



Liverpool Streetscene Services Limited Modern Slavery Statement 2023



Modern Slavery Statement



Introduction

Liverpool Streetscene Services Limited (LSSL) recognise that Modern Slavery is a worldwide and growing issue. The term Modern Slavery is used as an umbrella term, which covers many forms of exploitation, these can include criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, human trafficking, labour exploitation and sexual exploitation.

All sectors are not free from Modern Slavery and can still be attractive to perpetrators of this type of crime and as such, LSSL are fully committed to ensuring that a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking is applied and strategies/approaches are established to mitigate those risks proactively.

In 2022, the UK Governments National Referral Mechanism (NRM) received a 16,938 referrals of potential victims of modern slavery, this was a 33% increase on 2021. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) state that 10 Million more people were in modern slavery compared to 2016, this highlights just how prevalent this form of crime is, given the constant growth on the number of referrals.

LSSL ('the Company', 'we', 'us' or 'our') is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking violations in its own operations and its supply chain. This policy statement sets out the actions and systems in place to mitigate any risk of human trafficking and modern slavery in our company and supply chain.

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Company Operations

LSSL is a registered company (04161448) and all business operations take place in the United Kingdom. The Company was created in 2016 as a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) under a TEKAL exemption, to carry out essential services on behalf of Liverpool City Council.

We operate in the Public sector, providing services on behalf of the Local Authority as well as additional Commercial Operations in regards to Waste Collections and Disposal.

The nature of our supply chains contains a number of key direct suppliers, who provide us with goods, such as equipment for our site based operations including Groundcare equipment supplies and services, such as vehicle hire, and fleet maintenance providers.

For more information about the Company, please visit our website: <http://www.liverpoolstreetscene.co.uk>.

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Policies

We operate a number of internal policies to ensure that we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner. In particular, as a LATCO, LSSL follows all UK Public Sector Procurement legislation namely the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR), from this LSSL have created their own set of Contract Standing Orders (CSO's) which acts as a set of internal procurement rules to ensure the correct governance is followed in relation to procurement activities. The Company ensures that we work with all potential and incumbent suppliers in a professional, ethical and transparent manner at all times, whilst upholding the basic principles of sustainable procurement.

We make sure our suppliers are aware of our policies and adhere to the same standards.

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Due Diligence

As part of our efforts to monitor and reduce the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains, LSSL adopt an internal supplier audit as part of our due diligence procedures. These audits can comprise of site inspections aimed at uncovering any potential issues in regards to modern slavery.

Our due diligence procedures aim to:

- Establish a robust supplier vetting process
- Adopt strict supplier codes of conduct
- Collaborate with industry initiatives
- Conduct regular supplier assessments
- Provide supplier education and capacity building
- Engage with local communities
- Encourage transparency and traceability
- Regularly review and update policies
- Engage in responsible sourcing initiatives
- Foster collaboration with stakeholders
- Provide protection for whistleblowers

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Due Diligence (continued)

LSSL expect best practice from all purchasing employees and expect all to abide by the CIPS Code of Ethics. By doing so, we would also expect all suppliers in the supply chain to comply with all relevant legislation and international standards within their industries that include child and forced labour, health and safety of workers, non-discrimination, employment law, human rights, fraud and corruption.

LSSL has over 200 external suppliers, including services and works covering a multitude of different sectors, including waste management services, groundcare supplies, vehicle hire, building materials and traffic management services. These goods, services and works are procured from a range of local, national and international organisations, businesses and voluntary sector organisations. Each supplier in turn may have its own supply chain. The aspiration for LSSL is to ensure compliance and best practice within not only the organisation and its own suppliers but from the supply chains that serve them. There are a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to ensuring modern slavery does not occur in the LSSL, these include a whistleblowing policy and corporate procurement procedures.

The Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) is a self-declaration form sent to all potential suppliers which can lead to the disqualification of a supplier from the bidding process if the answers to the questions posed are unsatisfactory.

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Due Diligence (continued)

The SSQ asks whether potential suppliers are compliant with the annual reporting requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and asks for evidence of this or an explanation as to why they do not comply. Potential suppliers can be excluded from the procurement process if they do not comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, unless there is an acceptable reason for non-compliance.

LSSL's standard contract terms and conditions require contractors to:

- (a) Be compliant with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015;
- (b) Report any, or suspected, breaches of the legislation to the council as well as provide a yearly report on the steps the contractor has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or in any part of its business.

LSSL include a clause in all contracts that allows us to terminate a contract with a supplier if there is evidence of modern slavery. However, our first course of action is to work with the supplier, to develop an action plan to improve working practices and eradicate modern slavery.

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Risk and Compliance

The Company has evaluated the nature and extent of its exposure to the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in its UK supply chain through:

- Evaluating the slavery and human trafficking risks of each new supplier
- Reviewing on a regular basis all aspects of the supply chain based on supply chain mapping

We would consider that we operate in a medium-risk environment with the majority of our supply chain based in the UK and in low-risk industries, such as fleet rental, stationary supplies, building supplies and services. Conversely, we do also have suppliers in the waste management industry, which is seen to be a more high-risk industry.

We do not tolerate slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains. Where there is evidence of failure to comply with our policies and procedures by any of our suppliers, we will require that supplier to remedy the non-compliance or face termination from the affected contract.

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Measuring Effectiveness

The Company aims to introduce Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure its effectiveness and ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business and supply chains. These KPIs are as follows:

- We will contact suppliers to enquire about their modern slavery practices every 6 months.
- We will train our staff about modern slavery issues and increase awareness within the Company, on a regular basis.

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Training

The Company will ensure that both its Board members and employees are up to date with regulations relating to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Company will also ensure that appropriate training for board members and employees will be provided.

All procurement employees are advised to follow the CIPS ethical Code of Conduct, carry out the training provided by CIPS and renew their certificate annually as part of their commitment to ensuring Modern Slavery is not taking place in the supply chain of the Company.

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Declaration

This Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement has been created pursuant to Section 54(1), Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (“Act”) and relates to the actions and activities of Liverpool Streetscene Services Limited for the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Murphy', is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Paul Murphy

Chief Operating Officer