



1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (hereby referred to as 'the Authority') and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (hereby referred to as 'the Service') Modern Slavery Statement 2023/2024 to the Governance Committee.
- 1.2 The Modern Slavery Statement sets out compliance with the requirements of Section 54 of the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and details the steps taken by the Authority and the Service to safeguard against the presence of modern slavery and human trafficking within business activities and the supply chain.
- 1.3 Arrangements in place for concerns or suspicions surrounding modern slavery to be reported in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- 1.4 The Modern Slavery Statement 2023/2024 can be found in Appendix A.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms and covers a wide range of exploitation including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery. All these have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.
- 2.2 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 was introduced to tackle these crimes and provide law enforcement agencies with powers to pursue and bring to justice criminal activity related to modern slavery.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Failure to take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 poses a legislative and reputational risk to the Authority and the Service.
- 3.2 The Statement presents a clear intention of the Authority and Service's commitment to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking from business activities and the supply chain.



4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

5 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Service recruitment and people management processes are designed to ensure that prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK and to safeguard from any abuse or coercion.

5.2 Whilst the Authority and Service are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, providing training to employees about the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and making them aware of the appropriate action to take should they suspect a case of slavery or human trafficking.

5.3 Additionally, the Human Resources and Procurement departments ensure via appropriate policy and procedure that there is full consideration of the modern slavery risks and prevention when appointing prospective employees and procuring goods and services.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the contents of this report.
- b) Receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None