Leeds Beckett University's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2021/22

Introduction

Leeds Beckett University is a modern, professional university with ambition. We are proud of our history of education, which began with the founding of the Leeds Mechanics Institute in 1824.

Leeds Polytechnic was established in 1970 and it brought together a number of specialist colleges to meet an increasing demand for professional and technical education in the city. It was the largest polytechnic in Yorkshire with 3,000 full-time students and 4,000 part-time students, with around 450 full-time teaching colleagues.

Today, the University has 2,223 dedicated and talented members of staff who are based across the University’s two campuses: the City Campus in the civic quarter of Leeds and its leafy Headingley Campus.

Leeds Beckett University is a community of more than 23,500 students, of whom 19,700 are in full-time study and 3,800 study part-time. International students come to study with us from over 140 different countries.

We place huge importance on our role as an anchor institution for Leeds and the wider region, maximising the benefit our presence delivers directly and indirectly to our communities. Leeds Beckett makes a significant impact to the economy, through our teaching and learning, our research and the value of our spending. Every year, the university delivers a £1.43bn impact on the UK economy.

Our vision is to be an excellent, accessible and globally engaged university, contributing positively to a thriving northern economy and our mission is to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities through excellent education, research and service.

We aspire to create graduates who will become exceptional employees, dynamic citizens and enterprising leaders. We work closely with employers and partners to ensure that our graduates are ready for work, ready for life, and ready to seize all the opportunities that lie ahead.

This is our seventh 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 categories:

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<td>Professional Svs</td>
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**Due diligence process**

Each Category Manager undertakes a sustainability impact analysis of their category area 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 NETpositive.

**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 2021/22 we have made the following progress in line with the commitments made in our 2020/21 statement:

- We continue to develop procurement processes and procedures to ensure sustainability and modern slavery risks can be clearly identified and monitored. In 2021/22 this included increasing the number of suppliers on our Netpositives sustainability tool from 671 to 739, 98% of suppliers are aware of the Modern Slavery Act and 50% have made a public commitment to taking action against Modern Slavery.
- We promote awareness and training to all key stakeholders and reminded them of their responsibilities under the Act. In 2021/22 this included targeted promotions to the Sustainability Advisory Group, Equality & Diversity Committee, all staff via LBU Voices and over 700 key staff on Anti-Slavery Day. We also promoted a supplier webinar on our webpages covering key sustainability drivers in HE and reminding suppliers of their obligations. Key procurement staff also attended a refresher training workshop;
• We renewed our Procurement Strategy which includes actions on Modern Slavery and Social Value, including those detailed in this statement
• We continue 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 with targeted Modern Slavery questions.
• We are engaging with suppliers on our works contracts to undertake additional due diligence on 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 to update the Modern Slavery induction webinar for suppliers, roll out a code of conduct for suppliers to ensure they undertake responsible procurement themselves in their supply chains, map the ethical and modern slavery risks in the supply base and develop due diligence and supply chain mapping methodology for Tier 1 suppliers;
• refresh responsible procurement policies and procedures to enhance social value focus, in particular Skills and Employment, Diverse Supply Chains, Environment and Safe Supply Chains;
• mandate annual modern slavery statements as a condition of award on contracts deemed high risk on modern slavery.

This statement was approved by our University’s Governance and Nominations Committee on the 14th October 2022, 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
28th October 2022