



Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Year End 31 March 2021

1. Background

As a government owned company with an annual turnover exceeding £36,000,000, the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("Modern Slavery Act") apply to Northern Ireland Water Limited ("NI Water").

2. Organisation structure, business and supply chains

NI Water, formed in April 2007, is a government owned company and non-departmental public body, owned entirely by the Department for Infrastructure. NI Water is responsible for the supply and distribution of drinking water and the provision of sewage services for approximately 780,000 domestic, agricultural and business customers throughout Northern Ireland. NI Water supplies these services to a population of 1.7 million.

NI Water's supply chains can be divided into three categories:

- Capital works
- Supplies
- Services

All capital works are provided by contractors based in Northern Ireland and comprise the provision of equipment, materials and labour. Just over half of supplies and services contractors are based in Northern Ireland, with the remainder being based predominantly in Great Britain. NI Water has circa 400 procurement routes (frameworks or contracts) for supplies and services and circa 65 for capital works. Over 99.5% of NI Water's expenditure with its supply chain is covered by a formal contract for the provision of its goods, services and works requirements.

NI Water is subject to the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 (as amended) and NI Public Procurement Policy. All requirements exceeding £50,000 in value are publicly tendered.

3. NI Water's slavery and human trafficking policy

NI Water does not condone slavery or human trafficking in any form and supports the principles set out in the Modern Slavery Act. NI Water has an anti-slavery and human trafficking policy in place.

4. Business and supply chain due diligence

Regarding its own business, NI Water strives, at all times, to comply with employment law applicable in Northern Ireland. The nationality and work permits of all employees are scrutinised as part of the recruitment process. NI Water has comprehensive procurement and contract management policies and procedures in place and these are regularly reviewed. All NI Water's supply chain contracts include an obligation to comply with all applicable laws, including new legislation introduced during the contract period.

All goods and services contracts awarded since 2016/17 have required contractors in scope of the Modern Slavery Act to include a link to their slavery and human trafficking statement in the tender documents. If no such link or statement is provided, a contractor must create one within six months of being awarded a contract. Failure to do so would amount to a breach of contract. In relation to capital works tenders and existing capital works contracts all contractors are required to comply with all applicable legislation through the NEC form of contract. It therefore follows that all such contractors within scope of the Modern Slavery Act are contractually obliged to conform to the requirements of that act.

5. Risk assessment and mitigating actions

As all of NI Water's business is undertaken within Northern Ireland, NI Water considers risks are most likely to arise from its supply chain rather than from its business operations. NI Water will undertake a risk based approach to mapping its supply chain so that NI Water can come to an informed view of the risk of exploitation and plan to mitigate those risks.

6. Information for employees

The statement and the policy are included in NI Water's repository of policies and procedures, which is available to all staff via NI Water's intranet.

7. Enquiries

Any other individual who wishes to raise concerns in relation to slavery or human trafficking may telephone our 'Waterline' number 03457-440088 and ask for the matter to be brought to the attention of the Legal Department. Any e-mail communication could be sent to waterline@niwater.com.

Signed: 

Name: Sara Venning

(NIW Director/ Company Secretary)

Date: 31st August 2021