

Modern Slavery Statement

VCS organisations who are delivering public services under contract are likely to be asked about the measures they have in place to combat Modern Slavery. Your organisation may be invited to complete the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool (MSAT) which is a modern slavery risk identification and management tool developed by the Home Office. It has been designed to help public sector organisations work in partnership with suppliers to improve protections and reduce the risk of exploitation of workers in their supply chains. It also aims to help public sector organisations understand where there may be risks of modern slavery in the supply chains of goods and services they have procured. The tool asks suppliers questions about the processes they have in place for managing modern slavery risks and provides automated recommendations on how to improve their anti-modern slavery processes.

Public sector organisations are encouraged to use the MSAT with existing suppliers, and suppliers may be invited (not mandated) to complete the MSAT tool if appropriate given the scale and nature of the contracted service. The government guidance states that contracting authorities *“must be proportionate in their approach and not impose any unnecessary burdens that would deter a wide diversity of suppliers, including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) suppliers and those owned by under-represented groups, from competing for public contracts. This means they should not adopt a blanket approach to managing modern slavery risks - their approach should be proportionate based on the risks identified.”*

In most circumstances, a simplified version of a Modern Slavery Statement should be acceptable, and VCS organisation may use the example below:

Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires that certain organisations must publish an annual statement setting out the steps they take to prevent modern slavery in their business and their supply chains.

A commercial organisation is required to publish an annual statement if all the criteria below apply:

- it is a ‘body corporate’ or a partnership, wherever incorporated or formed
- it carries on a business, or part of a business, in the UK
- it supplies goods or services
- it has an annual turnover of £36 million or more

Charities must publish an annual statement if they meet the criteria. When deciding whether a charity meets the turnover criteria, income received from business activities, such as the provision of goods and services for a fee should be included. Donations, legacies and grants, where the donor receives no service or benefit, are generally not considered to be derived from business activities so do not need to be included.

(Insert name of charity) has a turnover that is well below this threshold and therefore is not required to publish a modern slavery statement.

Nevertheless, slavery and human trafficking are fundamentally opposed to the charity’s values. We are committed to treating all people with dignity and respect, to ensuring the organisations we work with meet our ethical standards and that our organisation and those we work with are free of modern slavery and human trafficking.

We are satisfied from our own due diligence and robust processes that there is no evidence of any slavery or human trafficking within the charity. This is reinforced by a framework of policies, including whistleblowing, recruitment and selection, grievance and safeguarding.

We use a wide range of suppliers to provide goods and services. We are committed to ensuring that our suppliers share in our high standards and that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our supply chain. Should any of our suppliers fail to meet these standards, we will act to review or terminate our relationship with them.

We will continue to review our policies and processes to ensure that they have appropriate and relevant references to modern slavery. Trustees and Senior Management of the charity take seriously their responsibility in fulfilling these aims and will ensure that the organisation achieves them.