

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – King’s College London Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy

Policy Category:	Financial
Subject:	Modern slavery and human trafficking – compliance with 2015 Act
Approving Authority:	University Executive
Responsible Officer:	Senior Vice-President (Operations)
Responsible Office:	Procurement Strategy & Services/Human Resources
Related Procedures:	Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement
Related College Policies:	Whistleblowing Policy Socially Responsible Procurement Policy Financial Regulations Financial Procedures Procurement Policy/Guidelines Harassment and Bullying Guidance
Effective Date:	1 November 2023
Supersedes:	July 2019
Next Review:	November 2026

1. Vision and Values

- 1.1 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 in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.
- 1.2 The University has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in its own business or in any of its supply chains.
- 1.3 The University is also committed to ensuring there is transparency in all its business and in its approach to tackling modern slavery throughout its supply chains, consistent with its disclosure obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The University publishes its Transparency Statement each year on its landing page: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policyhub/modern-slavery-act-transparency-statement-1>. The same high standards are expected from all of the University's contractors, suppliers and other business partners. Wherever practicable, the University will seek to include in its contracts with business partners (which includes suppliers, collaborators and grant recipients) specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory or trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude, whether adults or children, and we expect that its business partners will hold their own partners to the same high standards.

2. Scope of Policy

- 2.1 This policy applies to all persons working for the University or on its behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners.

2.2 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

3. Responsibility for Policy

3.1 College Council has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy complies with the University's legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under its control comply with it.

3.2 Chief Procurement Officer and Vice President (People and Talent), "Chief People Officer", has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering modern slavery.

3.3 Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it and the issue of modern slavery in supply chains. Comment is invited on this policy and suggestions on ways in which it might be improved. These are encouraged and should be addressed to Chief Procurement Officer or Chief People Officer depending on whether the issue relates to third party contracts or employment processes.

4. Compliance with the policy

4.1 All staff must ensure that they read, understand and comply with this policy.

4.2 The prevention, detection and reporting of modern slavery in any part of the business or supply chains is the responsibility of all those working for or on behalf of the University. You are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.

4.3 All staff are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of modern slavery in any parts of the University's business or supply chains at any level of supply at the earliest possible stage.

4.4 If a member of staff believes or suspects a breach of this policy has occurred or that it may occur they must notify their manager, the Chief Procurement Officer, the Chief People Officer or report it in accordance with the University's [Whistleblowing Policy](#) as soon as possible.

4.5 If a member of staff is unsure about whether a particular act, the treatment of workers more generally, or the working conditions within any tier of the University's supply chain(s) constitutes any of the various forms of modern slavery, this must be raised with the respective line manager, the Chief Procurement Officer or the Chief People Officer.

4.6 The University encourages openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

4.7 The University is committed to ensuring that no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of reporting in good faith their suspicion that modern slavery of whatever form is or may be taking place in any part of its own business or in any of its supply chains. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, victimisation, threats or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If a member of staff believes that they have suffered any such treatment, they must inform the Chief Procurement Officer or Chief

People Officer immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and they are an employee, it must be raised formally using the University 'Grievance Procedure' which can be found at: <https://internal.kcl.ac.uk/hr/info/grievance.aspx>

5. Communication and awareness of this policy

5.1 Training on this policy, and on the risk that University business faces from modern slavery in its supply chains, will be provided as necessary. Such training forms part of the induction process for all individuals who work for the institution.

6. Breaches of this policy

6.1 The University's zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors and business partners at the outset of our business relationship with them and reinforced as appropriate thereafter.

6.2 Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for misconduct or gross misconduct.

6.3 The University may terminate its relationship with other individuals and organisations working on its behalf if they breach this policy.

7. Interaction with other Workplace Policies and Procedures

7.1 This modern slavery and human trafficking policy is consequential with the following workplace policies and procedures that can be found within the [Governance Zone](#) of the University's internet pages. All those to whom this policy applies are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the policies detailed below. Any queries regarding this policy should be directed to the Chief Procurement Officer or Chief People Officer.

- [Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- [Socially Responsible Procurement Policy](#)
- [Financial Regulations](#)
- [Financial Procedures](#)
- [Procurement Policy/Guidelines](#)
- [Harassment and Bullying Guidance](#)