

Modern Slavery Statement for Financial Year 2023

This statement has been published in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It is made by EMED and sets out the steps that EMED has taken and is continuing to take to ensure that modern slavery or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain and is not facilitated in any way.

EMED actively opposes slavery, servitude, human trafficking and forced labour (Modern Slavery), and acts accordingly to demonstrate the ethical behaviour and conduct of our business operations with honesty, integrity, and transparency in both our labour practices and supply chain. Effective systems and controls are in place to safeguard against any form of Modern Slavery taking place within our business or our supply chain.

Business Structure

EMED is one of the UK's leading private ambulance providers, patient transport, secure mental health transport, community transport and medical courier services at several locations within the UK mainland.

Risk of Modern Slavery

We have in place policies and systems to ensure that we identify, assess and mitigate potential risk areas in our supply chains, source goods and services ethically, identify individuals being forced to work against their will and protect whistle blowers. Details of these policies and systems are set out below.

We consider the risk of slavery and human trafficking in our own labour and employment practices to be non-existent. We are a highly professional business with compliant global labour practices and policies which ensure that we continue to provide employment opportunities free from discrimination, modern slavery and human trafficking. A summary of our labour policies is set out below.

We recognise an increased risk within our supply chains as we are at least one step removed from our operations and labour practices for some goods we procure to deliver the services. However, our supply chain policy and methods for selecting suppliers greatly mitigate this risk. We require all suppliers to sign up and adhere to our own Ethical Sourcing Policy and Supplier Code of Conduct and we conduct routine and regular supplier audits. A summary of our supplier policies is set out below.

We consider that the steps we are taking, and continue to take, are effective in ensuring we are not exposed to modern slavery and human trafficking. We have several communication channels and mechanisms for reporting concerns (anonymously if preferred) and we record and report any instances of concerns raised. Immediate action is taken where appropriate.

We believe that further improvements are most likely to come from increased collaboration with our suppliers, including increasing the depth and breadth of supplier assessments and audits.

Ethical Policy

We operate a number of internal policies to ensure that we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner. These include:

1. Modern Slavery Policy. This policy sets out EMED's stance on modern slavery and explains how employees can identify it and where they can go for help.
2. Recruitment Policy. We operate a robust recruitment policy, including conducting eligibility to work in the UK checks for all employees to safeguard against human trafficking or individuals being forced to work against their will.
3. Suppliers Code of Conduct. This code explains the way in which we expect our suppliers to act.
4. Whistleblowing Policy. We operate a whistleblowing policy so that all employees know that they can raise concerns about how colleagues are being treated, or practices within our business or supply chain, without fear of reprisals.

Labour Policy

Wherever possible, EMED employs team members directly. All recruitment is managed in accordance with a robust policy incorporating authorisation touch points. However, in the event the business needs to rely on agency support, it uses only specified, reputable employment agencies that have been approved through our supply chain management process to source labour.

EMED is a good employer and provides conditions of work that are of a high standard. We provide decent and fair conditions of employment in line with market rates aligned with the designated job role, which are paid directly to the employees, subject only to deductions permitted by law. Compensation for overtime is in accordance with prevailing laws and regulations and EMED respects the prohibition of mandatory / enforced overtime.

EMED also provides decent and fair conditions of work with regards hours of work, holidays, sickness, maternity / paternity protection, and the ability to combine work with family responsibilities. EMED provides a work-life balance that is at least comparable to that offered by similar employers. EMED encourages all employees, customer, and other business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities, or the supply chains of the organisation.

This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. EMED respects freedom of opinion and expression, therefore the whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for employees to make disclosures without fear. Employees, customers and others who have concerns can use our confidential helpline/online service.

EMED does not engage in activities that infringe, obstruct, or impede the economic, social and cultural rights of any person.

Procurement and Supply Chain Management Policy and Due Diligence Processes

EMED will not support or deal with any business knowingly involved in slavery or human trafficking. We have zero tolerance for such activity in our supply chain. Our procurement activities encompass the planning and management of all activities involved in sourcing, procurement and logistics management. This includes coordination and collaboration with our partners, which can be suppliers, service providers and customers.

We ensure that all potential and incumbent suppliers are dealt with professionally, fairly and ethically and that we uphold the principles of sustainable procurement at all times. We favour suppliers that operate under recognised ethical codes of conduct and so our Ethical Sourcing Policy and Supplier Code of Conduct is circulated to all potential and incumbent suppliers. Suppliers are required to acknowledge and agree to the terms of these (or provide details of their equivalent policies) if they wish to maintain a relationship with EMED.

Prior to new suppliers being added to our supply chain, we undertake due diligence audits using a prescribed 'supplier assessment questionnaire'. This addresses areas such as accreditation, registration, insurance policies, director checks, financial risk analysis, human resource policies, ethical sourcing and supplier code of conduct, anti-bribery, quality systems, manufacturing inspection and testing, equipment maintenance, returns and complaints processes and internal audits.

In addition to the above, as part of our contract with suppliers, we require that they confirm to us that:

1. They have taken steps to eradicate modern slavery within their business.
2. They hold their own suppliers to account in respect of modern slavery risks.
3. (For UK based suppliers) They pay their employees at least the national minimum wage / national living wage (as appropriate).
4. (For international suppliers) They pay their employees any prevailing minimum wage applicable within their country of operations.
5. We may terminate the contract at any time should any instances of modern slavery or human trafficking come to light.

Training

We have conducted training for our Procurement Team who are responsible for our supply chain so that they can recognise the signs of modern slavery or human trafficking and the appropriate action to take if they suspect that it is taking place within our supply chain.

Our Performance Indicators

We work in highly regulated sectors for a wide variety of public and governmental customers. We will know the effectiveness of the steps that we are taking to ensure that slavery and/or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain if no reports are received from employees, the public, our customers, regulators or law enforcement agencies to indicate that modern slavery practices have been identified.

We will review the effectiveness of the steps we have taken this year to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains, and in that review, we will identify further steps to combat slavery and human trafficking and our plans regarding on-going external audits.

Approval for this Statement

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (17th December 2016) and constitutes EMED's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year for 2023

Name: Craig Smith – EMED Group Chief Executive

Signature: 

Date: 22/06/2023