



# Procurement Policy Note – Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains

Action Note PPN 05/19 September 2019

## Issue

1. Government is committed to tackling the scourge of modern slavery; an umbrella term that encompasses the offences of slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Departments must take action to ensure modern slavery risks are identified and managed effectively in government supply chains.

## Dissemination and Scope

2. The contents of this Procurement Policy Note (PPN) apply to all Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies, and are referred to in this PPN as ‘In-Scope Organisations’. Please circulate this PPN within your organisation, particularly to those with a commercial, procurement and/or contract management role. Other public sector contracting authorities may wish to apply the approach set out in this PPN.

## Timing

3. In-Scope Organisations should begin to take action to apply this PPN to existing contracts, and to new procurement activity from 1 October 2019.

## Action

4. In-Scope Organisations must use the guidance ‘Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains’ to identify and manage risks in both existing contracts and new procurement activity.

5. In-Scope Organisations must ensure relevant procurement, commercial and front-line staff receive awareness training on how to identify modern slavery and steps to tackle it effectively, including reporting it through appropriate channels. A list of both free and fee-based training offers are listed in Section 5 of the guidance.

6. In-scope organisations should make relevant staff and the staff of suppliers aware, of the Modern Slavery Helpline on Tel: 08000 121 700 or online at: [www.modernslaveryhelpline.org](http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org). The Helpline provides information and advice about modern slavery, a 24 hour telephone reporting line and an online reporting function through the website.

## **Background**

7. The Government has made clear its determination to tackle modern slavery crimes, referring to them as “the great human rights issue of our time”. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that there are 25 million people in forced labour across the world.<sup>1</sup> It is thought to be prevalent across the UK and can occur in any business sector. To tackle these crimes, the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA) was introduced. The Act consolidates and clarifies modern slavery offences; toughens penalties and prosecution; and introduces greater support and protection for victims.

8. The Government has committed to voluntarily publishing a Modern Slavery Statement in December 2019, to mirror the requirements on businesses to publish statements under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Government statement will set out the actions taken, and plans in place, to identify, tackle and prevent modern slavery in central government supply chains.

## **Contact**

9. Commercial and procurement enquiries should be directed to the Crown Commercial Service Helpdesk on 0345 410 2222 or [info@crownccommercial.gov.uk](mailto:info@crownccommercial.gov.uk).

10. For more information on modern slavery visit the Home Office [modern slavery webpages](#) on GOV.uk.

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<sup>1</sup> [Global estimates of modern slavery: forced labour and forced marriage](#), 2017, International Labour Organisation