Leeds Beckett University’s Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2020/21

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 approximately 2,700 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 24,614 students, of which 20,0889 are in full-time study and 4,530 study part-time.

With an annual turnover of £233m, we contribute an estimated £500m to the regional economy. Around two thirds of our graduates stay in the region, contributing their skills and talent to the regional 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 ensure that its knowledge and resources are used to make a decisive and positive difference to people, communities and organisations.

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 the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

This is our sixth 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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estates</th>
<th>IT and Telecoms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Management</td>
<td>Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>Audio Visual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Consumables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 2020/21 we have made the following progress in line with the commitments made in our 2019/20 statement:

- developed procurement processes and procedures to ensure sustainability and modern slavery risks can be clearly identified and monitored. This included mandating supplier registration with the NETpositive sustainability tool on contract award, including a minimum 10% social value weighting in tender evaluation criteria and a reminder to suppliers to submit their modern slavery statements through the supplier self-assessment questionnaire;
- promoted awareness and training to all key stakeholders and reminded them of their responsibilities under the Act. This included targeted promotions to the Sustainability Advisory Group, Equality & Diversity Committee, all staff via the Leeds Beckett Voices publication 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. Central Procurement staff were given access to the updated sector resources on modern slavery and human rights;

- created a placement opportunity for one of our students to encourage more suppliers to engage with our NETpositives sustainability tool. As a result, we increased the number of suppliers registered on the tool from 586 to 671. The tool allows us a single mechanism to engage contracted suppliers with the issues of modern slavery and track the actions and progress made by our supply chain. 98% are aware of Modern Slavery and have action plans (The Modern Slavery Act does not apply to the remaining 2%);
- worked in collaboration with the NEUPC (North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium) to continue to develop procedures, access training resources, scope supply chain mapping for high risk suppliers and produce a sustainability question bank for tenders with targeted Modern Slavery questions.

**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;
- create another student placement opportunity to support our action plan including producing Modern Slavery reports from the NETpositives tool.

This statement was approved by our University’s Governance and Nominations Committee on the 16th October 2021, 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
10 November 2021