



## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement**

**23 March 2017**

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### **Introduction**

This statement is made to satisfy the requirements of section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the University's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2016 outlining the steps York St John University has taken to combat modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations in its supply chains.

### **About the University**

York St John University is a higher education establishment, with a student population of around 6,000 students and employs around 1,200 substantive and casual staff. The University has an annual turnover of around £60 million and spends around £17m per annum on goods and services plus an additional £6m on its capital investments programme.

### **Identified risks and steps being taken**

#### Employment of staff

The University mitigates the risk of modern slavery occurring in its workforce by having in place robust staff recruitment and selection policies and procedures, supplemented by mandatory training for managers. The University's Code of Conduct for staff requires employees to adhere to the employment policies of the University and a Whistleblowing Policy is in place for members of staff to raise any concerns.

Agency staff are only recruited through established and reputable sources that can provide assurance that they comply fully with the requirements of the legislation relating to the rights and welfare of their workers.

#### Students

Although the risks of students experiencing occurrences of modern slavery or human trafficking through direct contact with the University are extremely low it is appreciated that whilst living within the local area they may become aware of such instances or on very rare occasions be entrapped into adopting the life style of a modern slave. In order to mitigate these circumstances the University has in place easily accessible channels through which students can obtain assistance, support and advice on their wellbeing.

## Supply chain

The University's supply chain has been identified as the area of highest risk in terms of possible occurrences of modern slavery. In order to mitigate this risk the following action has been taken:

The University has reviewed its Procurement policy, strategy and procedures during the last year. As part of the supplier selection process suppliers are asked to confirm their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The University is a member of the North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium (NEUPC), which is itself a member of Procurement England Ltd (PEL) and UK Universities Procurement Consortia (UKUPC), bodies dedicated to improving both the quality of procurement and the level of collaborative procurement across the HE sector. Together these consortia have published a shared Sustainability Policy to which all members, including the University, are committed. This policy sets out the steps that must be taken in major contract procurement processes that are conducted for consortium members, to help to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not occurring in the supply chain.

The University has zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking. Any supplier or potential supplier who does not adhere to our values or is found not to be compliant with the processes outlined above will be suspended or removed from the University's supplier list and will not be considered for future supply to the University unless they are able to demonstrate full adherence with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act and the University's own policies and procedures.

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

The University's Whistleblowing Policy is available on its website at this [link](#).

This statement has been approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed at least once annually.



**Karen Stanton**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**23 March 2017**