

Modern slavery – Transparency in supply chains

Tuesday 1 December

SMMT Webinar

Modern Slavery: Transparency in Supply Chains

SMMT:

- Jennifer Pheasey - Deputy Head Public Policy & Vehicle Legislation, and Senior Policy Manager
- Noelle Besslich – Policy Officer

Home Office:

- Harrison Cooter – Modern Slavery Unit

SMMT Webinar

Modern Slavery: Transparency in Supply Chains

- **Timely webinar:** Provision in the Modern Slavery bills requires businesses to provide an **annual slavery and human trafficking statement** when
 - Operating in the UK with an annual turnover of \geq £36m
- This provision took effect on **29 October 2015**
- **Important issue:** SMMT responded to consultations - welcomes this reporting requirement and industry is willing to support government in its approach to addressing issues related to modern slavery in supply-chains; policy must deliver tangible results and avoid disproportionate red tape
- **Industry already engaged on this but guidance essential:** Guidance published to help businesses understand on 29 October 2015
 - How to comply with the provision, what details to include, details on publishing the statement
- Ford published its modern slavery statement (as example)
<http://www.ford.co.uk/experience-ford/SlaveryStatement>



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Context/Background

- Centre for Social Justice Report – March 2013
- The term ‘modern slavery’ established
- Informal scrutiny
- Draft Bill
- Pre-legislative Scrutiny Committee
- Bill introduced – June 2014
- Royal Assent – March 2015

Modern Slavery Act and Strategy

The Modern Slavery Act was passed by the UK Government in March 2015 and includes:

- Modern Slavery offences with potential life sentences
- A new UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner role
- A range of provisions to improve support for victims
- AND, new requirement for organisations to disclose their efforts to ensure there is no modern slavery in their supply chains or own organisation.

The Modern Slavery Strategy was published in November 2014 and sets out our comprehensive cross-government approach to fighting modern slavery, based on four Ps – Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare.

- **Pursue:** prosecute and disrupt individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery
- **Prevent:** prevent people from engaging in modern slavery
- **Protect:** strengthen safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness and resilience
- **Prepare:** reduce the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enhanced support

Transparency in Supply Chains – developing the provision

- Continued engagement with businesses and representative organisations
- External pressure
- Provision developed and introduced into the Bill
- Consultation from February to May 2015
- Consultation response published – July 2015
- Regulations laid and debated – Sept and October 2015
- Provision commenced and guidance launched from 29 October 2015

Transparency in Supply Chains – the requirements

- Commercial organisations with a turnover of £36m or more, providing goods or services and carrying on a business or part of a business in the UK, will be required to complete a slavery and human trafficking statement
- A statement will be required for each financial year of the organisation
- The statement must contain the steps an organisation has taken to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains and own organisation
- The statement must be signed by someone senior in the organisation
- The statement must be published on the organisation's website and a link to the statement placed in a prominent place on the website homepage



Development of the Statutory Guidance

- Working with business representative groups and trade bodies
- Generic guidance to reflect the scope of the provision
- Range of diverse voices
- Sets out legal requirements
- Provides case studies
- Recognises iterative process



Producing a statement

- Transitional provisions –businesses will need to complete their first statement from 31 March 2016
- Group structures
- Failure to comply
- Central depository

Further information

- **For further questions, please contact:**

Noelle Besslich

Policy Officer, SMMT

020 7355 3291

nbesslich@smmmt.co.uk

Harrison Cooter

Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office

020 7035 0573

harrison.cooter@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

- **Further links**

- [Trafficking in Persons Report \(TIP\)](#)
- [Statutory Guidance](#)
- [Modern Slavery Act](#)