



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Statement on Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial Year 2024/25

London School of Economics & Political Science ('LSE') – Statement on Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial Year 2024/25

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54, of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps the LSE has taken to identify, mitigate and prevent slavery or slavery-like practices, forced labour and human trafficking from taking place in our supply chains or in any part of LSE's business.

Our organisation structure

Founded in 1896, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a leading institution in social sciences. Additionally, LSE was named University of the Year 2026 for the second year running, by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide¹. As a specialist university with a diverse international student body, LSE's influence extends far beyond its central London campus, reaching across the globe.

The LSE is both a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 2006 and an exempt charity under paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The registered office of the LSE is Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE, United Kingdom.

Our commitment

LSE is committed towards taking steps to identify, prevent and mitigate the risks of modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations in its supply chains and global activities. We are committed to ensuring that our activities, collaborations, our contractors and sub-contractors and all those in our supply chains comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

LSE adopts the principles of the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code of labour practice and has its own Supplier Code of Practice which it updates regularly.

¹ [UK university rankings 2026: League table | The Times and The Sunday Times](#)

LSE also requires compliance with our [Ethics Code](#). The Code contains a specific obligation to act with integrity and in accordance with all relevant legislation and statutory requirements. This includes compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

We are committed to buying ethically and to engage our community on sustainability issues as set out in section 3.4 of our LSE 2030 strategy (invest in a world class environment).

The Modern Slavery working Group ('the Group') was established in 2019 to review and enhance LSE's response to Modern Slavery and to consider what mitigations could be implemented to address the potential incidence of modern slavery and human trafficking within the entirety of school activities and business, at home and overseas.

Reporting Concerns in the School

LSE takes any report of labour rights abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking seriously. All members of LSE community including but not limited to staff, students and members of Council, are expected to report any concerns relating to modern slavery or human trafficking and encourage the disclosure of information about malpractice/wrongdoing occurring in the School in order for it to be investigated with action taken as necessary.

Members of our LSE community are signposted to: _

[Seeking ethical advice and reporting concerns Whistleblowing Policy](#)

The LSE and It's Supply Chains

1) Risk Assessment

The risk assessment methodology used by LSE to evaluate its supply chain is necessarily broad. A category-based risk assessment is employed, rating categories such as IT hardware and construction as high or medium risk. We engage with tools such as 'Know the Chain', the LUPC Responsible Procurement Hub, and the International Working Group on Ethical Public Procurement (IWGEPP) to inform our assessments. No changes to risk ratings were made in 2024–2025.

The LSE Procurement Policy contains a specific requirement for all procurement to be undertaken in line with the LSE Ethics Code and Supplier Code of Practice. We make our expectations clear in our [Information for Suppliers](#). We use a rigorous tender process for supply agreements, and our preference is to always use our own contract terms rather than a supplier's in order to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and LSE expectations.

The tender process supports LSE's position, to promote a worker-led approach in addressing slavery and human trafficking risk. In the event of a non-compliance risk, LSE is committed to working collaboratively with its suppliers to implement effective remediation for the benefit of the affected workers. Where a suitable remedy cannot be achieved, LSE reserves the right to terminate any agreement.

A Modern Slavery dashboard with key indicators of performance for operations and supply has been developed as follows:

Category	Modern Slavery Risk Rating	Mitigation Actions (Next Steps)
IT Hardware (including AV)	High	Please see Next Steps 1 & 6
Estates & Buildings	Medium / High	Please see Next Steps 1, 4 & 6
Catering Supplies and Services	Medium	Please see Next Steps 6
Facilities Operations	Medium	Please see Next Steps 6
Professional Services / Consultancy	Low	Please see Next Steps 2, 4&6
Utilities	Low	Please see Next Steps 6
Travel and Transport	Low	Please see Next Steps 6
Library & Publications	Low	Please see Next Steps 6
Health and Safety & Security	Low	Please see Next Steps 4 & 6

The IT Hardware category is marked as high risk due to the complex supply chains often involved in the production of electronic components. These supply chains can span multiple countries, some of which may have weaker labour regulations, increasing the risk of modern slavery.

The Estates and Building category is marked as medium risk, but due to the high value and the high rate of sub-contracting and temporary labour we will treat this as a priority.

Our Procurement team have continued to ask Suppliers to engage with the [NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool](#) in order to help support our procurement response to Modern

Slavery. The tool assists in engaging suppliers on the issue of Modern Slavery, raises awareness of Modern Slavery amongst our Suppliers, helps to identify actions our suppliers are taking in response to the Modern Slavery Act and provides a mechanism for support, guidance and training to the supply base to share best practice between suppliers.

