ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY

Kortext

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Updated May 2022
ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Kortext, we are committed to preventing acts of modern slavery and human trafficking, both within our business and our supply chain. This statement sets out the actions we have taken to understand the risks to our business and puts in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our business or our supply chains.

This statement relates to actions and activities carried out during the financial year 2021-2022.

Our Organisation

Kortext operates in the Education Technology sector and our Headquarters are located in Bournemouth, Dorset. Formed in 2013 our main line of business activity is business and domestic software development and we are the leading supplier to UK universities of digital textbook solutions. We employ 170 staff across the UK and Toronto, Canada where our technology team is based.

RELEVANT POLICIES

As part of our commitment to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking, we have implemented the following policies which support our approach to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking:

- Anti-Bribery policy
- Equal opportunities & Diversity policy
- Bullying & Harassment - UK Team
- Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment - Canadian Team

DUE DILIGENCE

In order to monitor and reduce the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring within our supply chains, we have adopted the following due diligence procedures:

- All suppliers are required to sign a contract/terms of business which confirm that they will comply with our slavery/human trafficking policies and are committed to preventing slavery and trafficking.
- Improved the visibility of our chosen suppliers and contracts so members of staff can select goods and services from approved suppliers
- Kortext has not identified any instance of a breach of the Modern Slavery Act in its supply chain.

Additionally, Kortext is of the view that a breach of the Modern Slavery Act would be a material breach. In a scenario where Kortext identified any instance of modern slavery in its supply chain, it would seek to take action in accordance with due process. Actions would include: informing the police and terminating a contract. Through the implementation of these due diligence procedures, we are confident that we are assessing and monitoring the areas of risk in our business and supply chains and therefore reducing the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring.
RISK MANAGEMENT

The Organisation has undertaken a high level risk assessment to identify the potential sectors and suppliers where issues around human trafficking have historically arisen:

IT Equipment

Kortext purchases a range of electronic and IT equipment and software for their staff. Of those items, particularly laptops, mobile phones and tablets can contain metals usually sourced in high-risk regions and Kortext is aware there is a well-documented risk of dangerous working conditions and child labour. However, Kortext’s main supplier of laptops and desktop computers monitors its supply chain closely.

Outsourced Services/Agency Workers

Kortext has identified there is a potential risk with agency staff for cleaning. The use of agency workers is quite limited and normally undertaken via the use of local UK/Dorset based agencies with robust recruitment practices.

We have therefore assessed the risk of slavery or human trafficking occurring in our supply chain and deem it to be low risk. We do not consider that we operate in a high-risk sector and our assessment is based on the nature of our business and our business transactions and given the policies we currently have in place.

However, if we do find any evidence of a failure to comply with our policies then we will consider terminating our relationship with the supplier.

HR STATEMENT

Kortext directly employs circa 170 employees in the UK and Canada and we have a thorough set of employment related policies and procedures that prevent any possibility of modern slavery occurring within our workforce.

Our Human Resources department and recruiting managers follow a recruitment policy and processes which are regularly reviewed for compliance with legislation. At the time of application, potential employees have to provide ‘right to work’ information which is checked at interview. The majority of interviews are conducted face-to-face which ensures that individuals have freely chosen to attend. All application forms are verified as being the applicant’s own information, including taking a copy of the interviewee’s original passport (or other appropriate identification) and any additional ‘right to work’ documentation (where applicable).

Where interviews are conducted via Teams or other electronic means, especially during the current Covid pandemic, the candidate is required to present their original passport and other additional ‘right to work’ documentation (where applicable) in person to HR before their start date or on their first day.

All employees receive a written contract of employment on or before commencement in line with current employment legislation.
MONITORING

The Directors will take responsibility for ensuring that this statement is up to date and reflects the actions the organisation is taking to tackle slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made in line with the spirit of Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and relates to the Organisation’s actions for the 2021/22 financial year and going forwards.

Signature:

Name: Jeremy Duckworth, CFO

Date: June 2021