

## Modern Slavery Statement

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is designed to consolidate various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery. The provisions in the act create a requirement for an annual statement to be prepared that demonstrates transparency in supply chains, in line with all businesses with a turnover of greater than £36m per annum. The NHS is also obliged to comply with the Act.

The legislation addresses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, human trafficking and links to the transparency of supply chains. Section 54 of the Act specifically addresses the point about transparency in the supply chains. It states that a commercial organisation (defined as a supplier of goods and services with a total turnover of less than £36m per year) shall prepare a written slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year. The statement should include steps an organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of the supply chain or its business. The aim of the statement is to encourage transparency within organisations and is required to be approved by the Board of Directors.

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Act 2015 Annual Statement

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires all organisations to set out the steps it has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, and in any part of its own business.

The aim of this statement is to demonstrate the Trust follows good practice and all reasonable steps are taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust is the largest hospital Trust in the Tees Valley serving people of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Hambleton and Richmondshire and beyond. The Trust runs the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough and the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton. It also runs community services in Hambleton and Richmondshire, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Its workforce of almost 9,000 provides a range of specialist regional services to 1.5m people in the Tees Valley and parts of Durham, North Yorkshire and Cumbria, with a particular expertise in heart disease, trauma, neurosciences, renal services, cancer services and spinal injuries.

The Trust is fully aware of the responsibilities it bears towards patients, employees and the local community. The Trust policies, procedures, governance and legal arrangements are robust, ensuring that proper checks and due diligence are applied in employment procedures to ensure compliance with this legislation. We also conform to the NHS employment check standards within our workforce recruitment and selection practices, including through our managed service provider contract arrangements. This strategic approach incorporates analysis of the Trust's supply chains and its partners to assess risk exposure and management on modern slavery.

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we provide training to our procurement staff. The Trust's senior procurement team are all Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) qualified and uphold to the CIPS code of professional conduct. The procurement department also regularly monitors and reviews its supply base. Over the next year, specific training will be provided for the Trust's internal supply chain management related to slavery and human trafficking.

In compliance with the consolidation of offences relating to trafficking and slavery within the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Trust will continue to review all of its supply chain with a view to confirming that such actions are not taking place. As such we will continue to contact all our key suppliers to request confirmation that they too are compliant with the Act within their own organisations, sub-contracting arrangements and supply chains.

The Board of Directors has considered and approved the statement of compliance and will continue to support the requirements of the legislation.

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 financial year ended 31 March 2019.



**Alan Downey**  
Chairman



**Siobhan McArdle**  
Chief Executive