

APUC Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Statement at End of 2015/16 Financial Year (ending 31/7/16)

Introduction

Purpose of the statement

This statement demonstrates APUC's commitment to the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and specifically to section 54 (1). It aims to inform our member institutions, our staff and the general public about the steps APUC has taken during the last financial year, ending 31 July 2016, to identify and prevent modern slavery and human trafficking from taking place in any of its supply chains and in any part of its own business.

APUC's obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

APUC is the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Universities and Colleges in Scotland, providing institutional shared service procurement staff, collaborative framework agreements for the sector to use and guidance on best practise. APUC's own annual turnover falls below the required threshold of £36m for commercial organisations to publish a statement under the Act. However, APUC believes that given our client institutions' overall spend through its supply agreements and its vision to be a leader in driving forward the sustainable procurement agenda, that it has a responsibility to set out the steps it is taking to eradicate modern slavery from its supply chains.

APUC and Sustainable Procurement

Overview

APUC has driven a sustainable procurement focus for several years and, in conjunction with several member institutions, students and NGOs, has set out a Sustainable Procurement Policy, Strategy, Code of Conduct and tools to embed, or enhance, sustainable objectives in procurements run in our sector. More details on APUC's Sustainable Procurement processes can be found [here](#).

Over 75% of APUC member institutions have adopted the APUC Sustainable Procurement Code of Conduct and refer to this in their procurement exercises. The Code has been used in APUC to run Framework Agreements since its inception in 2013.

APUC Sustain: Supply chain sustainability web portal

To assess our suppliers' compliance with the Code, APUC has developed a web-based assessment tool linked to the contracts database containing contracts/agreements used by the whole sector. The [website](#), assesses suppliers at three achievement/compliance levels in social, ethical, economic and environmental areas. The assessments are carried out by SA8000 trained staff. The tool enables contract managers to view the status of their suppliers, and for sub tier suppliers to be linked/assessed. The web tool has been going through early supplier adoption phase, with three supplier responses published by the time of this statement.

Sustainable Procurement Tools

APUC has trained institutional staff and APUC staff on the available Sustainable Procurement tools and processes through a series of institutional specific visits, conference workshops and APUC staff meetings. Further, a specific awareness session on compliance with the Modern Slavery Act was held at the APUC 2016 conference. APUC has also hosted, in collaboration with the Higher Education Procurement Academy, a training day on Modern Slavery Compliance.

Procurement tools that APUC provides for its staff and sector staff include a draft tender document, which includes full sustainable procurement references and a Modern Slavery Act compliance question, template strategy slides, the Code of Conduct, and a Prioritisation tool (based on the DEFRA Marrakech tool and the Scottish Government's own updated tools). APUC staff have undertaken prioritisations on 137 framework agreements either led by, or promoted by, APUC, to understand the key risks and opportunities for each agreement, which includes possible labour concerns.

APUC also adopts a category management approach to the framework agreements it manages, which allows the category manager to develop an in-depth category understanding and risk management approach.

Electronics Watch

APUC is a Founder 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. APUC's Head of Development & Sustainability also sits on the board of Electronics Watch.

Actions for the next Financial Year

APUC intends now, after initial roll out of its web tool 'Sustain', to ramp-up supplier assessment and institutional use. The 137 framework agreement prioritisations undertaken so far give essential structure to the selection of our higher risk suppliers for this process.

The data from the prioritisations will be shared with APUC members to aid in their risk awareness.

APUC will increase its understanding of sustainability risks associated with each category and will develop category guides, which will be shared with its members.

APUC will develop and deliver Sustainable Procurement training for our members, as well as continuing to promote any relevant training offered by other parties.

Angus Warren, CEO

This statement has been approved by the APUC Board who will review and update it annually.