

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

This statement sets out the actions that Leigh Day has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking does not occur within our firm or supply chain.

At Leigh Day we believe that everything we do is focused on the pursuit of social justice. At the core of the firm is a shared belief in a fair society where everyone has equal access to justice. That belief is reflected in our relationships with our staff, clients, suppliers, the local community where our offices are based and our impact in and on the wider community.

We take operating with integrity, social responsibility and high standards of ethical conduct extremely seriously. We want to ensure all our workplaces are environments where workers are safe from exploitation and harassment and where human rights are upheld to the highest standards.

It is within this framework that we take a robust approach in opposition to modern slavery and human trafficking and will follow a zero tolerance approach wherever it is encountered.

This statement is published in line with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Organisational structure and supply chain

Leigh Day is a specialist claimant-led law firm primarily operating within the UK. We are a partnership with offices in London and Manchester and satellite offices in Liverpool, Chesterfield and Birmingham. We represent clients in seven main areas of law and at present we employ approximately 560 people.

We are an office-based firm and have a number of regular suppliers who provide us with goods and services. We regularly seek the services of experts and consultants to work on client-related matters and source both permanent and temporary workers through recruitment agencies. Our work also involves some business-related travel both within the UK and overseas.

At present, we estimate that the overall risk of modern slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains is low. However, we do not want to be complacent.

Our Management Board has overall responsibility for the firm's anti-slavery initiatives, including the publication of this *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement* as well as the implementation and review of the firm's *Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking policy*.

Our policies and procedures

Our *Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy* is available on our staff intranet along with the firm's other key employment policies and procedures. This policy describes our approach to the identification, evaluation and ongoing management of the risks of modern slavery in our supply chain. It also outlines the ways in which both the firm and staff should act if they encounter slavery and human trafficking in our business operations or our daily lives.

The following policies and procedures reflect the firm's ethos and are relevant to the identification and prevention of modern slavery risks within our operations. The policies are accessible to all staff via our intranet.

- **Whistleblowing policy**
This policy encourages all staff to report suspected wrongdoing to the firm in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously, investigated appropriately and dealt with confidentially. The policy allows for concerns to be reported relating to the conduct of third parties such as suppliers or service providers, including actual or potential instances of slavery or human trafficking within our operations.
- **Equality, diversity and inclusion policy**
Our equality, diversity and inclusion policy aims to ensure that the firm provides a fair working environment where all current and prospective staff can thrive, and where difference is respected and valued.
- **Dignity at work policy**
This policy seeks to prevent harassment and bullying in the workplace but also within our business operations. It encourages staff awareness and outlines unacceptable conduct, including the disrespect, violation, exploitation and mistreatment of others.
- **Leigh Day Citizen Charter**
Our employee charter makes clear to staff the actions and respectful behaviours expected of them by the firm. The charter outlines the ways in which staff must treat those around them in order to maintain the firm's values, ethos and high standards of conduct.
- **Procurement policy and procedure**
We are developing a *Procurement Policy and Procedure* to outline how we will ensure the sustainable and ethical procurement of our goods and services. All staff with responsibility for procurement within the firm will be expected to follow this policy and procedure.

- **Recruitment procedures**

Our internal recruitment team works with a carefully selected list of reputable recruitment agencies to source both permanent and temporary staff. We are signatories to the **Good Recruitment Charter** and require all agencies with whom we work to abide by this. Right to work checks and references are sought for all appointees. Our recruitment agencies are subject to the same scrutiny as our other suppliers of goods and services.

All of our policies are reviewed annually in line with our Lexcel accreditation and internal compliance requirements.

Supplier review

We will aim to work with our key suppliers, in line with our Procurement Policy and Procedures which are currently being finalised, to better understand their working practices and the actions they have taken to date in relation to the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking. We aim to collect this data to inform our supplier risk profile and help us to identify whether remedial action needs to be taken for the prevention of slavery and human trafficking occurring within their operations and supply chain.

Training

We are reviewing appropriate training to equip all staff with the knowledge and awareness they need to identify and report potential modern slavery and human trafficking issues and risks. We will also seek suitable training on the operation of our procurement policy and procedures to those with responsibility for the procurement of goods and services for the firm.

Future steps

Although some progress has been made this financial year, we acknowledge that there is further work to be done to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking are absent from our internal operations and supply chain. Over the next financial year, we aim to:

- Continue with the review of our suppliers of goods and services.
- Continue to work with our suppliers to ensure our supplier relationships remain in line with our values and high standards of ethical conduct.
- Develop our **Procurement policy and procedures** to take account of social, environmental and ethical considerations of which our zero tolerance of modern slavery and human trafficking is part.
- Start working with our suppliers to ensure our high standards and requirements in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking are adhered to.
- Raise the level of awareness across the firm about modern slavery and human trafficking via appropriate training provision.

Management Board approval

This statement has been approved by the firm's Management Board.

Managing Partner's signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Benson

September 2021