

**Oxford Brookes University: Transparency in Supply chains: Anti Modern Slavery and Human
Trafficking Statement**

Version 6

Approved by the Vice Chancellors Group

2021/22

Procurement Department

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1. INTRODUCTION

Oxford Brookes is one of the UK's leading modern universities and enjoys an international reputation for teaching excellence and innovation as well as strong links with business and industry.

Oxford Brookes University remains committed to supporting the UK Government's National Action Plan, to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by following and supporting the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI).

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This statement seeks to inform:

- our staff
- students
- anybody acting on behalf of or conducting business for, Oxford Brookes University
- the public

about Oxford Brookes University and our policy with respect to modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations in our supply chains. This statement includes the steps taken to identify, prevent and mitigate the risks.

This is Oxford Brookes University's fifth annual statement to be published under the Act.

2. ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University began building its current estate in the 1950s with the establishment of the Headington Campus and now includes two other campuses at Wheatley and Harcourt Hill as well as a satellite campus in Swindon.

All campuses include libraries, 24-hour computer rooms and social spaces, as well as specialist facilities for the subjects studied there. Generally considered to be the main campus, Headington is split into three sites: Headington Road (Gipsy Lane), Headington Hill and Marston Road. The University also has multiple halls of residence, both on-campus and off-campus.

3. OUR POLICY

Oxford Brookes University's [Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy](#) reflects our commitment to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains and that any acquisition of goods, services or works is without instigating harm to others.

Oxford Brookes University actively engages with its purchasing consortia to support the inclusion of ethical sustainability, including addressing the abolition of slavery and human trafficking in their procurement programmes. Through this Oxford Brookes University maintains its zero-tolerance policy to slavery and human trafficking in any part of its supply chain.

The SUPC Purchasing Consortia have also published policies, to which all its members, including Oxford Brookes University, are committed. These policies aim to ensure that steps are undertaken within the

procurement of major contracts, for its consortia members, and that they are checked for risks within modern slavery and human trafficking.

4. SPEND CATEGORIES AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Oxford Brookes University's supply chains are split into 6 'super-categories', which are:

1. Audio Visual, Computing and Telecommunications
2. Estates and Facilities
3. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics' Education (STEMed), Laboratory Consumables and Equipment
4. Print and Office Consumables and Equipment
5. Professional Services
6. Travel and Travel Related Services

In our [previous statements](#), we identified the main categories of goods, services and works that present a higher risk of human rights abuses. Oxford Brookes University has maintained and actively promoted transparency and accountability within its supply chains and all procurement processes and activities.

Since then, Oxford Brookes University has advanced its knowledge and understanding of these risks and is continually employing strategies and delivering procurement processes to address them including embedding the Modern Slavery Act considerations into our procurement process from the Standard Selection Questionnaire through to Contract Management.

Due diligence systems for processes and reporting have now been evaluated to ensure improvements towards risk identification for long-term social, ethical, environmental and financial performance.

Oxford Brookes University remains proactive with both whistleblowing and the use of modern slavery helplines to identify breaches of policy and contractual provisions and ensures potential whistle blowers are protected.

5. TRAINING

To ensure a high level of understanding, regarding the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking, Oxford Brookes University will continue to provide relevant training for staff.

Oxford Brookes University's central Procurement Team will continue to undertake the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) on-line training for its annual module on ethical procurement and supply.

Oxford Brookes University will continue to work with sector colleagues to share best practice and keep up to date on identifying and assessing risks within our supply chain, including, through involvement with the Purchasing Consortium.

6. DUE DILLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Oxford Brookes University has continued to express its commitment to work towards greater transparency and responsibility within and for the people working within its supply chains. Focusing upon tackling modern slavery to protect vulnerable workers and remedy severe human rights violations has supported this.

The predominant targets for 20/21 were to ensure the continuation of knowledge and awareness of Modern Slavery across the University and Higher Education Sector and to explore data from the Net Positives tool. This continual engagement has allowed the University to appropriately support our suppliers and establish a baseline of best practice amongst our supply chains.

Since the last statement, high-level improvements supported by the Net Positive illustrates:

1. Continued growth in supplier adoption from 66 suppliers in 2018 to now a total of 951 suppliers signed up to the Net Positive Tool.
2. Our supply base on the Net Positive tool continuously identifies high level issues within their supply chains. These are grouped into Environmental, Economic and Social categories and this year there was a substantial increase of 105% in issues identified since the previous financial year.
 - Environmental issues now represent 35% of the identified high-level issues
 - Economic issues now represent 36% of the identified high-level issues, and,
 - Social issues now represent 30% of the identified high-level issues.

This increase, however, is reflective of the disruptions that have been felt across supply chains due to global crises such as COVID-19, the Russian invasion of Ukraine etc. which have subsequently caused further detrimental supply chain issues such as, but not limited to, erroneous and extended shipping leading to environmental impacts; shortages of products generating economic impacts; and labour insecurity inducing social impacts.

However, our suppliers identifying these issues with associated action plans demonstrate a positive and continuous commitment in aiding the mitigation of these identified issues.

3. There has been a small 0.5% decrease in the number of actions committed to improving areas of weaknesses within organisations and supply chains in the above high-level issues. However, this is encouragingly reinforced by a 1.7% increase in the number of completed actions (with evidence).
4. Even with the increase in suppliers on the Net Positive the number of suppliers aware of their Modern Slavery obligations in 2021/22 has remained constant at 97%.

7. DUE DILIGENCE DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2022/23

The aims and developments planned include:

To target suppliers which can be categorised within the Universities high risk, high value contracts who have not engaged with the Net Positive Tool, especially due to the dynamics of the current market within indirect procurement industries.

To publish the University's Modern Slavery Statements on the Governments Modern Slavery Statement registry to enhance transparency and fulfil the University's publication obligations.

To continue to embed Modern Slavery considerations and increase knowledge and awareness on Modern slavery for stakeholders across the University.

To furnish our internal stakeholders with the tools to manage high level issues with effective contract management especially within our higher risk supply categories to increase comprehension, due diligence and best practice of all parties.

To continue working with peers across the sector to share and learn about the best practice approaches to tackle Modern Slavery within supply chains.

This Statement has been approved by the Vice Chancellors Group and published by Oxford Brookes University and will continue to be reviewed and approved on an annual basis.