

Edge Hill University

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Financial Year 2018/19

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 2019.

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 14,075 students registered on courses in the UK and overseas. We employ 3,003 people and have an income of £123,774m for the financial year ending 31st July 2019.

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 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 in 2019

Procurement Process

1. We have selected the top 1200 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 1200 not using the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool and contacted them to request that they engage with it. Because of this we have seen the following improvements statistically. (see table below).

February 2019	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	
	In NPF	1	11	25	32	37	48	60	80	87	94	100	110	112	117	139	154	160	
	%	100	22	25	21	19	19	20	20	17	16	14	14	12	12	9	8	6	
June 2019	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	2996
	In NPF	1	16	35	46	53	67	82	100	109	119	121	133	136	141	167	185	195	208
	%	100	32	35	31	27	27	27	25	22	20	17	17	15	14	11	9	8	7
Sept 2019	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	3027
	In NPF	1	18	37	50	58	72	90	114	126	139	145	164	169	176	204	229	241	260
	%	100	36	37	33	29	29	30	29	25	23	21	21	19	18	14	11	10	9
From June report	In NPF variance	0	2	2	4	5	5	8	14	17	20	24	31	33	35	37	44	46	52
	% variance	0	4	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	2

- a. Since the process started to date; an additional 100 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.
3. We actively encourage engagement with the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC) framework that embed Modern Slavery Act considerations, within their procurement activities.
4. We have developed a Modern Slavery Policy which will be communicated to the wider University in 2019/20.

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 100 suppliers that accounted for 75% of our annual expenditure in 2018/19. As of October 2019, 37% of those suppliers are registered with Net Positive Futures, this is an improvement of 12% since January 2019. 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 contacted a great number of suppliers and have requested that they will engage with the tool as soon as possible. This work will continue in 2019/20.

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.

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:

- Communicate our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy;
- Continue to identify within our supply chain any suppliers of products or services that do not engage with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool;
- 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;
- develop guidance on slavery and human trafficking for internal purchasers; and develop training for key staff.

31st January 2020