

APUC Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Statement at End of 2016/17 Financial Year (ending 31/7/17)

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 2017, 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 80% 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 and has also now been adopted by a sister procurement consortia in England.

Commodity Areas

APUC's procurement activities are categorised into commodity areas, each led by a Head of Category.

APUC has carried out a prioritisation exercise to determine high risk commodity areas. The top 5 have been determined as:

- Information Services (including IT)
- Waste
- Catering
- Janitorial
- Furniture

Each Head of Category, together with the Development and Sustainability Manager have produced 'Carbon & Sustainability Guides' for each area, highlighting risks and opportunities to be considered or addressed through procurement activity. This includes, where applicable, the risk of Modern Slavery in the supply chain.

Training & Awareness

APUC staff have been trained on signs of Modern Slavery, through media published by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority.

APUC has established a Sustainable Procurement Leaders Group, with representatives from its members as well as all Heads of Category. This group considers all key issues related to sustainable procurement and looks at ways to increase/improve sector awareness.

An awareness session was held at the APUC conference in May 2017, looking at the effect of labour abuses in the supply chain and positive change.

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 is now in full use by APUC members, with Contract Manager training having been delivered throughout the first half of 2017 and workshops held at the APUC annual conference in May 2017. The Contract Manager user interface has been enhanced to increase overall supplier engagement.

To date, over 50 suppliers have been provided with web logins for the assessment, 11 suppliers have completed the assessment, 1 has re-submitted following action on their improvement plan and sub tier supplier disclosures have been received. APUC members have direct access to the website to manage their own supplier progress and improvement plans.

APUC has carried out an annual refresh of the country risk data it uses for the website also.

Sustainable Procurement Tools

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 carbon and sustainability guides have been produced for each commodity area and are available to members.

APUC has refreshed and relaunched its Sustainable Procurement webpages, enhancing the visibility and availability of suitable tools and guidance for its members.

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.

In January 2017, APUC became the first full consortium member of Electronics Watch, whereby all APUC members have full access to Electronics Watch benefits.

Electronics Watch delivered an awareness session on labour issues in IT supply chains at the APUC Annual Conference in May 2017.

Actions for the next Financial Year

All APUC framework agreement 'prioritisations' will be refreshed and made available to its members.

APUC elearning module on Sustainable Procurement will be launched for its members, and a further face to face training module will be developed and delivered.

The SUSTAIN webtool assessments will continue, with particular focus being made on assisting contract managers within APUC, and across the sector, to engage with suppliers and drive improvements.

APUC will deliver a training session at the National Procurement Conference (Procurex) in October 2017, alongside Electronics Watch.

Angus Warren, CEO

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