

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Telford & Wrekin Transparency Statement 2023/2024

This statement sets out Telford & Wrekin Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and, its supply chains. This statement recognises that an independent review¹ has been undertaken of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Council has considered the government's responses to this review in its statement for 2023/2024. The Council is also participating in The Home Office public consultation on transparency in supply chains².

As part of Local Government, the Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by:

1. The Council is a member of the LGA Modern Slavery Network.
2. The Council works with the West Midlands Directors of Adult Social Services to support safe and ethical international recruitment
3. Due diligence of the Community Participation, Housing and Audit Teams.
4. Dedicated team briefs to all service delivery areas refreshing officer knowledge of modern slavery within the procurement documents, officer obligations and how to capture modern slavery data.
5. Training and raising awareness through e-learning modules helping officers recognise the signs and whistle blow to prevent this hidden crime. This is also part of the new entrant training.
6. Promoting and Communicating modern slavery issues and warning signs to officers.
7. Understanding the National Referral Mechanism and joint working with partners when this is indicated.
8. Due diligence of our Suppliers; where an annual refresh of all modern slavery statements are reviewed for all Council Suppliers on the Contracts Register in accordance with their obligations.
9. Built into the procurement process is the Council's modern slavery guidance and tender documentation to ensure due diligence is undertaken prior to engaging suppliers in any goods, services or works.
10. When procuring goods or services, officers will ensure that as part of tender evaluation and ongoing contract management, they will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery through a clear understanding of the supplier's:
 - Structure, business and supply chains;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transparency-in-supply-chains>

- Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
 - Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
 - Business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery, human trafficking and money laundering taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
 - Effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate; and
 - Training available to all staff to support the identification of slavery and human trafficking
9. Officers can also use the [Crown Commercial Services Modern Slavery Assessment Tool](#), which also provides a useful list of questions to ask suppliers to help them dig deep into their supply chain. The resulting information is then held by CCS and can be shared, with the supplier's permission, with other public sector bodies.
10. We will respond to the call for evidence regarding the inspection of the immigration system to assess the extent to which the Home Office's immigration functions support the social care sector.

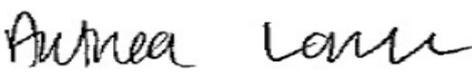
Awareness of Modern Slavery is vital to support the Council's commitment in the protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals of the borough and for the individuals in the supply chain who we contract with. Whilst the Council accepts that, a formal modern slavery policy is a statutory requirement to those companies with a budget of £36m and above, we go one-step further and consider it good ethical practice for all our supply chain, regardless of size, to have a process in place to manage the early detection and eradication of Modern Slavery.

Telford & Wrekin have registered and will publish the Council's modern slavery policy and this statement to the new Home Office Modern Slavery digital database [registry](#) service in accordance with the extended responsibilities of Modern Slavery Act 2015 section 54.

Given that globally, an estimated 71% of people in slavery are women and girls trafficked to become part of the sex industry, the Council is proud to have again achieved White Ribbon accreditation showing a commitment to the eradication of violence towards women.

The Council's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement has been approved by the Director: Policy & Governance and the Cabinet Member for Council Finance & Governance. It should be read in conjunction with the Modern slavery Act 2015³ and the National Referral Mechanism⁴. This Statement will be reviewed and updated annually.

For further information, please see http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20236/open_council

Signed 

Date 30/11/2023

Signed 

Date 22.02.24

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

⁴ <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>