

# Modern Slavery Act 2015



## Nexus' slavery and human trafficking statement: 2015/16

### About us

Nexus, the Passenger Transport Executive for Tyne and Wear, is a 'body corporate by statute' (the Transport Act 1968 as amended). Accountable to the North East Combined Authority (NECA), we report as required through the Leadership Board, the Transport for the North East Committee and Tyne and Wear (Transport) Sub-Committee as appropriate. In accordance with the NECA's Constitution Nexus is an executive body and an officer of the NECA and it plans, procures and promotes transport functions in Tyne and Wear.

Nexus' service delivery activities in Tyne and Wear include:

- The Tyne and Wear Metro light rail system
- The cross-Tyne ferry operation between North and South Shields
- The network of socially necessary bus services secured under contract by Nexus
- The TravelShops selling ticketing products and providing public transport information
- The provision of information, journey planning and ticketing facilities online at [nexus.org.uk](http://nexus.org.uk)
- The provision of information and customer support through Nexus One Stop Shop
- The provision of tailored bus service timetable information at around 6,000 bus stops throughout Tyne and Wear
- The provision and management of around 2,000 bus shelters in the area
- The provision and management of bus stations and public transport interchanges
- Administration of the statutory English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in Tyne and Wear, together with reimbursement of journeys made under the terms of the Scheme arrangements
- Administration (and reimbursement) of various local discretionary concessionary travel Schemes including Metro Gold Card, TaxiCard and Under 16 travel
- Supporting the provision of and planning for local rail services in the area

Nexus incurred revenue expenditure of £171m and delivered capital investment of £40m in 2015/16 and with just over 600 employees is clearly required to produce an annual slavery and human trafficking statement.

## **Our policy and values**

Nexus is committed to working in a responsible and sustainable way that serves the long-term interests of our customers, employees, suppliers, the communities we serve and society more widely. We undertake to engage with our people and procure goods and services in a sustainable and ethical manner in compliance with our values, public sector policy and procurement law.

Nexus will therefore not engage in, nor will we condone or tolerate any act of modern slavery and human trafficking. During 2015/2016 we have developed and published a Modern Slavery Policy reflecting our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and respecting human rights, including the rights of children. We expect all those who work for and with us to adhere to our zero tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. These principles are being embedded in our Human Resources, procurement and supply chain management policies and practices and the actions we propose to take are set out below (see Actions for 2016/17).

## **Our People**

In relation to direct employees, we undertake appropriate pre-employment checks to ensure a right to work in the UK, and further identity checks where required. Contracts of employment, and pay, are directly with the individual. Those with recruitment responsibilities receive relevant information and support for their role, and our people policies include Whistleblowing and an Employee Code of Conduct. Wider arrangements will be made to increase general awareness about modern slavery through for example placing appropriate articles in the in-house 'Nexus Times' magazine.

## Our supply chain

Whilst respecting human rights in the supply chain is ultimately our suppliers' responsibility, as the customer, we expect those in our supply chain to respect our values and to adopt suitable anti-slavery and human trafficking policies and practices.

As at 31st March 2016 there were 1,126 suppliers registered with us, 10 of whom were not UK based. Therefore 99.1% are based in the UK. The majority of our capital and revenue expenditure was incurred with UK companies some of whom, as large companies with a commercial turnover of £36m or more will also be required to publish an annual statement under the Modern Slavery Act. As such, we have provisionally assessed the risk of slavery and human trafficking in our direct suppliers and their supply chains as low.

- When businesses are invited to tender for the supply of goods and services to Nexus they will be asked to confirm they ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in their own business and that they are addressing any obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The response will be included as part of the evaluation activity in the procurement process.
- Nexus being entitled to terminate contracts where the contractor has been found guilty of an offence committed under the Modern Slavery Act without having put in place suitable actions to prevent a recurrence.
- Where suppliers have a turnover of less than £36m and therefore are not required to publish an annual modern slavery statement they will be asked on an annual basis to confirm that they support and to the best of their ability conform to the aims of the Act.

## Reporting

We encourage the reporting of concerns by employees in accordance with Nexus' Whistleblowing Policy. During 2015/16 there have been no reports from employees concerning modern slavery or human trafficking of workers.

## Actions for 2016/17

By April 2017 Nexus will have:

- Ensured that our HR and procurement professionals are provided with suitable information to raise awareness about modern slavery.
- Reviewed the existing supplier and contractor list to include an evaluation of all existing suppliers and contractors for their compliance with the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Act by e.g. publication of an annual statement where required by the Act.
- Required all new suppliers and contractors to make a statement that they comply fully with the requirements of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking legislation irrespective of whether they are required by legislation to publish a statement.
- Developed an appropriate corporate programme to raise staff awareness generally of modern slavery and human trafficking issues by circulating information across Nexus offices through for example a series of emails to staff.

## Signed

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Nexus' slavery and human trafficking statement for the 2015/16 financial year which ended on 31 March 2016.



**Tobyn Hughes**

Managing Director Transport Operations  
Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive (trading as Nexus)