



Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2017-18

1. Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Belfast City Council's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

2. Our structure, our business and our supply chains

Belfast City Council is the local authority for the Belfast area with responsibility for local planning, economic development, tourism, street cleaning, parks, leisure and waste management.

Our political governance structure is set out below:



Our supply chain consists of more than 7,700 suppliers mostly based in the UK and Ireland.

3. Our policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or any part of our business. We will review existing corporate responsibility policies and consider whether they already address the issues that are required by the Act and if not, consider what additional policies we may need. For example, we may need to review the Whistleblowing Policy to reference the Modern Slavery Act.

4. Due diligence in assessing modern slavery risk in operations or supply chains

We have identified the following areas of our supply chain as having a higher risk in relation to modern slavery:

- waste management
- food

While the Council aimed to begin a self-certification process for new suppliers in 2017, this work has been delayed due to resource pressures. Starting from 1st April 2019, all our new suppliers for new or extended contracts will be required to self-certify whether the Modern Slavery Act applies to them and that they meet the requirements of the Act.

We will, subject to resource availability in the Corporate Procurement Unit, aim to eventually introduce a process of carrying out random checks on new suppliers to ensure that:

- they have a Transparency Statement
- the council is satisfied at the level of assurance provided that no modern slavery exists in their supply chain

5. Effectiveness in ensuring that modern slavery is not present

We will communicate this policy to our staff to make them aware of the issue and the council's obligations.

The Northern Ireland Department of Justice is expected, at some point, to announce guidance on the new duty to report incidences of modern slavery. This may require further training and guidance being issued to staff.

Signed on behalf of Belfast City Council by:

John Walsh
City Solicitor

Policy Control

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