



## MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2021-22

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires certain organisations with a turnover of £36 million or more to publish annual modern slavery statements setting out how they are tackling modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.

Since 2021, the Northern Ireland Office (and other ministerial government departments) have published annual modern slavery statements to provide greater transparency on the measures the government departments are taking to prevent exploitation in their operations and supply chains.

### *Organisational structure and supply chains*

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) supports the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in delivering the UK Government's strategic priorities for Northern Ireland. The NIO works to promote the best interests of Northern Ireland within a stronger United Kingdom, ensuring it is represented at the heart of Government, while at the same time promoting broader UK Government policies in Northern Ireland.

The NIO works with the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to help improve the effectiveness and delivery of the devolved institutions; to ensure a more secure Northern Ireland; deliver a growing economy; and ensure a stronger society through better community relations and a genuinely shared future for all.

With a workforce of fewer than 200 personnel working across its offices in Belfast and London, the NIO is small compared to other Ministerial Government Departments, but the breadth, complexity and depth of its portfolio is extensive.

In line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, as a Ministerial department we have a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery within our business and supply chains and we are committed to sound corporate governance acting ethically and with integrity.

Revenue expenditure for our organisation was £35m over the period of this statement. As a small department, we purchase a relatively small volume of goods and services, mainly IT equipment and supporting services, and facilities management and related services. Some of this is through the services and frameworks provided by the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) or the Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) service of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

### *Policies in relation to modern slavery*

Although our volume of expenditure for goods and services is small, our commitment to reduce the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring remains high. We continue to work with our suppliers, CCS, and CPD to understand our supply chains better. We are committed to ensuring high standards of conduct in all that we do, reinforced by the Civil Service Code.

We are also committed to supporting cross-Government policies in relation to modern slavery, as included in the UK Government's Modern Slavery Statement.

*Risk assessment and due diligence*

We aim during 2022-23 to strengthen our risk management processes around supply chain and contract management, including modern slavery activity.

We will encourage suppliers to make use of the Government's Modern Slavery Assessment Tool where appropriate and where already not completed in partnership with the Crown Commercial Service.

*Training and awareness raising*

We will explore opportunities to improve our staff's awareness of anti-modern slavery activities, learning lessons from other organisations who have been successful in this area.

In our dealings with our staff and our partners we will continue to promote and support the [UK Policy](#) on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

This statement has been approved by the NIO Secretary of State, Executive Committee and Accounting Officer and shall be reviewed annually.



**Madeleine Alessandri, Permanent Secretary**

**Date:** 17.08.2022



**Rt. Hon. Chris Heaton-Harris MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

**Date:** [date] 26/8/22

This statement was approved by the NIO Executive Committee (its senior leadership team) in August 2022.