APUC Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement
Statement at End of 2020/21 Financial Year (ending 31/7/21)

1. 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 member institutions, staff and the general public about APUC’s policy with respect to Modern Slavery, and the actions taken to identify and prevent such practices 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, owned by the 44 Universities and College in Scotland. 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.

2. APUC and Sustainable Procurement

Structure, business and procurement categories

APUC is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of both HE/FE sectoral and non-sectoral representatives. In the wider context, APUC is also represented on pan public sector Scottish Government groups, as well as rest of UK (rUK) higher and further education groups.

APUC leads collaborative tendering activity on behalf of its members, establishing a range of framework agreements across a variety of category areas. APUC also has a significant number of ‘Institutional Shared Service staff’ – APUC Supply Chain Managers that work directly within an institution.
Procurement activity within APUC is split into 4 main category areas:

- **Information Services (including IT & Libraries)**
  - IT hardware including servers, desktops and laptops.
  - AV equipment and peripherals.
  - Some stationery items.

- **Estates & Facilities**
  - Fresh and prepared food products.
  - Cleaning services.
  - Waste services.
  - Security services

- **General Professional Services and HR**
  - Temporary staffing

- **Laboratories**
  - Laboratory consumables.
  - Chemicals.
  - Electronic components within larger pieces of equipment (e.g. robotics or microscopes)

Within each category there is an appointed **Responsible Procurement Champion**. The **Head of Responsible Procurement** provides support across these categories, as well as strategically and operationally for APUC and its members.

Each category has undertaken analysis of the commodity areas and supply chains to assess potential risks of modern slavery and create a register of high-risk areas.

APUC is actively involved in several cross-sector initiatives related to addressing modern slavery risks in supply chains. These include the HEPA (Higher Education Procurement Academy) responsible procurement group, the ETI public sector working group on modern slavery, the Make ICT Fair project and the Procura+ group ‘Socially Responsible Public Procurement of ICT’.

APUC continues to support Electronics Watch (a collaborative organisation addressing labour rights issues in ICT supply chains), of which it was a founder member and also the first full consortia member (ensuring all its 44 members have full membership of Electronics Watch). An APUC member of staff currently sits on the Electronics Watch Board of Trustees.

**Policies in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking**

APUC is committed to responsible procurement and to embedding this in all its procurement activity. Working with several member institutions, students and NGOs, we have set out a Sustainable Procurement Policy, Strategy and Code of Conduct. More details on APUC’s Sustainable Procurement processes can be found [here](#).

All APUC member institutions have adopted the Sustain (originally named the APUC Supply Code of Conduct as it was created by APUC initially) Supply Code of Conduct and refer to this in their procurement exercises. The Code has been used in APUC Framework Agreements since its inception in 2013 and has also been adopted by UKUPC procurement consortia in England and by the Higher Education Procurement Association (HEPA) as the recommended code of conduct for all UK Higher Education.
A Responsible Procurement Action Plan has been developed for the 4 main collaborative category areas identified earlier. This includes a specific target on addressing modern slavery risk:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Overall Goal</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Modern slavery</td>
<td>Commit Suppliers to provide Modern Slavery Statements and risk analysis</td>
<td>Address Modern Slavery with all Suppliers and understand their commitment to proactively work against it.</td>
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Bidder compliance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act is included within all APUC collaborative tenders.

**Risk Assessment, prevention and mitigation**

Each Category Responsible Procurement Champion ensures commodity level risk assessment for modern slavery is carried out. The Responsible Procurement Manager assists at each tender process to embed sufficient measures to mitigate and address such risks.

> “At tender stage we ask contractors to demonstrate the methods employed to ensure its compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and demonstrate how the transparency of its supply chain will be maintained for the duration of the framework agreement. Tender questioning specifically asks whether there are any controls to their recruiting system, whether recruitment agencies, labour brokers or any other intermediaries have any involvement in supplying labour on their behalf, and also how risks associated with Modern Slavery are identified and mitigated by the contractor.”

Example from Estates category tendering.

Where applicable, particularly within temporary staffing framework agreements and some Estates category framework agreements, checks are carried out that contractors hold a Gangmaster License.

Within the Laboratories category, first and second tier supply chains have been disclosed for Gloves supply chains. Work is under way to establish, and address, any associated risks in those supply chains, working in collaboration with partner organisations also using these suppliers.

Within the IS category, APUC has been able to collate its member IT hardware data and share with Electronics Watch to enable targetted worker monitoring. Work is under way to try and identify supply chains for specific models. Electronics Watch specific terms and conditions have been embedded into APUC awarded IT frameworks. APUC and its members also have access to several other key IT framework agreements awarded by HE procurement consortia, the Scottish Government and Crown Commercial Services. APUC work with all these partner organisations to try and ensure the appropriate monitoring conditions are included.

APUC has partnered with Electronics Watch and Globalworks on the Social@Risk project – which looks to analyse social media posts by workers in electronics supply chains to trigger further investigations.

Police Scotland documents for SOC and Human Trafficking have been embedded into all ITT’s where relevant and appropriate.

APUC has been using Section 1 of its Supply Chain Management (SCM) tool to verify that its contractors have published Modern Slavery statements in line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. APUC also conducts an assessment of its contractors’ compliance with the APUC Supply Chain
Code of Conduct f through Section 2 of its Supply Chain Management (SCM) tool (previously “Sustain”). This has been on a risk-based approach per category. Actions are created based on the outcome of the assessment (in relation to modern slavery these look at a variety of topics, including recruitment processes, employment terms, and workforce breakdown. The actions are shared with all contract managers (within the sector, using the APUC toolset) that have a contractual relationship with that supplier. Actions may drive a further site visit in order to clarify certain points or investigate further. During the current period of global supply chain disruption, APUC is exploring the use of a specialist multi-sector assessment service to speed up the practical delivery of supply chain performance assessments, to complement the other work described above.

Training, Awareness & Involvement

APUC delivers, and its staff attends, training with a diverse variety of organisations in order to broaden awareness and skills, whilst gathering and sharing knowledge. Due to the impact of COVID-19 there have been no opportunities for in person training however APUC staff and members are encouraged to participate in the regular Electronics Watch webinars and workshops.

APUC offers an eLearning module (a co-development with LUPC and the University of Greenwich) for all its members on ‘Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking’, and on ‘Writing a Modern Slavery Statement’.

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 Supply Chain Code of Conduct, Prioritisation tool (based on the DEFRA Marrakech tool and the Scottish Government’s own updated tools), SCM (Supply Chain Management portal) and the Sustain tool, and a variety of eLearning (including on Human Trafficking and preparing a Modern Slavery Statement).

3. Actions for the next Financial Year

- APUC has launched its SCM portal as described above. APUC will continue to roll out the tool to contractors to complete Section 1 and, where appropriate, Section 2 or an equivalent service as appropriate.
- APUC will re-assess all its framework agreements and contractors (including all new framework agreements let since last assessment) in order to re-prioritise those which should be taken forward in the first wave of the Sustain assessments.
- Progress against Responsible Procurement Action Plan targets will be monitored.
- APUC will continue to promote the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct use across the sector helping suppliers to understand the importance of compliance with ethical standards.
- APUC will engage with and promote partners such as Electronics Watch to share good practice and discuss pertinent issues around modern slavery.
- Regular, scheduled review of APUC procurement process to ensure compliance.

Angus Warren, CEO

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