

Helping UK Universities Respond to the Modern Slavery Act (2015)

This paper identifies how using the **Supplier Engagement (HE) Tool** helps UK universities to respond to the Modern Slavery Act.

What does the Modern Slavery Act mean for me?

The requirements of the Modern Slavery Act, which received royal assent on 26 March 2015 are clear:

organisations with a global turnover of at least £36 million have a disclosure obligation.

Universities will be aware that they must produce a statement to include a report on the effectiveness of measures in place to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.

The statement will be expected to ***list the steps that the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in its supply chain.***

This may include:

- How you engage with your supply chain about the issues
- How you support your suppliers to address the issues
- How you measure and monitor the progress of your suppliers
- How you measure and monitor the success of your own approaches

Although this is a new legal consideration, in reality it is simply a focus on a specific social issue that should be incorporated into core business practice as part of being a socially responsible organisation.

Incorporating sustainability and social responsibility into excellent business practice has been part of our approach for many years. We have developed a very practical approach that we are confident will help you respond to the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

What is the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool?

Working initially with the University of Manchester and now with North West Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC), The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) and The North Eastern Purchasing Consortia (NEUPC) **we have developed an online Supplier Engagement Tool** that does the following:

1. Provides a single mechanism to engage contracted and non-contracted suppliers with the issues of Modern Slavery
2. Collects data on which of your suppliers are aware of and engaged with aspects of modern slavery (as well as those who are not!)
3. Provides a mechanism for you to offer support, guidance or training to your supply base and to share best practice between them (if you choose to)
4. Enables you to track the actions being taken and progress being made by your supply chain in addressing aspects of modern slavery
5. Provides you with access to this information in real time
6. Allows you to build modern slavery into your contract management processes based on the action plans developed by your suppliers

The consortia are using this tool to provide assurance for their members that they are pro-actively responding to the Modern Slavery Act.

They have also negotiated a reduced rate for their members to use the tool with their non-consortia suppliers.

“The University of York has recently purchased access to the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool. We believe that it will be invaluable in helping us to progress our sustainable procurement agenda, specifically the supplier engagement element.

We also believe that this tool will provide a vital input to our reporting under the Modern Slavery Act.”

Rob Hunt Head of Procurement, University of York.

How does the tool demonstrate compliance with the Modern Slavery Act?

Using the tool provides a simple, yet robust response to the Modern Slavery Act.

You can access the data that is created by suppliers engaging with the tool using a dashboard. The data it provides will enable you to include the following information in your **Modern Slavery Statements**:

Note: X represents the actual % figures you can insert following use of the tool.

1. 100% of our supply chain have been made aware that modern slavery is a consideration for their business
2. X % of our supply chain have acknowledged modern slavery is a consideration for their business
3. X % of our supply chain have committed to take action
4. X % of our supply chain have completed actions that address modern slavery in their business
5. X% of our supply chain have set actions to undertake training on modern slavery
6. Provide examples shared by your suppliers about their activities in relation to Modern Slavery

Interrogating the data dashboard will also enable you to differentiate responses by business type; this enables you to identify progress in priority risk areas such as agriculture, construction, hospitality and manufacturing.

How do I sign up to use the tool?

Simply get in touch!

If you would like further information, please visit our webpages where you can find:

- An overview of some of the other benefits of using the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool (HE)
- A 'walkthrough' of the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool (HE)
- Costs and an overview of the sign-up process