Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

This statement is made in pursuant to Section 54 part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The University of Aberdeen is committed to acquiring goods and services for our use without causing harm to others and is committed to doing what we can to combat slavery and human trafficking. This statement reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships (in line with the University’s Sustainability and Social Responsibility Policy) and to implementing and enforcing systems and controls that seek to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place within our supply chains.

The University of Aberdeen is a member of Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC), the procurement centre of expertise for Scotland’s universities and colleges. The University benefits from its close links with APUC in a number of areas within sustainable procurement and is aligned to the APUC Code of Conduct ensuring consistency in approach to the Supply Chain. The University actively engages with APUC to support the inclusion of ethical sustainability, including addressing slavery and human trafficking, in their procurement programmes.

Purpose of the Statement

This statement is designed to demonstrate our commitment to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, (and specifically to section 54 (1)), and the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 by informing our students, staff, partners and the public about the University of Aberdeen and its policy with respect to modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations in its supply chains.

Key Categories

The following procurement categories have been identified as higher risk in terms of finding modern slavery and human trafficking occurrences in the supply chain: -

- Estates Goods, Services and Works
- ICT Equipment & Services
- Science, Technical, Engineering, Medical and Laboratory Goods and Services
- Residential Services
- Professional Services
When procuring goods, works and services in the higher risk categories the University ensures that suppliers are required to prove a high level of corporate social responsibility during the tendering and selection process.

**Future Plans**

As part of this reporting exercise in this and the coming years, the University expresses its commitment to better understand its supply chains and work towards greater transparency and responsibility towards people working within them.

The University will also continue to work with APUC on the use of sustainability tools for supplier assessment to ensure that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of its activities.

This statement will be updated on an annual basis.

Helane Gannicliffe

Head of Procurement
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