

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – North Somerset Council Transparency Statement 2023-24

This statement sets out North Somerset Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and, its supply chains.

This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

As part of Local Government, the Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through awareness training. When procuring goods or services, officers will ensure that, where modern slavery risks have been identified, as part of tender and evaluation and ongoing contract management, they will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery through a clear understanding of the supplier's:

- Structure, business and supply chains;
- Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
- Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
- Business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
- Effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measure against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
- Training available to all staff to support the identification of slavery and human trafficking.

The Council's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement should be read in conjunction with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the National Referral Mechanism. This Statement will be reviewed and updated annually. The Statement is reported to the Council's Executive each year for monitoring and assurance purposes.

For further information please see

<https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/information-advice/modern-slaveryadvice/modern-slavery>