Modern Slavery Act Statement 2024
Reporting on our work to tackle modern slavery.

Opening Statement

This statement is made on behalf of Woodlands Solicitors pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The firm is committed to preventing acts of modern slavery and human trafficking from occurring within its business and supply chain and imposes the same high standards on its suppliers.

Organisational Structure and supply chains

The firm operates in the professional services sector and is structured as a Limited Company and is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under SRA Number 8003528.

The firm is registered in England and Wales with a registered company number 12849983 and its administration is undertaken from its registered office at 235 Bury New Road, Whitefield, M45 8QP.

The firm's supply chains provide goods, services and personnel to support the services provided to clients. A large proportion of the firm's suppliers are professional advisers and experts who are instructed on client matters. The remainder provide goods and services for the day to day running of the business.

The firm currently only operates in the United Kingdom, specifically the jurisdictions of England and Wales.

Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

The firm strongly opposes all forms of slavery and human trafficking and is committed to taking steps to ensure that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains or in any part of its business.

Ethical values and behaviours are promoted throughout the firm in conjunction with the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

The firm has a zero-tolerance policy to modern slavery and human trafficking both within the business and its supply chains.

In addition the firm reviews annually several firm-wide policies, including but not limited to:-

- Anti Bribery, Corruption and Fraud policy
- Corporate Social Responsibility policy
- Employment and Recruitment policies
- Whistleblowing policy

Due diligence and risk assessment management

As a legal services firm regulated by a professional regulatory body and not operating within a high-risk industry, the firm has deemed itself to be at low risk of slavery or human trafficking.

The firm maintains a risk assessment to identify the level of risk, relevant to the type of business, including across the supply chain, from modern slavery and human trafficking.

The firm carries out due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers as well as reviewing the performance of existing suppliers in order to :-

- Establish and assess areas of potential risk in our business and supply chains
- Monitor potential risk areas in our business and supply chains
- Reduce the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our business and supply chains
- Provide adequate protection for whistleblowers

The firm's overall objective is to establish and maintain relationships with its suppliers to minimise the risk that slavery or human trafficking could occur within its own supply chains.

The firm does not knowingly engage with businesses involved in modern slavery or human trafficking and will report any organisations where there are reasonable grounds to suspect their involvement.

The firm expects all of its suppliers to comply with all laws and regulations applicable to their business.

Training

We train our staff to recognise the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our business and supply chains. All staff are supplied with a copy of the anti-slavery policy at their induction and undertake annual training.

This statement has been approved by the COLP and will be reviewed annually.