Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2019

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 are 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 Departments, 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 2018-19, the contractual expenditure of the university on goods, works and services was approx. £185M with around 6000 different suppliers. The nature of this expenditure 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, Recruitment and Legal Services
• Corporate Business Services - Travel and Accommodation
• 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 £25k in accordance with the terms of grant giving bodies and above £50k for non-grant funded spend. Quotes can be taken for expenditure up to £50k and over this a formal process is required.

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 has implemented 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. The university is implementing a supplier assurance tool which will allow on-going audits of our supply chain’s adherence to our modern slavery and other policies.

Angharad

Lord Geidt
Chair of King’s College Council

Date 5th February 2020