Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement

Heriot-Watt University
2018/19

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<th>University Executive</th>
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Heriot-Watt is a specialist, pioneering University, with a global presence, world renowned, innovative research and highly employable graduates, and a history dating back to 1821. We’re a vibrant, forward-looking university, well known for the quality of our degrees with employers actively seeking out our graduates. Heriot-Watt University has the distinction of being the 2018 Times & Sunday Times International University of The Year.

Heriot-Watt is also Scotland’s most international university, with an unsurpassed international in-country presence. We deliver degree programmes to 31,000 students globally, have campuses in Dubai and Malaysia and boast the largest international student cohort of any Scottish university.

Heriot-Watt has an exceptionally strong on-line learning footprint – through our Edinburgh Business School sub-brand, particular in Africa, as well as a selection of successful programmes aligned to our Energy and Marine Science portfolio. In this area our widening access ethos is particularly strong – with flexible entry criteria designed to get the best out of our students as they progress with us.

We are committed to continuous improvement and development in all our activity. Our focus is on responding to the changing needs of business, industry and society and finding solutions to the global challenges of the 21st century. Building on established expertise in key, specialist areas, our aim is to produce the next generation of leaders and thinkers who make a difference in the world. We are already leading the way in areas as varied as energy, the environment and climate change, risk and modelling, infrastructure and transport, artificial intelligence and robotics and the interface between life and physical sciences.

At Heriot-Watt University, we’ve created an environment that nurtures innovation and leadership - where our researchers, staff and students can realise their potential and develop their ambitions. As new learning and teaching methods emerge, especially those that utilise online methods, we’re committed to delivering pioneering education using the latest technology and innovation for our students.

1. Purpose

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, setting out the steps that Heriot-Watt University has taken during the financial year ending 31st July 2019 to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in our supply chains or any part of our own operations.

2. Our Structure and Activities

Heriot-Watt is a specialist, pioneering University with a global presence, world-renowned innovative research and highly employable graduates. Our vision is to be world-leading within all our areas of specialism, creating and exchanging knowledge that benefits society.

Through ‘Strategy 2025’, Heriot-Watt is driving forward as an international university which places students and staff at the heart of everything we do. Our strategy is to continue to build our international presence and impact through our campuses and partnerships, focusing on our strengths in learning and teaching and research.

Heriot-Watt has a reach that is truly international and we are a powerful driver of the global economy. We operate across five campuses in the UK, Middle East and South-East Asia, and have diverse communities of learners, scholars, professionals and partners from over 160 countries around the world.
Procurement Services supports the University in achieving its ambitions by delivering procurement solutions to facilitate excellence in research, education and enterprise in a socially responsible way. As a truly global university, Procurement Services recognises that we make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to the world.

3. Our Commitment

The University recognises that modern slavery is a significant global human rights issue. Our commitment starts from protecting human rights and taking action to prevent slavery and human trafficking in all forms. The University acts ethically and with integrity in all of our global relationships. We use all reasonable endeavours to take action directly and within our sphere of influence to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place.

The University Executive and the University’s governing body, Court, approved the institution’s Procurement Strategy and Action Plan, and associated Sustainable Procurement Policy. These documents incorporate the University’s sustainable and ethical procurement objectives, actions and tools used to embed or enhance sustainable objectives in the University's procurements.

4. Our Supply Chains

The University buys goods, services and works in accordance with public procurement legislation. Our wide range of purchases include: construction works; workshop supplies; furniture; electronics including computers and audio visual; travel services; laboratory and research supplies including equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals; books and printing; professional services.

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.

A large portion of the University’s spend is with suppliers who are vetted and approved either by collaborative framework agreements or through public tenders managed by our Procurement Services team.

The risks of modern slavery in our direct activities is likely to be low as a result of the controls and systems that the University has in place. However, we recognise that there are potential risks of modern slavery occurring related to our international activities, particularly in high risk countries. Procurement Services works with colleagues in other universities, procurement bodies (such as APUC) and Government Agencies to inform and mitigate risks.

5. Identifying and Mitigating Potential Risk in Our Supply Chains

The University is committed to acquiring goods and services for use without causing harm to others. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all of our business relationships. The University has adopted tools and practices from the Scottish Government and APUC to address modern slavery and human trafficking.

For all Regulated Procurements, a procurement strategy is developed to ensure any environmental, social or economic risks are mitigated with the commodity/service. The University also uses a template tender document which includes full sustainable procurement references and a Modern Slavery Act compliance question.

Every regulated procurement process conducted by the University requires tenderers to disclose whether the tenderer or any member of their organisation with decision-making powers has been convicted in the last five years of any offence under Part 1 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, or under any provision referred to in the Schedule of the Act. Tenderers that confirm such a conviction will be excluded from the process unless they can successfully demonstrate that they have self-cleansed.
Further, the University issues a Supply Chain Code of Conduct, the principles of which cover social, ethical and environmental compliance as well as economic development.

As the University uses many national and sectoral framework agreements to let contracts, it is also relevant that APUC has undertaken prioritisation on 171 framework agreements either led or promoted by APUC. This is to understand the key sustainable procurement risks and opportunities for each agreement, which includes possible labour concerns. This helps APUC to assess which agreements and suppliers should be audited on compliance with its code of conduct.

The University is also an associate member of Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe.

Procurement Services staff participate in training events, engage with the sector at conferences and briefings and attend webinars to increase awareness and understanding of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We continue to share and communicate knowledge and risks to relevant stakeholders and devolved buyers across the University.

6. 2018/19 Year in Summary

- Procurement Services staff continued to share best practice to stakeholders and devolved buyers across the University in order to continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking risk.

- Procurement Services continued to research and assess risks in prioritised procurement categories and ask identified suppliers about their actions to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains.

- Procurement Services continued to support the various ‘live’ cross-sectoral initiatives to address modern slavery risk in supply chains.

- In 2018/19, there were no requirements to terminate business with any suppliers on the grounds of contravention of the Modern Slavery Act.

7. Next Steps for 2019/20

- Procurement Services will be developing and implementing a new internal website for all staff and postgraduate students to access which will include a dedicated page on Sustainable Procurement. This page will contain information about Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and help to increase awareness; how to identify risks and how to put in place mitigation or management measures.

- Procurement Services will continue to research and assess risks in prioritised procurement categories and ask identified suppliers about their actions to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains.

- Procurement Services will continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking issues across the University’s community.

- The University will review its terms and conditions of purchase to include a clause which specifically addresses modern slavery and human trafficking.

- The University will adopt the revised APUC Sustainable Procurement Code of Conduct in all its regulated procurements.