

UKAS Modern Slavery Statement for Financial Year End March 2021

Introduction

This statement is made in accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps that UKAS has taken and is continuing to take to ensure that modern slavery or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain.

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, human trafficking and forced labour. UKAS has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of modern slavery. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity and transparency in all business dealings and have effective systems and controls in place to safeguard against any form of modern slavery taking place within the business or our supply chain.

Our Business

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national accreditation body for the United Kingdom, appointed by government, to assess organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services. UKAS is appointed as the national accreditation body by Accreditation Regulations 2009 (SI No 3155/2009). UKAS operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government, through the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We employ over 260 employees directly and contract for services with over 750 external Technical Assessors. In addition, we acquire manpower through temporary/agency staff, recruitment agencies and various professional advisors and other services such as professional and facilities management services.

Our Policies and Procedures

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. Our policies and procedures demonstrate our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships, as well as implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our business and wider supply chain.

We have a number of policies to ensure that we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner. We operate a robust recruitment procedure, including conducting eligibility to work in the UK checks for all employees to safeguard against human trafficking or individuals being forced to work against their will. We continue to operate a whistleblowing policy, allowing employees to raise concerns about how colleagues are being treated; report on practices within our business or supply chain, without fear of reprisals.

Due Diligence and Risk Assessment

We have reviewed the risks our supply chains can present and whilst we consider our exposure to modern slavery to be very low and unlikely, we expect our suppliers and contractors to have a zero-tolerance approach to exploitation. However, we are not complacent and monitor this on an ongoing basis.

We assess customers across all industry / business sectors and provide advisory and training services on a global basis, with our suppliers being predominantly based in the UK. As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk, we conduct due diligence, including financial checks on all new suppliers, contractors, and customers. These checks help identify and verify that such parties are not involved with, or suspected of, modern slavery, bribery, corruption or other unlawful activity. We expect all those in our supply chain and contractors to comply with our values. If there were any concerns of modern slavery, we may look to terminate the contract at any time.

We are confident that we are successfully ensuring that slavery and/or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain for there are no reports received from employees, the public, or law enforcement agencies to indicate that modern slavery practices have been identified.

Training and Next Steps

The Executive team understand the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chain and what to do if they suspect that it is taking place. This continues to be reviewed to ensure compliance with applicable laws, in connection with modern slavery.

We are not aware of any established instance of modern slavery in our business or wider supply chain. We remain committed to integrating our businesses with uniform policies and procedures which highlight and educate our employees and suppliers of the risk of modern slavery. As such, identification and management of modern slavery risk will continue to inform and influence our own policies and procedures and is integral to the service we deliver.

Approval for this Statement

This statement was approved by the Board of UKAS on **23rd February 2021**.

Signature:



Matt Gantley
Chief Executive Officer of United Kingdom Accreditation Service
Date 23rd February 2021