

Quadram Institute Bioscience Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

The mission of Quadram Institute Bioscience is to understand how food and the gut microbiota are linked to the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, with an emphasis on diet- and age-associated diseases. We use this knowledge to develop evidence-based strategies to maximise positive impacts of food on health, from early life to the extension of a healthy lifespan in old age, and reduce the economic and societal costs of chronic diseases.

As a world-class research institute, it is our responsibility to ensure that our research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards. We provide a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers.

QIB staff recruitment policies ensure that employees are legally entitled to work in UK with the necessary and appropriate checks undertaken. Staff undertake mandatory training in equality and diversity to safeguard employees from abuse. QIB also maintains a whistleblowing policy which is clear and easily accessible to staff.

As a registered charity, QIB has a responsibility to ensure that the funds it disperses are properly spent, in accordance with the law, funder requirements and in the public interest. We support the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and we are committed to carrying out procurement activities in an environmentally, socially, ethically and economically responsible manner.

Our supply chains fall mainly under five ‘super-categories’, which are:

- Laboratory Consumables and Equipment
- Library Resources
- Professional Services
- ICT Equipment and Services
- Estates Goods and Services

The principal categories deemed as carrying material risks with respect to Modern Slavery are laboratory consumables, ICT equipment and some estates services, such as cleaning and security services. A significant amount of our procurement is undertaken through our membership of the [London Universities Purchasing Consortium](#) (LUPC), a non-profit professional buying organisation which is part of the UK University Purchasing Consortia. LUPC is a leader in promoting respect for human rights in public supply chains and is committed to supporting the UK Government’s National Action Plan, to implement the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#). LUPC has focused on these highest risk categories by running pilot due diligence projects in laboratory gloves, cleaning services and security services, and by maintaining its affiliation to monitoring organisation [Electronics Watch](#).

In line with Home Office guidance, we aim to make progress over a period of time across a broad range of potential exposures.

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023 we have:

- Continued to improve awareness of staff of the Modern Slavery Act and its impact on businesses, supported by an eLearning suite from LUPC, available on our Intranet's purchasing pages.
- Ensured that any new suppliers are compliant with the Modern Slavery Act and where applicable collate this information for reference.
- Promote purchasing through suppliers that are LUPC registered or have completed the Supply Chain Code of Conduct.
- Ensured that all staff involved in procurement have completed mandatory training.
- Continued to review our agreements to ensure that obligations to comply with the Modern Slavery Act are included where appropriate and to ensure that due diligence is in place to mitigate any risk.

During financial year ending 31st March 2024 we will:

- Strengthen our approach across Purchasing and Facilities by reviewing our NBI Supply Chain Code of Conduct, ensuring all new suppliers are compliant and also include this in all our tendering activities.
- Review our current supplier base to ensure NBI suppliers are continuing to be compliant to our already established code of conduct and challenging those who cannot provide a suitable statement and, if necessary, removing them from our supplier base if deemed non-compliant in favour of more ethical suppliers.
- Review our key performance indicators to monitor and understand any changes in the supplier behaviour that could possibly undermine our established code of conduct in regard to our Modern Slavery statement.
- Review and, if deemed necessary, refresh our Modern Slavery training with the latest information and guidance.
- Provide improved training packages to budget holders and authorisers to continue our understanding and awareness of the risk of Modern Slavery in our supplier base.
- Ensuring any new staff in our business are fully aware of our Modern Slavery statement and fully trained.

This statement has been approved by the Board of Trustees and will be reviewed at least annually.



Dr Celia Caulcott
Chair, QIB Board of Trustees

24 July 2023