

Modern Slavery & Trafficking Statement

On April 1st 2018, the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) became part of UK Research and Innovation a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government. For more information visit UK Research and Innovation's website at www.ukri.org

The EPSRC is at the heart of discovery and innovation. We invest in long-term, fundamental engineering and physical sciences research and training. We are committed to excellence and impact and support the talented scientists, engineers and postgraduate research students who through their research, discover new knowledge, explore new ways of thinking and drive innovation. Our research ranges from physics, chemistry and mathematics to materials computing and engineering. It provides underpinning knowledge that informs other fields such as the life and medical sciences and places the UK as a leading global research nation.

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

EPSRC is committed to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the abolition of modern slavery and human trafficking.

We are committed to ensuring there is transparency in our own business and in our approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking throughout our business and supply chains, consistent with our disclosure obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

We endorse the implementation and promotion of ethical business practises to protect our staff from being abused and exploited and expect the same high standards from all of our contractors, suppliers and other business partners.

EPSRC is committed to creating and ensuring a non-discriminatory and respectful working environment for its staff. Our policy ensures, as far as possible, that the best people are recruited on merit and that the recruitment process is free from bias and discrimination and upholds its commitment to equality and diversity. The recruitment processes are also designed and managed to ensure that all prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK whilst referencing and conviction checks are carried out to ensure a consistent and compliant approach.

EPSRC'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 UK and overseas suppliers. UK SBS have also published their statement on Slavery & Human Trafficking which includes their mechanisms for guarding against modern slavery in their client's supply chains. Their statement is published on their website and can be found here:

[UK SBS Slavery and Human Trafficking statement 2017-18 \(PDF on UK SBS website\)](#)

Since April 1st 2018, EPSRC formally became part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). UKRI has therefore assumed the responsibility for ensuring that its 9 constituents continue to remain compliant with the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking act. From 2019 UKRI will be publishing the annual statement at it is now the legal entity.