

Edge Hill University

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Financial Year 2019/20

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 2020.

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 13,540 students registered on courses in the UK and overseas. We employ 3,013 people and have an income of £119,296m for the financial year ending 31st July 2020.

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 (VFM) 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 from August 2019 to July 2020

1. We extended the scope and selected the top 1600 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 1600 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).

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		
June 2020	No of suppliers (top to bottom)	1	50	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500	3810
	In NPF	1	24	43	63	78	95	111	147	169	186	203	218	231	245	295	325	347	361	379	407
	%	100	48	43	42	39	38	37	37	34	31	29	27	26	25	20	16	14	12	11	11

- a. Since the process started to date; an additional 247 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) and The Universities Catering Organisation (TUCO) frameworks that embed Modern Slavery Act considerations, within their procurement activities.
4. The Modern Slavery Policy has been supported by the Value For Money (VFM) group and communicated to the wider University in 2019/20, this was completed across all support functions and faculty. To really drive an awareness into the fabric of the University, as part of new staff induction, they will receive information about modern slavery and signposts to the statement and policy document.

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 continue to focus on our top 100 suppliers by value, that accounted for approx. 75% of our annual expenditure in 2019/20. As of June 2020, 43% of those suppliers are now registered with Net Positive Futures, this is an improvement of 8% since the same period the previous year. 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 engage with the tool as soon as possible. This work will continue in 2020/21. Additionally, we will also now include identifying if those suppliers within our top 100 that have not signed up to the HE tool have a statement and/or policy on their website.

Since December 2019, we have also been completing 6 weekly Modern Slavery audits around the campus. This involves approaching all contractors and agency staff on site, requesting their name, company name and purpose of their visit. We then contact their head office and request that they confirm that the contractor or agency staff member on site has completed the appropriate right to work in the UK checks. We have challenged over 50 contractors and agency staff to date. This is a practical step to ensure that contractors and agencies demonstrate due diligence and are aware that we take the risk of Modern Slavery very seriously at Edge Hill University.

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.

Planned actions for August 2020 to July 2021

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:

- We will communicate our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy through our induction process to all new starters;
- We will actively promote the Modern Slavery Policy on our internal wiki;
- We will continue to identify within our top 100 supply chain, any suppliers of products or services that do not engage with the NETpositive Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool; this will lead to further requests to engage with the tool or identifying if they already have a statement and/or policy. This will then be recorded on our register.
- We will continue to complete the Modern Slavery contractor and agency staff audits.
- We will 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;

31st January 2021