



Modern Slavery Statement



Introduction

This statement has been produced in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As a 'commercial organisation' defined by the Act, YPO has a legal duty to produce a statement. Yet as a professional, responsible and socially conscious public procurement organisation, we recognise the importance of operating to high standards and expect the same of our supply chains. We take a zero-tolerance approach to non-ethical practices and are committed to always treating people in our business and supply chains fairly, with integrity to uphold ethical standards.

We're committed to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from our business and supply chains, guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the 10 Principals of the UN Global Compact.

Our Business



YPO is the largest publicly owned public sector buying organisation in the UK. Established in 1974 by a group of 13 local authorities, we're governed by a joint committee and operate under the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970. A full list of our member and associate member authorities can be found at www.ypo.co.uk/about/governance/structure.

However, as a central purchasing body, defined by the Public Contract Regulations, YPO catalogue items and frameworks are open for use by any public sector organisation in the UK.

From our base in Wakefield, we supply around 30,000 products and resources from our two warehouses, as well as offering around 100 public sector framework agreements.

Our customers are UK-wide and include schools, local authorities, charities, emergency services, the wider-public sector and other businesses such as nurseries and care homes.

Our categories of spend normally fall into one of the following areas;

- Corporate Services
- Utilities
- Fleet and Highways
- Facilities Management
- Health and Social Care
- Technology and Communications
- Food and Catering
- Furniture
- Emergency Services
- Education, Learning and Office Supplies

As a drive to offer our customers value for money, we've invested in an own brand range, typically covering products such as stationery, arts and crafts, sport and early years products. Some of these products are sourced direct from overseas suppliers with 675* out of 1431 product lines classified as globally sourced from 29 factories across Thailand, China, India and Taiwan.

Due Diligence

With numerous categories of spend, we have a wide range of supply chains each with individual characteristics, covering both product and service-based supply chains. We therefore identify the areas of high risk to human rights and act accordingly.

Global Sourcing

We believe that our global sourcing presents the highest risk to human rights of all our supply chains. Therefore, we have put in place a robust procurement and audit process. Ethical audits to the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) Base Code as a minimum are requested as part of the tender process and we request factories are re-audited every three years. All our audits are carried out by our chosen independent test house SGS. Currently nearly 75% of our suppliers are ethically audited to a satisfactory standard.

All supply chains (including global sourcing)

As a contracting authority defined by and regulated by the Public Contract Regulations all our tenders include the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SQ) which includes the following on a suppliers commitment to modern slavery;

Section 7 - Modern Slavery Act 2015: Requirements under Modern Slavery Act 2015			
I	7.1	Are you a relevant commercial organisation as defined by section 54 ("Transparency in supply chains etc.") of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("the Act")?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
P/F	7.2	If you have answered "Yes" to question 7.1, are you compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained within Section 54 of the Act 2015?	Yes (PASS) <input type="checkbox"/> Please provide the relevant URL to view the statement No (FAIL) <input type="checkbox"/> Please provide an explanation. *The information provided will be taken into account by YPO in considering whether or not you will be able to proceed any further in respect of this procurement. N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

There are also sections relating to ethical sourcing and supply chain visibility which are included if relevant to the tender in question;



8.6 Ethical Sourcing			
P/F	a.	<p>Please confirm that your organisation complies with any guidelines on ethical sourcing related to the requirements of this tender.</p> <p>Tenderers who self-certify that they meet the requirements will be required to provide evidence of this if they are successful at contract award stage.</p>	<p>Yes (PASS) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No (FAIL) <input type="checkbox"/></p>

8.7 Supply Chain Visibility			
P/F	a.	<p>Please confirm you have read and comply with the requirements stated within Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 01/18: Supply Chain Visibility.</p>	<p>Yes (PASS) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No (FAIL) <input type="checkbox"/></p>

As part of our procurement process and due diligence on any tender exercise, additional questions may be included, as a mandatory requirement or part of the award criteria, to assess, where relevant, the suppliers and the supply chain.

We're also committed to supplier engagement, so have recently launched a partnership with NETpositive Futures to develop a Supplier Engagement Tool. This tool allows our suppliers to communicate the social, environmental and economic impacts and actions they identify as part of their business processes. Part of this tool relates to the Modern Slavery Act and asks suppliers to confirm if they have made a public commitment to taking action against modern slavery.

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Our Policies

This statement explicitly addresses our position in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking however it also has links to other relevant policies and procedures;

- Ethical Training Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy
- New Product Introduction (Global Sourcing)
- Risk Management Framework
- Quality Policy
- Social Value Policy
- YPO Contracts Manual

Training and Raising Awareness

As a procurement organisation, we already have a large number of staff who hold or are working towards a professional qualification from the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). CIPS have a wide range of eLearning modules available for members including the Ethical Procurement and Supply which we encourage all staff to complete.

Internal training and guidance is provided to staff who are responsible for sourcing products from outside of the EU.

No further training specifically related to modern slavery is currently in place, however we're committed to explore further training opportunities over the next 12 months.



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The Future

As a professional public sector buying organisation we recognise the responsibility we have to embed social value into our business activities. This includes working towards eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking in our business and supply chains. We remain committed to this and will continue to work over the next 12 months to make further improvements by exploring;

- The roll out the Supplier Engagement Tool to all our suppliers and major sub-contractors
- Expanding the auditing of our Own Branded range
- The creation of a Supplier Code of Conduct
- Further training opportunities for staff

This year we've created the new role of a Sustainable Procurement Manager which will have a focus on all our social value and sustainable procurement policies.

We will continue to work with our suppliers, member and associate member authorities, customers, staff and other stakeholders to share best practice and to encourage more commitment to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from all supply chains.

This statement has the support and commitment from the YPO Board who will review it on an annual basis.

*All figures are correct at the time of writing.



Paul Smith
Deputy Managing Director