

Sport England Modern Slavery Statement 2024/5

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and is Sport England's third Modern Slavery Statement. As a public body with a budget of more than £36m we are required to produce an annual statement reporting on the steps we have taken to prevent modern slavery in our supply chains. This statement covers the actions taken in the 2024/25 financial year and our plans for 2025/26.

This statement sets out the steps that Sport England has taken during the financial year to ensure, as far as possible, that modern slavery is not taking place within its business, supply chains or our funding recipients. Sport England has a zero-tolerance policy to modern slavery, and we are committed to acting ethically, transparently and with integrity in all business dealings and relationships. To our knowledge there have been no instances of modern slavery identified in our business, supply chains or funding recipients during 2024/25.

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 are responsible for investing in sport and physical activity with the aim of making it a normal part of life for everyone in England. We are established by Royal Charter (RC000766).

More information about Sport England's 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 our [Annual Reports](#).

Risk Assessment and Due Diligence

We have 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 over 300 employees. 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 employee assistance helpline. The helpline is a telephone and online help service for personal, legal, financial, tax, or work issues. Employees are also able to raise concerns through the whistleblowing policy and procedure, which includes an option to make a disclosure via a confidential and secure whistleblowing service.

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 £350m of grants. These grants typically range from £300 to £76m with the average award of circa £120,000. The majority of recipients are small organisations based in England.

Our existing terms and conditions for grants require our recipients of funding to comply with all applicable laws of England and Wales (which would include where relevant the Modern Slavery Act 2015). 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:

As an Arms Length Body, Sport England's procurement activities are regulated by the Procurement Act 2023 and associated Cabinet Office requirements; notably the [Procurement Policy Note 02/23](#), in particular which provides guidance on how to tackle Modern Slavery in Supply Chains.

Sport England purchases around £40 million of goods and services from third party suppliers each year. A significant number of our procurements is done via government framework contracts such as Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework Agreements. These suppliers will have already been subject to initial evaluation, and the process through which we purchase goods and services ensures a transparent approach to supplier selection. The Crown Commercial

Services Modern Slavery statement and approach to compliance can be found on [their website](#).

CCS looks at whether suppliers (in scope of S54 of the Modern Slavery Act) have up-to-date statements as part of the tendering process, and this is checked annually as part of their supplier assurance process.

For agreements rated as medium or high risk of Slavery, CCS conducts annual modern Slavery assessments with suppliers and follow-up conversations with suppliers to discuss areas for improvement.

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. Most of our contracts are for professional services and have been awarded to suppliers based in, and operating within, the UK

Where we do not use a framework, we openly tender our contracts over £25k. The Procurement team works with the stakeholder departments to consider the risks of modern slavery in the areas we procure. All prospective suppliers to Sport England must provide evidence that they have met the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This information forms part of the terms and conditions which explicitly require suppliers to comply with applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, including the Modern Slavery Act 2015. During the life of our contracts, suppliers must maintain accurate records to trace the supply chain of all services provided to Sport England and notify us as soon as they become aware of any suspected slavery or human trafficking.

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 further reduce that risk, including via our suppliers directly or through their own onward supply chain.

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 organisation, our supply chains, and our recipients of funding, we will communicate this statement to our staff, suppliers and on our website.

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 through a Trade Union representative. 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 2026. If you would like to find out more about Sport England’s approach to Modern Slavery, you can contact us on [our website](#).

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 on 8 April 2026. This statement will be made available on our website and on the [Government’s Modern Slavery Statement Registry](#).



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Signed by **Simon Hayes**

Signed by **Chris Boardman**

Chief Executive

Chair

For and on behalf of The English Sports Council