

Edge Hill University

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Financial Year 2017/18

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 2018.

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 14,256 students registered on courses in the UK and overseas. We employ 3,009 people and have an income of £126.231m for the financial year ending 31st July 2018.

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. A briefing at the Value for Money and Procurement Group has

raised awareness across faculties and departments, and we have engaged consultancy support from NETpositive Futures to consider our procurement processes. We remain committed to better understanding our supply chains, working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards the people working in them.

We will be using 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 in 2018

Procurement Process

1. We have selected the top 50 suppliers used at Edge Hill University by value and identified which of those are currently using the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool.
2. We have then identified the remaining suppliers within our top 50 not using the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool and contacted them to request that they engage with it.
3. We actively encourage engagement with the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC) framework that embed Modern Slavery Act considerations, within their procurement activities.

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 are focused on our top 50 suppliers that accounted for 64% of our annual expenditure in 2017/18. As of December 2018, 24% of those suppliers are registered with Net Positive Futures, they 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 contacted the remaining suppliers and have requested that they will engage with the tool as soon as possible.

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 have worked with our sector colleagues to share best practice and keep up-to-date on identifying and assessing risks within the supply chain through our involvement with the Purchasing Consortia.

Further steps

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:

- develop a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy;
- identify within our supply chain any suppliers of products or services that do not engage with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool;
- 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;

- develop guidance on slavery and human trafficking for internal purchasers; and develop training for key staff.

Signature

Mr. Carl Gibson
Finance Director

31st January 2019