



## The Modern Slavery Act

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires any organisation, corporate or partnership trading in the UK, regardless of where they are established, with an annual turnover of £36m or more, to produce a statement setting out the steps they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their own business or their supply chains.

If an organisation has taken no steps to do this, their slavery and human trafficking statement should say so.

One key purpose of the measure is to prevent modern slavery by increasing transparency and ensuring that the public, consumers, employees and investors know what steps an organisation is taking to tackle it. Organisations will need to build on what they are doing each year; their first statement should show what they are doing to start to act on the issue and their planned actions to investigate or collaborate with others to effect change.

The slavery and human trafficking statement is a public document which must be published on an organisation's website with a link in a prominent place on the homepage. There is no prescriptive layout or content for the statement. It is up to each organisation to decide how they present the information and how much detail they provide. The organisation's sector, the complexity of its structure, and supply chains and countries it works in will affect the information presented. It is recommended that organisations seek legal advice.

Businesses with a year end of 31 March 2016 were first required to publish a statement under the transparency provision covering the full financial year. Information should be published as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year, and ideally within six months. Given that the Act was only recently introduced, it is expected that the approach to tackling issues of modern slavery and the statements being published will evolve and improve over time as best practice emerges.



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