

Sport England Modern Slavery Statement 2021/2022

Introduction

This is our first annual Modern Slavery Statement. As a public body with a budget of more than £36m, we're required by government to produce an annual statement reporting on the steps we have taken to prevent modern slavery in our supply chains.

Sport England has a zero-tolerance policy to modern slavery, and we're committed to identifying, preventing and mitigating modern slavery risks within our own business, our supply chains and our recipients of funding.

About Sport England

The English Sports Council, known as 'Sport England' is an arm's length body of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and a National Lottery distributor body. We're responsible for investing in sport and physical activity with the aim of making it a normal part of life for everyone in England.

More information about our work and how we are managed can be found in the [corporate information](#) section of our website. Our website also contains details of our 10 year strategy, [Uniting the Movement](#) and [Annual Reports](#).

Modern Slavery Policy

We've reviewed our own business, our supply chains, and our recipients of funding to help us identify where there is risk of us unwittingly employing victims of modern slavery. We believe that the potential for modern slavery may arise in our own staff, our supply chain, and recipients of funding. We provide more detail on each of these areas below.

Our staff:

We employ more than 300 employees (full time and fixed term). Our staff are mostly in professional or technical roles. Our recruitment practices follow government best practice, and as part of our recruitment processes, we confirm eligibility to work in the UK.

We recognise a major trade union and we permit that trade union to advertise and recruit freely in our workplaces. We have staff that are Trade Union Representatives. We also provide for our staff an independent and confidential assistance helpline. The helpline is a telephone and online help service for personal, legal, financial, tax, or work issues.

We believe these policies, practices and processes would identify modern slavery in our employment practices.

Recipients of our funding:

Each year we act a distributor for around £250m of grants. These grants typically range from £300 to £20m with the average award of circa £120,000. The majority of recipients are sports clubs, community organisations or small charities/CICs based in England.

Our existing terms and conditions for grants require our recipients of funding to comply with all relevant laws and government requirements. This includes the Modern Slavery Act 2015 where it applies. In addition, the Sport England and UK Sport Code for Sports Governance requires recipients of funding to have appropriate policies and procedures in place and act in accordance with them at all times to help them comply with any relevant law, government requirements or best practice.

Our supply chains:

Each year we purchase around £40m of goods and services from our suppliers.

Most of our suppliers are within the UK, and many of our procurements are carried out through government framework contracts. This means our suppliers have already been reviewed by [Crown Commercial Service](#), and the process through which we obtain suppliers (the [Crown Commercial Service public procurement policy](#)) means there is more transparency when we obtain suppliers. In addition, very little of what we purchase comes from industry sectors where there may be a higher risk of modern slavery, for example extraction and textiles industries.

Where we do not use a government framework, we openly tender our contracts worth over £25k. The procurement team works with the stakeholder departments to consider the risks of

modern slavery in the areas we procure. All bidders are required to provide a copy of their own Modern Slavery Statements at the initial submission stage.

As a result of this, we believe that the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain is relatively low. However, we will take proportionate and beneficial steps to reduce that risk and to reduce the risk that our suppliers directly or through their own onward supply chain reduces the risk of modern slavery.

All relevant suppliers that wish to tender for Sport England contracts must provide evidence that they have met the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This information forms part of the terms and conditions. We will update our terms and conditions to include a specific reminder for our suppliers that they should review their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 throughout the life of our contracts, although suppliers are already required to comply with all applicable laws, which would include the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Procurement team will collaborate with other public sector bodies as part of the DCMS family to improve its approach to modern slavery and share learning and best practice.

Training and awareness:

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery in our own business, our supply chains, and our recipients of funding, we will communicate this statement to our staff, business partners, and suppliers.

Our procurement team undertakes regular professional training, including in the area of modern slavery prevention in supply chains.

Making our statement effective:

Our staff are essential to help us realise this statement on modern slavery. Our communication to our staff is through our most senior people so that we stress the importance placed on this statement. We will also explain to our staff that it is better for us, our suppliers, and funding recipients to identify any issues around modern slavery, so that we can take necessary action.

Staff who have any concerns may raise these through our whistleblowing policy, or may report suspicions through our fraud response plan detailed in our Counter Fraud and Irregularity policy. There is regular reporting to our Audit Committee regarding whistleblowing, suspected fraud and error cases.

Separately, concerns may be raised under our [Complaints Procedure](#).

Review:

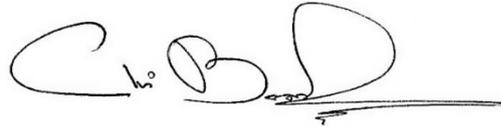
We will review and update this statement on an annual basis. This statement will next be reviewed in October 2022.

Approval of this statement:

This statement is made in keeping with section [54\(1\) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and approved by the Board on behalf of Sport England. This statement will be made available on our website and on the [Government's Modern Slavery Statement Registry](#).



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Signed by **Tim Hollingsworth**
Chief Executive



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Signed by **Chris Boardman**
Chair

For and on behalf of The English Sports Council