

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Meeting: 12 December 2022

Subject: Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22

Joint Report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority), the Finance Director and the Human Resources Director

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to re-present the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22 for Members' consideration and approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Modern Slavery Act came into force in 2015 and requires commercial companies with a turnover in excess of £36m to produce an annual statement. The Home Office has stated its intention to extend the reporting requirements to include all public bodies. As a public body, it is good practice for TWFRA to produce and publish a Modern Slavery Statement outlining the processes, procedures and actions in place to mitigate potential modern slavery risks.
- 2.2 A statement was drafted for 2021/22 which set out the actions and activities during 2021/22 to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and was approved by the Fire Authority in September 2021 and published on the website.
- 2.3 The guidance states however that the statement should be approved after the year end it relates to and therefore the 2021/22 statement should have been approved by Fire Authority after 31 March 2022.
- 2.4 The 2021/22 statement has therefore been reviewed to ensure it still reflects the 2021/22 position and is now resubmitted for approval.

3. Modern Slavery Statement

- 3.1 The Statement is set out in Appendix A to this report and details the Authority's commitment to ensure it does not encourage or support slavery or human trafficking within the organisation's workforce, within its supply chains or as part of its service delivery activities.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 There are no risks associated with publishing the Modern Slavery Statement. The statement demonstrates how potential risks are mitigated.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 This report has no direct financial implications

6. Equality and Fairness Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report. The statement is in direct support of the principles of adhering to ethical standards in all activities highlighting arrangements to prevent and detect occurrences of human trafficking or slavery.

7. Health and Safety Implications

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

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of the Modern Slavery Statement.
 - b) Approve the Modern Slavery Statement for Publication.