

Leeds Beckett University's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022/23

Published 10/11/23

Leeds Beckett University has over 2,100 staff who are based across the University's two campuses: the City Campus in the civic quarter of Leeds and its Headingley Campus.

Leeds Beckett University supports 23,336 students from 115 countries, of whom 19,831 study full-time and 3,535 part-time.

We are an anchor institution for Leeds and the wider region, committed formally to maximise our positive impact for the communities we serve. In 2022 London Economics estimated that the university delivers a £1.43bn impact for the UK economy of which £900m falls in Leeds.

Our purpose is to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities through excellent education, research and service and to measure our impact through sustainable social, economic and cultural benefit for the communities we serve.

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

Policies

Leeds Beckett University has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery. As detailed in our supplier terms and conditions, it is a breach of contract if suppliers do not comply with the Act and take steps to prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. We are also committed to acting ethically and with integrity in our operations.

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 are committed to high standards of openness, probity and accountability and have a Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure in place to promote that culture.

We are committed to providing a vibrant, ethical and sustainable working and learning environment that values equality and diversity.

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.

We are part of the Leeds Anchors Network, working in partnership with the biggest organisations in the city to maximise the local benefits from our spending, services and recruitment.

Supply Chains

Our supply chains fall under the following Procurement Categories:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Estates | IT, Telecoms and Audio Visual |
| Facilities Management | Consumables |
| Professional Services & Travel | |

Due diligence process

Each Category Manager undertakes a sustainability impact analysis of their Procurement Category in order to assess the risk of modern slavery and wider environmental issues which can be found in the individual Category Strategy. Thereafter, sustainability and modern slavery risks are monitored through contract management and our sustainability engagement tool NETpositives.

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. In 2022/23 we made the following progress, in line with commitments made in our 2021/22 statement:

- We continue to develop procurement processes and procedures to ensure sustainability and modern slavery risks can be clearly identified and monitored. In 2022/23 this included increasing the number of key suppliers registered and creating action plans on our Netpositives sustainability tool with 98% of suppliers aware of the Modern Slavery Act;
- We promoted awareness and training to key stakeholders and suppliers including targeted communications to over 700 staff and 600 suppliers during anti-slavery week, reminding them of their commitments under the Act and training resources available. Key procurement staff also attended refresher training;
- We renewed our Estates and Professional Services Category Strategies which included risk analysis on sustainability including Modern Slavery;
- We continued to work in collaboration with the NEUPC (North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium) to develop procedures, training, scope supply chain mapping for high risk suppliers and produce a sustainability question bank for tenders and sustainability tools;
- We engaged with our construction contractors on major works contracts undertaking additional due diligence on modern slavery. Our largest contractor provided copies of policies & statements, shared work they're undertaking with an anti-slavery charity, detailed additional checks in their supply chain and ensured temporary staff (deemed the highest risk area) is always sourced through contracted agencies where additional checks are conducted;

- In August 2022 we became an affiliate member of Electronics Watch (EW), an organisation which helps public sector organisations to work together and collaborate with civil society monitors in production regions, to protect the rights of workers in their electronics supply chains. We provided product data to support selection of manufacturers and factories to focus on and we will also issue Factory Disclosure Forms to key suppliers;
- We introduced the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct in all tenders, committing our suppliers to undertake responsible procurement themselves and work towards reducing ethical and environmental issues within their supply chain, including forced labour and Modern Slavery.


Future plans

We will continue to review this statement annually and work through our action plan including:

- Promoting awareness and training to our internal stakeholders and suppliers, including a targeted communication on Anti-Slavery Day;
- 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 on Modern Slavery commitments including updating the induction webinar for suppliers;
- Reviewing our supplier database in the Netpositives Sustainability tool to ensure key suppliers are registered and action plans are up to date;
- Continuing to support Electronics Watch with product updates and completion of Factory Disclosure Forms by key suppliers.

This statement was approved by our University's Governance and Nominations Committee on the 14th October 2023, will be reviewed at least once annually in the future and is available from our public information pages here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/-/media/files/our-university/governance/slaveryandhumantraffickingstatement.pdf>



Signed on behalf of the Board of Governors by Professor Peter Slee, Vice Chancellor
14th October 2023