

ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2022/23

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



For Approval

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the Authority's Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the Authority's Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement attached as Appendix 1 for publication.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Modern Slavery is a term used to encapsulate offences in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 such as slavery; servitude; forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which result in the deprivation of a person's liberty by another, in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery and human trafficking is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights.
- 3.2 A modern slavery statement sets out the steps organisations are taking to prevent modern slavery in both their businesses and supply chains. It is required by certain commercial organisations under The Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- 3.3 The requirements for organisations to publish a statement is based on the following criteria:
- it is a 'body corporate' or partnership, wherever incorporated or formed
 - it carries on a business, or part of a business, in the UK
 - it supplies goods or service
 - it has an annual turnover of £36 million or more
- 3.4 The Home Office have produced some 'statutory guidance' under the Act, which states at paragraph 3.14 "*Even if the legislation does not apply we would encourage all businesses to be open and transparent about their recruitment practice, policies and procedures in relation to modern slavery and to take steps that are consistent and proportionate with their sector, size and operational reach.*"

- 3.5 The Government consultation 'Transparency in Supply Chains' has recommended that reporting requirements should apply to public bodies but this requires an amendment to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Government are looking towards mandating organisations to file their statements with a central registry; this is voluntary at the present time.
- 3.6 The concern is that the volume of public procurement and supply chains in general, disguise practices that hide modern slavery and that is the reason why there was a positive response to the consultation by public bodies to be included in the reporting requirements. There is a Private Members Bill before the House of Lords (by Lord Alton of Liverpool) which does seek to raise the profile of this issue by seeking amendments to the Act. However, it is more likely that the Government will introduce legislation to include the public sector given previous ministerial announcements. It is more a question of when rather than if.
- 3.7 As part of its Safeguarding approach, Cleveland Fire Authority has a zero-tolerance to slavery and human trafficking and all forms of corruption and bribery and will not deal with any business knowingly involved in modern slavery practices in any part of its operations.
- 3.8 The Authority is committed to the highest level of ethical standards and governance. It will act with integrity in all its business relationships and take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure compliance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains or in any part of its business.

4. CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY'S ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2022/23

- 4.1 In line with its safeguarding arrangements Cleveland Fire Authority has prepared its Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022/23 attached at Appendix 1. It covers the six reporting areas recommended by the Home Office, these being
- organisation structure and supply chains
 - policies held in relation to slavery and human trafficking
 - due diligence processes
 - risk assessment and management
 - key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken
 - training on modern slavery and trafficking
- 4.2 Over the next year all staff with a community contact role will undertake a tailored e-learning course, we will support and promote Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October 2022 and we will quality assure our safeguarding arrangements through Teesside Safeguarding Adults Board.

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