

Leeds Beckett University's fourth Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2018/19

Introduction

We are a modern, professional University, based in the vibrant city of Leeds. With a 190-year history of education, which began with the founding of the Leeds Mechanics Institute in 1824, we are proud of our history and ambitious for our future. Our vision is to be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged University contributing positively to a thriving Northern economy.

Our aspiration is to create great graduates, exceptional employees, dynamic citizens and enterprising leaders. We work closely with employers and partners to ensure that our graduates are ready for work, ready for life, and ready to seize the opportunities that lie ahead.

We have a diverse community of almost 24,000 students studying our programmes, of which 17,900 are in full-time study and 5,700 are pursuing flexible part-time study. There are an additional 1,700 students studying our programmes overseas. Our international students come to study with us in Leeds from 109 different countries.

Our University has 2,235 dedicated and talented members of staff based across our two campuses: the city centre site based in the civic quarter of Leeds and our Headingley campus adjacent to the Beckett Park area of the city. With an annual turnover of £216m, we contribute an estimated £500m to the regional economy. Around two-thirds of our graduates stay in the region, contributing their skills and talents to the regional economy.

We have an Ethics Policy Framework, which sets out the context, values and associated policy framework through which we seek to apply the highest standards of ethical conduct and behaviour in all aspects of our business. We have signed up to the Leeds Social Value Charter, which includes being sustainable, fair and ethical in all that we do as one of its guiding principles, including paying suppliers on time, paying our staff the living wage, paying a fair share of taxes and being open, transparent and fair in all of our working relationships.

This is our fourth Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement, providing an update on the steps we have taken over the last 12 months to continue to support the aims of the Modern Slavery Act.

Action taken over the last 12 months

The key risks to the University are in our supply chains, therefore, the Head of Procurement is the lead on our action plan. This year we made the following progress, in line with the commitments made in our 2017/18 statement:

- Promoting awareness and training to all key stakeholders including a communication on anti-slavery day;
- increasing the number of suppliers on our sustainability tool from 395 to 568. 98% are aware of Modern Slavery and have action plans. 2% of suppliers are not aware however, the Modern Slavery Act does not apply to them;
- working with the NEUPC Responsible Procurement Group to scope a supply chain mapping exercise for high risk suppliers. We will complete this with the help of Leeds Beckett students;
- we have two new buildings under construction. As this area was identified as high risk of modern slavery we liaised with both contractors about their steps to eradicate Modern

Slavery and ensure it was not taking place on our builds. We have satisfied ourselves that the necessary steps have been taken on both construction projects which includes a full induction and vetting of everyone working on site.

Future plans

We will continue to work through our action plan including:

- promoting awareness and training to our stakeholders;
- supporting key suppliers with their action plans through contract management to satisfy ourselves that they share our objective to prevent modern slavery in their organisations and in their supply chains;
- Working collaboratively with the NEUPC to share good practice and support our suppliers through training, recognition of good practice and supply chain mapping

This statement was approved by our University's Finance, Staffing and Resources Committee on 31 January 2020, will be reviewed at least once annually in the future and is available from our public information pages here <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/-/media/files/about/governance/txslaveryandhumantraffickingstatement.pdf?la=en>.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Governors by Professor Peter Slee, Vice Chancellor
31 January 2020



PROF PETER SLEE

31.01.2020