



Modern Slavery Act (2015)

Statutory Statement (2017-2018)

Our organisation

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust consists of a 600 bedded large district General Hospital, which provides its services on the Countess of Chester Health Park, and a 64 bedded Service at Ellesmere Port Hospital. The Trust has approximately 4,800 staff and provides a range of medical services to more than 445,000 patients per year from areas covering Western Cheshire, Ellesmere Port, Neston and North Wales.

The Countess of Chester Hospital has an excellent reputation for delivering high quality patient care and is nationally accredited at the highest levels in many areas, in particular those relating to clinical outcomes and patient safety.

Our aim is to be the preferred hospital of choice for our traditional community, and a preferred hospital of choice for patients from a wider area, and to continue to provide a comprehensive, high quality, and accessible range of emergency and elective services to all our patients. We want our patients to be assured that they will receive their care as rapidly as possible in a first-class environment, be treated with courtesy and dignity, and be confident that the outcome of their clinical care will be of the highest standards and safety.

Our budget is around £230,244,000. We procure goods and services from a range of providers. Contracts vary from small one-off purchases to large service contracts.

Arrangements to prevent slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or any part of our business activity.

Our commitment to social and environmental responsibility is covered by our approach to modern slavery and human trafficking, which is part of our safeguarding strategy and arrangements

Safeguarding

Our commitment to ensure no modern slavery is reflected in a number of our policies and procedures. These include our ***Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children, Safeguarding Adults Policy*** and ***Safeguarding Strategy***, which have been developed and maintained within the national and local safeguarding children governance and accountabilities frameworks. It includes guidance on initial contact with a suspected human trafficking victim and the National Referral Mechanism.



Training and promotion

Our safeguarding training includes role relevant modern slavery awareness and resources to promote understanding of the Department of Health's project around Provider Responses, Treatment and Care for Trafficked People ([PROTECT](#)).

Suppliers/tenders

Trust adheres to a level of procurement maturity as required by the Department of Health (DH) paper, *National Health Service (NHS) Standards of Procurement (1)* (2013) and sets out how it will manage its activities, business relationships with suppliers, and our corporate social responsibilities together with the engagement, utilisation, and authority of the key stakeholders at all stages in the procurement cycle.

The Trust works to ensure consistent, transparent and robust application in conforming to the *Public Procurement (UK) Regulations* (2015) SI No. 102. It is mandatory for all Trust employees to comply with SFI's, regulations, and the principles of the *EU procurement directives and the UK regulations (2)* (2014)

Sub-contracts

Our procurement and contracting team is qualified and experienced in managing healthcare contracts and understand the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act (2015), which includes:

- *requesting evidence of their plans and arrangements to prevent slavery in their activities and supply chain*
- *using our routine contract management meetings with our providers, to address any issues around modern slavery*
- *implementing any relevant clauses contained within the Standard NHS Contract.*

Modern Slavery Act (2015) – Section 54

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (2015) details the following:

(4) A slavery and human trafficking statement for a financial year is:

(a) a statement of the steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place:

- (i) in any of its supply chains, and*
- (ii) in any part of its own business, or*
- (b) a statement that the organisation has taken no such steps.*



(5) An organisation's slavery and human trafficking statement may include information about:

- (a) the organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains*
- (b) its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking*
- (c) its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains*
- (d) the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk*
- (e) its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate*
- (f) the training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.*

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act (2015) and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the last financial year.

Notes:

- (1) National Health Service (NHS) Standards of Procurement (2013) updated July 2016
- (2) EU procurement directives and the UK regulations (2014) updated March 2017