

NMC Modern Slavery Statement

For the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

About us

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery that improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the professional regulator of more than 700,000 nursing and midwifery professionals, we have an important role to play in making this a reality.

Our core role is to **regulate**. First, we promote high professional standards for nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England. Second, we maintain the register of professionals eligible to practise. Third, we investigate concerns about nurses, midwives and nursing associates – something that affects less than one percent of professionals each year. We believe in giving professionals the chance to address concerns, but we'll always take action when needed.

To regulate well, we **support** our professions and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout people's careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address new challenges. We also support people involved in our investigations, and we're increasing our visibility so people feel engaged and empowered to shape our work.

Regulating and supporting our professions allows us to **influence** health and social care. We share intelligence from our regulatory activities and work with our partners to support workforce planning and sector-wide decision making. We use our voice to speak up for a healthy and inclusive working environment for our professions.

Our supply chains

In order to run our organisation and deliver our objectives, we engage a number of external suppliers. The goods, works and services they provide include hosting services for our IT systems and data, software licensing and support, office cleaning, and legal support with case preparation, among many others.

Our position on modern slavery

We are committed to ensuring that there are no modern slavery offences occurring in our supply chain.

We require our suppliers to comply with all law and regulation, and expect them to maintain the highest ethical standards in all areas of their business operations.

If we discover one of our suppliers is allowing modern slavery offences in either their own business or their wider supply chain, we will terminate their contract and notify the relevant authorities.

Our due diligence processes, including training

We aim to buy most of our services through well-established public sector framework agreements. The suppliers on framework agreements have been subject to rigorous due diligence by organisations such as Crown Commercial Services.

We undertake due diligence of new suppliers as part of our supplier on-boarding process. This includes assessment of the risk of modern slavery offences.

We have raised awareness of modern slavery with NMC colleagues by promoting our modern slavery statement and supporting policies. Colleagues are provided with training and we have created a modern slavery e-learning package which everyone is encouraged to complete.

We have put in place guidance for our contract managers that includes a review of modern slavery as part of their regular contract auditing activities.

Our colleagues know that if they have any concerns, they can raise them, and we have a whistleblowing policy and systems in place to support this. Our managers are trained on how to handle concerns that are raised with them.

Risk areas

Due to the nature of our business and the services we require, we believe the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking occurring within our supply chains is generally low. The services we use that we consider may be at relatively greater risk of modern slavery offences are hotels and cleaning services.

We have already taken steps to put in place robust contracts for these services. Our plans for 2020-2021 included a survey of our most used hotels via our travel services provider to better understand risks in the hotel supply chain. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our usage of hotels almost entirely stopped during 2020-2021, and hotels were closed for most of the year. Once the pandemic has ended or eased enough to allow the hotel sector to recover to a state of relative normality, we intend to continue our work assessing the hotels we use to make sure they have adequate processes in place.

Measuring effectiveness

In the past year we have had no reported instances of any offences as defined by the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

This statement was approved by our Executive Board on 13 April 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrea Sutcliffe". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Andrea Sutcliffe CBE
Chief Executive and Registrar
20 May 2021