



ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

The Robert Gordon University Statement on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial year 2016-17

The Robert Gordon University is committed to establishing practices to combat slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the University's modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2017.

Our Structure

The Robert Gordon University is a body corporate incorporated under The Robert Gordon University (Establishment) (Scotland) Order 2006, a Scottish Charity (Charity Number SC013781) and has its principal administrative office at Garthdee House, Garthdee Road, Aberdeen, AB10 7QB.

Further information about the University can be found in our annual statement.

Our Policies

The University has established a policy to protect whistleblowers raising concerns about any aspect of the University's business including slavery and human trafficking.

During the financial year 2016-17 the University updated its Ethics Policy to include a policy statement that made clear that the University has a zero tolerance policy in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking.

During the financial year 2017-18 the University intends to continue to review existing policies and to include slavery and human trafficking within these where appropriate.

Training

During the financial year 2016-17 key University staff received training relating to the University's responsibility under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the steps that can be taken to ensure that no working practices which amount to slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour or human trafficking are taking place within its supply chains.

Our Supply Chains

The University supply chains include suppliers registered under purchasing consortia, estates contractors, suppliers of equipment and related services and other professional advisors.

The University takes its responsibility in relation to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 seriously and aims to ensure that no working practices which amount to slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour or human trafficking are taking place within its supply chains.

During the financial year 2016-17 the University adopted the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) Ltd Supply Chain Code of Conduct and potential suppliers are asked to acknowledge their compliance with the principles of the Code in regulated procurement exercises. The procurement team completed training on the APUC Sustain solution, a web-based assessment tool to assess supplier's compliance with the code of conduct specifically in social, ethical, economic and environmental areas.

The University uses the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) for all regulated procurements which contains a compliance question for bidders, relating to criminal convictions in child labour and other forms of human trafficking.

Due Diligence Processes for Slavery and Human Trafficking

The University wishes to retain a contented, motivated workforce, and therefore has in place a robust suite of Human Resources Policies designed to both ensure compliance with UK employment law but also to provide additional benefits to staff. The University is therefore confident that no working practices which amount to slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour or human trafficking take place within its own business.

The Robert Gordon University is a member of APUC Ltd, the procurement centre of expertise for Scotland's universities and colleges. The University's Senior Procurement Advisor is a member of the APUC Sustainable Procurement Leaders Group, which considers all key issues related to sustainable procurement.

The Robert Gordon University has become a consortium affiliate to Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation which works to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public purchasing in Europe.

A significant proportion of our procurement is with suppliers who are pre-approved either by a purchasing consortium or through public tenders managed by our procurement team.

This statement covers the financial year ending 31 July 2017. It will be updated on an annual basis.

Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski
Principal and Vice Chancellor