



## **BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council) Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement for April 2016 - March 2017**

BBSRC's Royal Charter commits us to promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training relating to the understanding and exploitation of biological systems.

We are an investor in research and training, with the aim of furthering scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.

We are supported by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

BBSRC is committed to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the abolition of modern slavery and human trafficking. BBSRC maintains a Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy as part of a wider suite of policies, all of which are easily accessible by all BBSRC staff and are regularly reviewed.

Within BBSRC, our recruitment and people management processes are designed to ensure that all prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK and to safeguard employees from any abuse or coercion as an employee of BBSRC.

BBSRC's procurement for goods and services is provided by our shared services provider, UK SBS. Our supply chain is extensive and we procure goods and services from a wide range of suppliers. The UK SBS have also published their statement on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which includes their mechanisms for guarding against modern slavery in their client's supply chains. UK SBS are currently working with BEIS to trial a modern slavery and human trafficking questionnaire for suppliers. The [UK SBS statement](#) is published on its website.

Over the past 12 months, BBSRC has undertaken the following activities:

- Incorporated the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as an example of a qualifying disclosure about alleged or actual malpractice in the Whistleblowing Policy
- Procured an eLearning package entitled Modern Slavery Act: Preventing Exploitation which will be rolled out during 2017-18
- Began working with the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and UK SBS to ensure that modern slavery risks are captured in UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) policies and procedures from UKRI's inception in 2018. These include grant Terms and Conditions
- Participated in a cross-Research Council and Innovate UK working group to identify and manage any key areas of risk not covered by those processes managed by the UK SBS.

Over the next 12 months, BBSRC will undertake the following activities:

- Work with Research Councils UK (RCUK) to update existing RCUK grant terms and conditions ahead of the inception of UKRI
- Roll out of the eLearning package for BBSRC staff
- Continue to engage with the programme establishing UK Research and Innovation to ensure guarding against Modern Slavery is captured in policies and procedures.

The key indicators of progress being used by BBSRC for 2017-18 is:

- Number of reports received from employees, the public, or law enforcement agencies to indicate that modern slavery practices have been identified
- Roll out of the eLearning package for BBSRC staff.

This statement has been approved by the Chief Executive and Executive Director Group at BBSRC.