Modern slavery and human trafficking statement

Introduction

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.

We are committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st July 2017.

Organisational structure

We are a University in the United Kingdom higher education sector. We are registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Reg No. 3285547) and as a Charity (Reg No. 1060579). We are an ecumenical Christian Foundation.

Our primary activities are the delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and the undertaking of research and scholarship in Liverpool, England. We have partnerships with like-minded institutions in many countries to facilitate cooperation in delivering higher education and research.

We had an annual turnover of £51,307,062 in the financial year ending 31st July 2017 and we employed 652 staff (average fte) in the year.

The Company Secretary is responsible for ensuring that this Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement is reviewed at the Annual General Meeting of University Council.

Our supply chains

Our supply chains include construction services and supplies, utilities, buildings maintenance, food and catering supplies, furniture and stationery, electronics (computers, audio visual, etc.), books and printing materials, lab supplies, digital services, employment agencies, international student recruitment agents, other professional services and other ad hoc contracted services. A large
proportion is bought through frameworks established by collaborative consortia, including the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium and the Crown Commercial Service.

It is the intention during the year ending 31st July 2018 to undertake a supply chain risk assessment to identify any potential gaps in compliance with our zero tolerance approach to modern slavery and human trafficking.

The University has a well-established Procurement Process overseen by the Director of Finance and managed on a daily basis by a qualified Procurement Manager.

Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business and to that end will put in place a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy by the end of the current academic year. This will demonstrate explicitly our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

Training

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we intend to provide training to relevant staff following adoption of the Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

Further steps

In addition to the policy development and training provision identified above, we intend to develop KPIs to measure our commitment to eradicating the possibility of slavery or human trafficking appearing in our supply chains.

[Signature]

Revd Canon Peter Winn
Chair of University Council
28th November 2017