

ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2025/2026



REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

For Approval

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Authority's Anti-slavery and Human trafficking statement for financial year 2025/2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members approve the Authority's Anti-slavery and Human trafficking statement for the financial year 2025/2026.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 law sets out the UK Government's legal requirements for how organisations must address and report on modern slavery.
- 3.2 The modern slavery law applies to any company doing business in the UK with an annual turnover of £36 million or more and all public bodies with an annual budget of £36 million or more.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Even though the annual budget of the Authority falls short of the legal reporting figure highlighted above within 3.2, the Authority continues to support the national agenda in tackling anti-slavery and human trafficking in the form of publishing an annual statement which explains the steps taken that year to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery within operations and its supply chain.

4. ANNUAL STATEMENT 2025/2026

- 4.1 As previously reported, the three main areas of risk in relation to human trafficking and slavery within Cleveland Fire Authority are:
1. Supply Chain.
 2. Employment/Recruitment.
 3. Training/Community Safety

- 4.2 Sections 4.4 to 4.9 within the report highlight the work that has already taken place within each of the above business areas.
- 4.3 There are also new objectives for the financial year 2025/2026 within each of the three business areas which demonstrates our ongoing commitment to mitigating any business risk relating to slavery and human trafficking.
- 4.4 To further support our commitment we also ensure that representatives from each of the business areas identified meet each quarter in order to monitor the implementation of the actions within the annual statement.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The annual statement within Appendix 1 demonstrates the Authority's ongoing corporate commitment regarding; acting with integrity in all business relationships and taking all reasonable and practical steps to ensure compliance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as well as ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in supply chains or in any part of the Authority's business.

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