LSE also has access to Creditsafe & Constructionline which it considers as part of its overall due diligence during construction related tenders.

The LSE Supplier Code of Practice

Following the creation of the Supplier Code of Practice ('the Code') [codSupPra.pdf \(lse.ac.uk\)](#), the Procurement Team have worked to ensure that it is embedded at the tendering stage for new contracts or during contract renewal for existing contracts. The Legal Team are also ensuring that the Code is embedded within key contracts. The expectation is that all our Suppliers will comply /take steps to comply with this Code and mandate these standards from their own suppliers and sub-contractors. This would apply to all of our suppliers of goods and services, consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, intermediaries and agents. In addition to Suppliers, the School also expects other organisations or institutions we collaborate with to comply with the minimum standards set out in this Code.

LSE reserves the right to monitor and review compliance, implementation and adherence with this Code via periodic reviews/audits as part of our contract management process.

2) Continue to work with academic and research partnerships colleagues to inform appropriate due diligence processes.

LSE has a working group which is titled Research Risk Working Group which meets periodically. A Sub-Group has been established to update due diligence for research contracts. This includes all LSE research centres and the Research and Innovation Division to standardise modern slavery due diligence in our systems.

3) Continue to Develop Appropriate Modern Slavery Training.

Each Procurement Manager undertakes CIPS ethical procurement training.

Contract management guidance has been updated and now includes responsible procurement and supply chain risks for consideration and discussion; these now form part of the contract management process.

Targeted training has been delivered to the Construction and Project Management teams in Estates, with over 20 construction specialists in attendance. The training focused on construction risks, a high-risk area. Additional resources were provided, covering modern slavery and supply chain risks in detail.

There are currently no plans to expand training in the next financial year, but efforts are being made to embed responsible procurement practices into everyday procurement procedures.

4) Continue to work with Human Resources to embed Modern Slavery awareness and risk mitigation as necessary.

We have updated an 'Introduction to LSE' guide to inform temporary workers on campus about their rights and entitlements, including what they should expect from both their agency employer and LSE, which covers certain benefits. This ensures that all staff working at LSE are treated fairly and consistently in comparison to directly employed LSE staff.

The Human Resources Division has worked with the Procurement team to deliver this guidance along with a process map for staff to use.

5) Continue to work with Electronics Watch.

Procurement representatives attended and presented on the work of the Apple working group and hosted round table discussions on worker remedy at the Electronics Watch (EW) Annual Conference, November 2024.

Procurement representatives were also involved in the development of the [Human Rights Due Diligence Maturity Matrix](#) which was launched in September 2024.

Various Procurement staff attended various Brand and task groups during the year, August 2024 and January 2025.

Various Procurement staff attended various workshops: EW Credible Evidence, Stronger Supply Chains Confirmation; and EW Electronics Watch webinar: The Construction Industry January 2025.

Procurement representatives attended the International Working Group on Ethical Public Procurement (IWGEPP) in October 2024. Procurement attended meetings IWGEPP during November 2024 and June 2025.

Monthly monitoring reports are sent by EW to LSE, and access given to Procurement Managers.

6) Continue to Use the Supplier Code of Practice Within Tenders as Standard.

LSE has created questionnaires within our tendering portal to be added to relevant risk assessed categories in line with the responsible procurement approach in our procurement policy.

LSE is committed to continuously learning about modern slavery and supply chain issues and actively shares its insights and knowledge:

- LSE is a member of the [Higher Education Procurement Association \(HEPA\)](#) Responsible Procurement Group, which hosts events with expert speakers and shares practical advice through case studies with its members.
- LSE is also a member of the International Working Group on Ethical Public Procurement (IWGEPP) which hosts online clinics, events etc to support each other's work in this area. Members are from across Europe.
- LSE is an affiliate member of Electronics Watch, a worker driven human rights charity for the IT sector supply chain workers.

Next Steps

1. Ongoing development to current risk assessments and use of the NETpositive tool amongst suppliers.
2. Continue to work with academic and research partnerships colleagues to inform appropriate due diligence processes.
3. Continue to Develop Appropriate Modern Slavery Training.
4. Continue to work with Human Resources to embed Modern Slavery awareness and risk mitigation as necessary.
5. Continue to work with Electronics Watch and other third party organisations in order to inform, educate and contribute to the debate.
6. Continue to Use the Supplier Code of Practice within Tenders as Standard

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