



**FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING: 26 JUNE 2023**

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**SUBJECT: MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2022/23**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK  
TO THE AUTHORITY) THE FINANCE DIRECTOR AND THE PERSONNEL  
ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority's Modern Slavery Statement 2022/23 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.
- 2.2 Modern Slavery is a term used to encapsulate offences in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 such as slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking, all of which result in the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery and human trafficking are crimes, and a violation of fundamental human rights.
- 2.3 The Authority has a zero tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking, and will not deal with any business or organisation knowingly involved in modern slavery practices in any part of its business operations.
- 2.4 The Authority is committed to the highest level of ethical standards and corporate governance and will act with integrity in all its business relationships. The Authority will take reasonable and practical steps to ensure compliance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 with the aim of eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking from its supply chains and business activities.

**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 presents a clear intention of the Authority's commitment to complying with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and demonstrates how potential risks in relation to modern slavery and trafficking are mitigated.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

#### **6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Statement is in direct support of the principles of adhering to ethical standards in all Authority business activities and highlights arrangements to prevent and detect occurrences of slavery or human trafficking.

#### **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.

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#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

None