



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 23/11

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	8 February 2023
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Modern Slavery Statement
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates slavery and trafficking offences, introduces tougher penalties and sentencing rules and provides more support for victims.</p> <p>The Government has committed to extending the reporting requirements under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, to public sector organisations. This includes organisations publishing a Modern Slavery statement.</p> <p>The Authority recognises its responsibility as an employer and procurer and commissioner of services. It is committed to helping to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its activities and through our supply chains. Appropriate arrangements are in place across the Service to support this. These are captured in the overarching draft Modern Slavery statement, included as Appendix A to this report.</p> <p>The draft Modern Slavery statement set out in Appendix A has been written against official guidance. Aligned to this, it is proposed that it is reviewed annually as part of the Statement of Assurance, which is approved by the Authority at its September meeting.</p>

	Following approval, the statement will be published on the Service's website and uploaded to the Government Modern Slavery statement registry.
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to adhere to the requirement of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and commit to eliminating discrimination and exploitation in Service activities and supply chains could impact the reputation and legal position of the Authority.
COMMUNITY IMPACT	None for the purpose of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purpose of this report
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and approve the Modern Slavery statement 2. Review the statement as part of the Authority's annual Statement of Assurance
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Draft Modern Slavery Statement
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None for the purpose of this report
REPORT ORIGINATOR	Name: Jill McCrae, Assistant Chief Officer Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk Tel no: 01722 691073

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. To tackle these crimes, the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was introduced.
- 1.2 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates slavery and trafficking offences, introduces tougher penalties and sentencing rules and provides more support for victims. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 made the UK the first country in the world to require organisations to publicly report on the steps that they are taking to prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.
- 1.3 Section 54 of the Act requires commercial organisations, to develop and publish a Modern Slavery statement. In delivering a Modern Slavery statement organisations are not expected to guarantee that all their supply chains are 'slavery free'. However, statements must describe the steps taken during the financial year to deal with modern slavery risks in your supply chains and your own business.
- 1.4 The Government has committed to extending the reporting requirements under Section 54 of the Act to public sector organisations. This includes organisations publishing a Modern Slavery statement.

2. Modern Slavery statement

- 2.1 The Authority recognises its responsibility as an employer and procurer and commissioner of services. It is committed to helping to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its activities and through supply chains.
- 2.2 Appropriate arrangements are in place across the Service to support this responsibility and commitment and these are captured within the overarching draft Modern Slavery statement, included as Appendix A to this report.
- 2.3 The draft Modern Slavery Statement is for Members consideration and approval. Aligned to the Home Office's statutory guidance, this draft statement includes a link to the Service's organisational chart, highlights the procedures in place in relation to slavery and human trafficking, advises of areas of practise for due diligence, risk assessment and performance management and includes the training requirements for staff across the Service.
- 2.4 The Home Office's statutory guidance requires organisations to publish a revised Modern Slavery statement each year and within six months of the financial year end. It is therefore proposed that the review is undertaken as part

of the development of the Statement of Assurance, approved by the Authority annually in September.

3. Summary and Next Steps

- 3.1 The Authority is committed to preventing modern slavery from operations and supply chains. This draft statement sets out this commitment along with an overview of how this is to be achieved.
- 3.2 Following approval, the draft statement will be published on the Service's website and reviewed annually as part of the annual Statement of Assurance. It will also be uploaded to the Government Modern Slavery statement registry.