



King's College London Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2017-18

This statement is produced under the university's obligation to publish an annual 'Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement' in accordance with the provisions of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

King's College London has the stated corporate strategic Vision 'to make the world a better place'. . As such, the university is committed to ensuring that mechanisms are in place to prevent business being undertaken with an organisation that has not adopted appropriate steps to ensure that human rights abuses is not taking place in any of its supply chains. Accordingly, all potential suppliers to the Institution are required to provide written assurance of their compliance with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and other social legislation. King's terms and conditions of contract make it a requirement on those it does business with to provide assurance that workers in their organisation and in their supply chain are not subject to inhumane practices and that their welfare is properly protected.

The university comprises ten Professional Services Directorates and nine Faculties, these total upwards of 327 Departments¹, and there are numerous research groups within each faculty. As the Institution operates on a system of devolved budgets, control over the day-to-day spend of these groups is delegated through line management in accordance with the university's Financial Regulations and Procedures and Purchasing Policy.

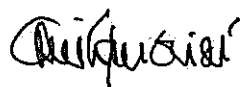
In academic year 2017-18, the operating expenditure of the university including Agency and contract staff costs was £302.540m, and of this approximately £203.266m was spent on goods, works and services with around 7100 different suppliers. The nature of this business falls predominantly within the following categories:

- Estates and Facilities - Capital Projects, Minor Works and Utilities
- Premises Services – Catering, Guarding and Cleaning Services
- ICT Equipment and Services – Computing, Communications and Audio Visual
- Laboratory Supplies - Research and Scientific Equipment and Consumables
- Library Provisions – Books, e-journals and subscriptions
- Professional Resources – Consultancy (Estates, ICT, Finance) Legal Services
- Corporate Business Services – Travel and Accommodation
- Temporary Staff – Agency, Contract and Fixed Term
- Office Supplies – Stationery, Printing, Postage and Furniture

The university takes a proportionate approach to procurement which allows for low value spend to be procured locally but requires that the Procurement Office is consulted for expenditure above £25 k in accordance with the terms of grant giving bodies and above £50 k for non grant funded spend. Quotes can be taken for expenditure up to £50 k and over this a formal process is required. However, the university's procurement practices and processes are currently subject to a review and a transformation process to better ensure value for money is achieved and that the university's strategic objectives are met. In particular, templates which can be used for all values of procurement are being developed and will be made compulsory to better ensure compliance with the university's high ethical standards for workers' human rights throughout the supply chain.

The university is vigilant in all areas of activity that may be open to the risk of slavery, trafficking and human rights abuses generally taking place but it enhances the questions asked in the selection and evaluation stages of procurements where risks are highest such as when purchasing garments, electronics and medical equipment.

During the past year a new finance system has been implemented which has improved the university's ability to oversee its supply chain. All new suppliers are required to confirm compliance with provisions of the Modern Slavery Act and terms and conditions of contract specify the standards we require from contractors as regards the welfare of their staff and those in their supply chain. The university is also in the process of implementing a Socially Responsible Procurement Policy which, will better ensure that social benefits are gained and risks of damage to society are reduced when procuring third party contracts. A transformation programme for procurement is under way to improve the way the university purchases goods and services. This will result in better controls of how the university procures and training for staff involved with the purchasing of goods and services to ensure we achieve better value for money and social benefits through the process. An audit will take place during 2019 to measure compliance of the university's suppliers of their obligations under relevant social legislation including the Modern Slavery Act but also to go further to ensure they adhere to the university's high ethical standards for workers and society generally, including the payment of the London living wage and protection of the environment.



Lord Geidt
Chair of King's College Council

Date 13/2/2019