

## MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

The enactment of The Modern Slavery Act into UK law during March 2015 was a pivotal milestone in fulfilling the aims and aspirations to combat Slavery and Human Trafficking here in the UK. The legislation provided authorities and other agencies the legal power and framework required to offer protection and criminal consequences for people seeking to exploit others. The Act and its enforcement are a key attribute for building the structure for social justice within our society. This Statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes De Montfort University's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2023.

This Statement details De Montfort University's response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and offers an outline of key areas where Slavery and Human Trafficking are deemed a higher risk area for potential prevalence within the University's supply chain.

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- Health and Life Sciences,
- Computing, Engineering and Media,
- Arts, Design and Humanities,

together with a number of professional services directorates.

We have a global annual turnover of £264.9 million

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The University also has a subsidiary company, De Montfort Expertise Limited, through which its commercial activities are provided.

### **Collaboration and partnership working**

The procurement function collaborates and shares best knowledge and practice with procurement representatives from other universities and public sector bodies.

### **Our supply chains**

The University's supply chains are in the main captured within the following high-level category groupings:

- Estates (Hard and Soft Facilities Management) Works, P

- Construction works sub-contractors and supply chains
- Estates; hard and soft facilities management services (such as maintenance, cleaning and security services)
- Food and catering
- Travel and accommodation (especially international)
- Office supplies/stationery
- ICT and Audio Visual (AV) equipment and products
- Laboratory and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies
- Clothing (promotional, sportswear and work wear)

The majority of the University's demand for office supplies and laboratory consumables is fulfilled by means of using national and regional agreements made available by the Higher Education Purchasing Consortia. A wide range of products are procured across all of these categories, many of which are sourced from international manufacturers operating in low-cost countries where modern forms of slavery are prevalent. The Consortia requests many of the suppliers in these high-risk areas to commit to the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and is working to persuade all suppliers in these categories to commit to the Base Code.

A significant proportion of the University's demand for ICT equipment and products, including

## **Due diligence processes for slavery and human trafficking**

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk, we have systems in place to:

- Identify and assess potential risk areas in our supply chains
- Mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains
- Monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains
- Protect whistle blowers

## **Supplier adherence to our values**

We have a zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. To ensure that all suppliers and contractors in our supply chain comply with our values we have the following procedures in place:

- a. We have a robust procurement policy, which forms part of the University's Financial Regulations approved by the University's Finance and Performance Committee, and which all staff at the University are obliged to follow. This policy is supported by a range of documented procedures, template documents, checklists and procurement guidance which include key content supporting management of the risks relating to modern slavery and human trafficking.
- b. Controls are in place within policies and procedures, which ensure that the tendering process for new suppliers and contractors and the management of the performance of, and relationship with, suppliers and contractors includes the provision and subsequent monitoring of compliance with the university's policies, including policies relating to slavery and human trafficking. Our supplier appraisal questionnaire also includes two declarations developed by Crow7 Tw 0.4d[t0.5 (m048 Tw 3.)-6 (ai)TJ-0.002 Tc 002 Tc3 (ur)1rdes)-2 ( )U21ng to

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