

# Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement

Heriot-Watt University

2017/18

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*Heriot-Watt is a specialist, pioneering University, with a global presence, world renowned, innovative research and highly employable graduates. We are specialists in business, engineering, design and the physical, social and life sciences – subjects which make a real impact on the world and society.*

*Heriot-Watt has strong links to international business and industry and a rich heritage stretching back to 1821. With our roots in Scotland, our ambition and reach are truly international. A leader in transnational education, wherever we are, Heriot-Watt is a powerful driver and engine of the economy. Together with our alumni, civic community and industry partners, we transform people, society and the world we live in.*

*Heriot-Watt University was named The Sunday Times Good University Guide's International University of the Year 2018. We have campuses in the UK, Dubai and Malaysia, over 100 learning partners worldwide and offer online learning. Around the world, there are over 27,000 students from 123 countries studying towards a Heriot-Watt University degree.*

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## Purpose

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, setting out the steps that Heriot-Watt University has taken during the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in our supply chains or any part of our business at the University.

## Our Structure and Activities

Heriot-Watt University strives to educate our students to flourish in their learning and life skills, and to deliver research and enterprise with profound impact on the communities that we serve. Our mission is to create and exchange knowledge that benefits society, putting community at the heart of everything we do. We have our own global reach and have adopted a highly differentiated and distinctly international strategy. Today, we have five principal locations in three countries.

Procurement Services supports the University in achieving its ambitions by delivering procurement solutions to facilitate excellence in research, education and enterprise in a socially responsible way. As a truly global university, Procurement Services recognise that we make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to the world.

## Our Commitment

The University recognises that modern slavery is a significant global human rights issue. Our commitment starts from protecting human rights and taking action to prevent slavery and human trafficking in all forms. The University acts ethically and with integrity in all of our global relationships. We use all reasonable endeavours to take action directly and within our sphere of influence to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place.

The University Executive and the University's governing body, Court, approved the institution's Procurement Strategy, Operational Plan and associated Sustainable Procurement Policy. These documents incorporate the University's sustainable and ethical procurement objectives, actions and tools used to embed or enhance sustainable objectives in the University's procurements.

## Our Supply Chains

The University buys goods, services and works in accordance with public procurement legislation. Our wide range of purchases include: construction works; workshop supplies; furniture; electronics including computers and audio visual; travel services; laboratory and research supplies including equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals; books and printing; professional services. We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

A large portion of the University's spend is with suppliers who are vetted and approved either by collaborative framework agreements or through public tenders managed by our Procurement Services team.

The risks of modern slavery in our direct activities is likely to be low as a result of the controls and systems that the University has in place. However, we recognise that there are potential risks of modern slavery occurring related to our international activities, particularly in high risk countries. Procurement Services work with colleagues in other universities, procurement bodies (such as APUC) and Government Agencies to inform and mitigate risks.

## Identifying and Mitigating Potential Risk in Our Supply Chains

The University is committed to acquiring goods and services for use without causing harm to others. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all of our business relationships.

The University has adopted tools and practices from the Scottish Government and APUC to address modern slavery and human trafficking. For all Regulated Procurements, the University uses a template tender document which includes full sustainable procurement references and a Modern Slavery Act compliance question. Further, the University issues a Supply Chain Code of Conduct, the principles of which cover social, ethical and environmental compliance as well as economic development. A procurement strategy is also developed to ensure any environmental, social or economic risks are mitigated with the commodity/service.

Every regulated procurement process conducted by the University requires tenderers to disclose whether the tenderer or any member of their organisation with decision-making powers has been convicted in the last five years of any offence under Part 1 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, or under any provision referred to in the Schedule of the Act. Tenderers that confirm such a conviction will be excluded from the process unless they can successfully demonstrate that they have self-cleansed.

To assess suppliers' compliance with the Supply Chain Code of Conduct, the University's Procurement Services team has access to Sustain - the APUC web-based assessment tool which links to the contracts database containing contracts/agreements used by the whole sector. The website assesses suppliers at three achievement/compliance levels in social, ethical, economic and environmental areas. The assessments are carried out by SA8000 trained staff within APUC's Development and Sustainability team. The tool enables procurement managers to view the status of their suppliers, and for sub-tier suppliers to be linked/assessed.

The University is also an associate member of Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe.

As the University uses many national and sectoral framework agreements to let contracts, it is also relevant that APUC has undertaken prioritisation on 137 framework agreements either led or promoted by APUC. This is to understand the key sustainable procurement risks and opportunities for each agreement, which includes possible labour concerns. This helps APUC to assess which agreements and suppliers should be audited on compliance with its code of conduct.

Procurement Services staff have participated in training events, engaged with the sector at conferences and briefings and attended webinars to increase awareness and understanding of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We continue to share and communicate knowledge and risks to relevant stakeholders and devolved buyers across the University.

## Next Steps

- Procurement Services staff will continue to share best practice and deliver any relevant training to devolved buyers throughout the University in order to continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking risk.
- Procurement Services will continue to research and assess risks in prioritised procurement categories and ask identified suppliers about their actions to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains.
- The University will review its terms and conditions of purchase to include a clause which specifically addresses modern slavery and human trafficking.