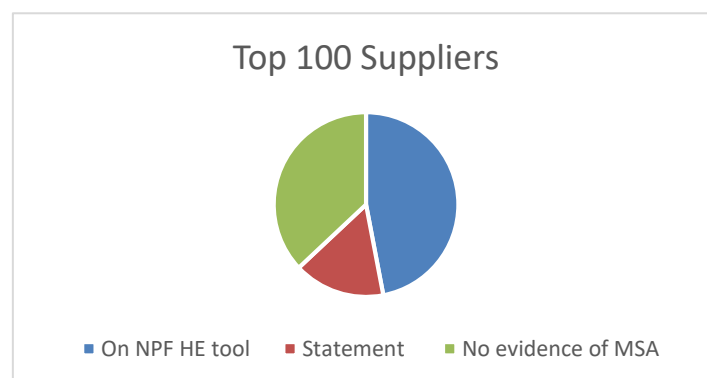
June 2020	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	3810
	In NPF	1	24	43	63	78	95	111	147	169	186	203	218	231	245	295	325	347	361	379	407
	%	100	48	43	42	39	38	37	37	34	31	29	27	26	25	20	16	14	12	11	11
Supplier no	Improvement	0	8	8	17	25	28	29	47	60	67	82	85	95	104	128	140	152	153		

June 2021	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	3810	3877
	In NPF	1	25	47	68	83	100	116	153	175	193	212	227	242	256	308	343	366	380	399	427	493
	%	100	50	47	45	42	40	39	38	35	32	30	28	27	26	21	17	15	13	11	11	13
Supplier no	Improvement	0	1	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	9	9	11	11	13	18	19	19	20	20	0	

- a. In the last year; an additional 86 genuine suppliers have been added to the database.
 - b. This is due to our commitment to email our suppliers, our discussions with suppliers at reviews and as part of the new supplier onboarding process in Facilities Management.
 - c. This will actively reduce the risk of a supplier failure.
2. In 2020/2021 we have also contacted those suppliers within our top 100 not engaged with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool and requested a copy of their Modern Slavery Statement. This would indicate an awareness of the MSA 2015 and their commitment to it.

WITH STATEMENTS				
June 2021	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100
	In NPF or have statements	1	33	63
	%	100	66	63

- a. This now means, that out of our top 100 suppliers 63% have either signed up to the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool or have a statement on their website or available to request.



3. We actively encourage engagement with the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC) and The Universities Catering Organisation (TUCO) frameworks that embed Modern Slavery Act considerations, within their procurement activities.
4. The Modern Slavery Policy has been supported by the Value For Money (VFM) group and communicated to the wider University in 2020/21, this was completed across all support functions and faculty. To really drive an awareness into the fabric of the University, as part of new staff induction, they will receive information about modern slavery and signposts to the statement and policy document.

More information including tool kits and guidance can be found on the link below.
<https://www.nwupc.ac.uk/sustainable-procurement/toolkits-guidance/item/nwupc-modern-slavery-statement-2>

Supplier Engagement and Development

We continue to focus on our top 100 suppliers by value, that accounted for approx. 75% of our annual expenditure in 2018/19 & 2019/20. As of June 2021, 47% of those suppliers are now registered with Net Positive Futures. This is an improvement for the same period on the previous year. The suppliers have completed a sustainability assessment including Modern Slavery and have an action plan in place to mitigate the risks associated with their supply chain. We have continued to contact a great number of suppliers and have requested that they engage with the tool as soon as possible. This work will continue in 2021/22. Additionally, we have included identifying those suppliers within our top 100 that have not signed up to the HE tool have a statement and/or policy on their website or available to request. This work will continue.

Since December 2019, we have also been completing 3 monthly Modern Slavery audits around the campus. This involves approaching all contractors and agency staff on site, requesting their name, company name and purpose of their visit. We then contact their head office and request that they confirm that the contractor or agency staff member on site has completed the appropriate right to work in the UK checks. We have challenged over 74 contractors and agency staff to date. This is a practical step to ensure that contractors and agencies demonstrate due diligence and are aware that we take the risk of Modern Slavery very seriously at Edge Hill University.

The Supplier Relationship Manager has been working closely with the Environment and Sustainability Manager and NET Positive Futures to look at ways of linking the HE Tool to our sustainability goals.

This approach and the evidence gathered will assist us in targeting our activities to those suppliers and supply chains who are either not aware that Modern Slavery is an issue for their business or are not taking a pro-active approach within their supply chains. We consider this activity a sensible approach to set our baseline for engagement with our suppliers and in the priority supplier categories.

We continue to work with our sector colleagues to share best practice and keep up to date on identifying and assessing risks and actions within the supply chain through our involvement with the Purchasing Consortia.

Planned actions for August 2021 to July 2022

We are committed to ensuring there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. As part of this commitment we intend to take the following further steps:

- We will communicate our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy through our induction process to all new starters;
- We will actively promote the Modern Slavery Policy on our internal wiki;
- We will continue to identify within our top 100 supply chain, any suppliers of products or services that do not engage with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool; this will lead to further requests to engage with the tool or identifying if they already have a statement and/or policy. This will then be recorded on our register.
- We will continue to complete the Modern Slavery contractor and agency staff audits.
- We will continue to ensure where possible all future procurement is completed with suppliers who currently engage or who will be prepared to engage with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool;

31st January 2022