North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium (NEUPC)

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

The following statement is made on behalf of NEUPC Ltd in acknowledgement of section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the “Act”) and constitutes its slavery and human trafficking statement.

North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium Ltd (NEUPC) is one of six UK Higher Education purchasing consortia established to deliver and manage a wide range of collaborative framework agreements within the higher and further education sector.

Our Policies

As a member of Procurement England Limited (PEL), NEUPC is signed up to the principles of their Sustainable Procurement Policy and works collaboratively to improve sustainable procurement practices within the HE and FE Sector.

NEUPC is committed to ensuring we act ethically in all our commercial relationships and enforce effective processes to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of its supply chains or in the undertaking of its operations.

Due Diligence

NEUPC has developed an action plan to best address the risk of slavery and human trafficking in its supply chain:

- Promotion of the NETPositive tool in all future framework procurements.
- Establish NETPositives tool with framework suppliers and regularly monitor through review meetings to ensure continuous improvement to combat sustainability issues.
- Promoting NEUPC slavery and human trafficking statement to the membership and the wider public.
- All organisations with a turnover of over £36m to be asked to provide a copy of their Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement.
- For turnover < £36m organisations will be asked to confirm their awareness of the Modern Slavery Act with information provided to increase understanding.
- All future commercial activity conducted by NEUPC will ensure adherence to, and encourage awareness of, the provisions contained within the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
Assessing and Managing Risk

NEUPC utilises a category management approach in the delivery of all its commercial activities. We will work within these category groups to ensure that the risk of slavery and human trafficking is minimised in all operations including contracting strategies. This will allow the consortia to facilitate its membership in reducing the areas of operation which can be considered to pose high risk.

Working in collaboration with NETPositive Futures we have adopted and supported the implementation of an online supplier engagement tool which helps to increase awareness of sustainability issues and allows us to:

- Establish a single mechanism to engage contracted suppliers with the issues of Modern Slavery.
- Allows us as a consortia to offer support and guidance to our supply base and share best practice.
- Allows us to track the actions being taken and progress being made by our supply chain in addressing aspects of modern slavery.

Through regular contract management NEUPC can monitor supplier’s action plans and work in partnership to reduce the risks of slavery and human trafficking occurring any area of its supply chains.

Measuring Effectiveness

NEUPC will use the following indicators to measure progress and minimise the risks occurring by monitoring the percentage of our supply chain:

- acknowledging modern slavery is a consideration for their business.
- committed to take action against the risk of modern slavery occurring.
- completed actions that address modern slavery in their business.
- set actions to undertake training on modern slavery

Training

Our induction training makes clear NEUPC’s commitment to these measures and a copy of this statement will be issued in the Employee Handbook. All members of staff have undertaken training using the NETPositive tool and this is embedded in NEUPC systems and processes. All new employees within the company will undertake this training and the content reviewed annually.

Commitment to the Future

NEUPC will review this statement annually in order to establish the progress made in minimising the risk of slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains.