

# **Modern Slavery Statement**

Commercial and Procurement

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## 1. Chief Executive's Overview

1. The Met Office is an Executive Agency of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). Our work supports businesses, governments and the public to make better decisions that will keep UK citizens safe at home and abroad and help the UK thrive.
2. The Met Office is committed to the highest level of ethical standards and sound governance arrangements and sets high standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the stewardship of public funds and the management of its activities. Our values as an organisation make us who we are; as a 'force for good' we take our social responsibilities and impact very seriously.
3. The Met Office adopts zero tolerance to modern slavery and human trafficking and all forms of corruption and bribery directly and indirectly associated with these criminal acts. We are committed to working with our suppliers and partners to ensure that we identify the risks in our supply chain and combat and eliminate any form of modern slavery or abuse of human rights we might encounter.
4. We fully support the government's objectives to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking.
5. We call upon all organisations we engage with to influence their supply chains by improving transparency and accountability; and together we can help the government eradicate the injustice and brutality of modern slavery and human trafficking.



Penny Endersby

Chief Executive

## 2. Introduction

The Met Office provides weather and climate forecasts to help government, businesses, emergency responders and the public make informed decisions so people can stay safe and prosper.

Everything we do is based on world-leading science and enhanced by the close working relationships we have with partner organisations around the world, supported by a global supply chain.

As an executive agency of DSIT, the Met Office recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to modern slavery. Modern slavery is an umbrella term which includes but is not limited to human trafficking, debt bondage, slavery and slavery-like practices, forced or compulsory labour and child labour.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires commercial organisations with an annual turnover of more than £36 million that are carrying out business in the UK to develop a modern slavery statement.

This statement details the actions and activities the Met Office will take to combat modern slavery in our supply chain in line with the 2015 Modern Slavery Act and the related public sector Procurement Policy Notes (PPNs).

## 3. Supply Chain Assessment and Modern Slavery Risk

The Met Office will review modern slavery risks in our procurements and existing contracts. We will assess the risks and take the necessary action to investigate our supply chain through our tender and contract management processes.

The Met Office is committed to ensuring that it takes a robust risk-based approach to reviewing our procurements and suppliers. This will be done by assessing all procurements over a value of £1m. Assessments are conducted in line with current Government guidance, with any high risks being monitored through the life of the contract. Assessment criteria include (but are not limited to) high risk industry types, commodity types, countries and workforce types. Modern slavery assessment criteria are defined by the most current public sector PPN, 02/23: Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains.

The Met Office will follow a detailed best practice procedure when victims of modern slavery are identified. Utilising the tools provided to risk assess modern slavery, we will follow the recommended actions to address incidents of actual or potential modern slavery. These actions will be proactive and centred around protecting the victim(s), in line with Government guidelines and legislation.

All members of the Commercial and Procurement Team and stakeholders involved in working with suppliers will undergo training to address tackling modern slavery in public sector supply chains.

## Relevant Policies

The Met Office has the following policies to support its approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and steps to be taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its operations.

- **Employee Code of Conduct** - Makes clear to Met Office employees the actions and behaviour expected of them when representing the organisation. The Company strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour when operating abroad and managing its supply chain. (*Internal policy*)
- **Sustainable Procurement Policy** – Makes clear to our suppliers and our stakeholders the importance of ensuring ethical matters are incorporated into the end to end procurement process including compliance with the Modern Slavery Act. (*Internal policy*)
- **Transparency Commitment** – Ensures that we are being proportionate and transparent in our approach to delivering goods, works and services to the business.  
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## 4. Resources

Below is a list of useful links, guides and information the Met Office strongly encourages all of its suppliers to refer to to ensure they are fully informed about the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Modern Slavery Act 2015:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

Gov Modern Slavery Collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-industry-factsheets>

PPN 02/23: Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ppn-0223-tackling-modern-slavery-in-government-supply-chainsSS>

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