

UWS - Modern Slavery Act - Transparency Statement

In 2016, the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015) came into force, which requires manufacturers, commercial organisations and retailers with an annual turnover of £36 million to publish a statement detailing what actions they are taking to eradicate slavery and human trafficking in their own operations and in their supply chains.

The University of the West of Scotland is committed to ensuring procurement activities are carried out in an environmentally, social, ethically and economically responsible manner, and to entering into agreements and contracts with suppliers that share and adhere to this commitment.

Much of the University's procurement of goods and services is carried out through APUC (Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges) Ltd of which UWS is a member. APUC require all suppliers to sign a supply chain code of conduct to acknowledge their compliance with the code in respect of their organisation and their supply chain. The code of conduct includes confirmation that the supplier does not use forced, involuntary or underage labour, provides suitable working conditions and terms and treats employees fairly.

As part of APUC's standard template for supplier's tendering for the award of a contract a pass/fail question requires to be answered: *"Does the supplier meet its obligations under the Modern Slavery Act?"* A further (non-mandatory) question allows the tender to be scored on a graded basis as part of the award criteria: *"What measures will you take to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in your supply chains?"*

UWS fully supports and subscribes to the Suppliers' Charter, an initiative introduced by Procurement Scotland.

This statement is made in 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. This statement will be reviewed annually.