

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement for April 2015 - March 2016

NERC - the Natural Environment Research Council - is the leading funder of independent research, training and innovation in environmental science in the UK. We have over 2500 employees and work with many more people in the UK and world-wide.

We invest public money in world-leading science, designed to help us sustain and benefit from our natural resources, predict and respond to natural hazards and understand environmental change. We work closely with policymakers and industry to make sure our knowledge can support sustainable economic growth and wellbeing in the UK and around the world.

We are supported mainly by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

NERC is committed to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the abolition of modern slavery and human trafficking. NERC maintains a Code of Conduct, policies on Corporate Responsibility and Whistleblowing as part of a wider suite of policies, all of which are easily accessible by all NERC staff and are reviewed on a cyclical basis.

Within NERC, our recruitment and people management processes are designed to ensure that all prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK and to safeguard employees from any abuse or coercion once in our employment.

NERC's procurement for goods and services is provided by our shared services provider, UK SBS. Our supply chain is extensive and we procure goods and services from a wide range of UK and overseas suppliers. The UK SBS have also published their [statement on Slavery & Human Trafficking](#) which includes their mechanisms for guarding against modern slavery in their client's supply chains. Their statement is published on their website and can be found here -

During 2016-17, NERC will undertake the following activities:

- Make all staff aware of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and inform them of the appropriate action to take if they suspect a case of slavery or human trafficking.
- Put together a working group to assess the parts of NERC's business and supply chains, not covered by UK SBS, where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking and what steps NERC should take to manage these risks.
- Ensure that consideration of the modern slavery risks and prevention are added to NERC's policy review process.
- Include the Modern Slavery Act 2015 into our Whistleblowing Policy.
- Ensure NERC and UK SBS procurement strategies include references to modern slavery and human trafficking.

This statement has been approved by Chief Executive and Director's Management Board at NERC.

Paul Fox