



ANTI SLAVERY POLICY

Introduction

The Modern Slavery Act is a UK act of Parliament designed to tackle slavery and human trafficking through the consolidation of previous legislation and the introduction of new measures. Specifically, it introduces new requirements for organisations in regard to their business and supply chains.

Westchurch Homes have developed the basics of this antislavery policy to demonstrate that we fully uphold the and endorse the antislavery ethos paying particular regard to Modern Slavery Act 2015 and particularly section 54.

At Westchurch Homes we recognise that slavery and human trafficking are significant human rights issues and are committed to taking appropriate and proportionate steps to mitigating the risk of these occurring within our business and our supply chain.

As a Housebuilder business operating within the UK, the key areas of our operation that could be affected by slavery and human trafficking are out directly hired employees, agency workers working on our behalf, subcontractor operatives working on our site, and the workforce of our supply chain who supply materials to our business. The steps that we take to mitigate risks in relation to each of these areas are as follows:

Employees

We verify that all employees have the right to work in the UK upon commencement of their employment.

We make all employees aware of their working hours, leave and absence entitlements and other employment benefits via our induction process.

Subcontractors

We ensure their employees have the right to work in the UK.

We consider sub-contractors approaches to employee rights and any breaches of human rights related legislation during our selection process.

We ask all site operatives to provide evidence of their CSCS cards.

We want all sub-contractors that purchase materials for use on our sites to consider the risk of modern slavery in their supply chain.

Suppliers

We are in a Construction Company and do procure supply materials for the sites we work on. The materials supplied by them however fall into their own Policy on Modern Day Slavery.

Company Anti Slavery Policy Statement

Westchurch Homes Ltd wholly endorse the moral ethos and legal framework of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and will fully abide where applicable to our business, its activities and supply chains.

In no way do Westchurch Homes support, endorse or engage in any forms of slavery, trafficking, compulsory labour, child labour or exploitation nor will we knowingly or willingly engage the services of or work on behalf of those who may be involved.

Definition of Forced or Compulsory Labour

Forced or compulsory labour is defined in international law by the ILO's Forced Labour Convention 29 and Protocol. It involves coercion, either direct threats of violence or more subtle forms of compulsion. The key elements are that work or service is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered him/her self voluntarily.

Definition of Human Trafficking

An offence of human trafficking requires that a person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person with a view to that person being exploited. The offence can be committed even where the victim consents to the travel. This reflects the fact that a victim may be deceived by the promise of a better life or job or may be a child who is influenced to travel by an adult. In addition, the exploitation of the potential victim does not need to have taken place for the offence to be committed. It means that the arranging or facilitating of the movement of the individual was with a view to exploiting them for sexual exploitation or non-sexual exploitation.

Definition of Child Labour

Child labour is defined by international standards as children below 12 years working in any economic activities, those aged 12 – 14 engaged in the worst forms of child labour (ILO).

The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. Whether or not particular forms of "work" can be called "child labour" depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, and the objectives pursued by individual countries.

Children can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation, but child labour will not always constitute modern slavery. It will still be necessary to determine whether, based on the facts of the case, the children in question are being exploited in such a way as to constitute slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour or human trafficking. For example, it is possible for children to undertake some 'lightwork' which would not necessarily constitute modern slavery. 'Light work' is defined by article 7 of ILO Convention No. 38.

Children do not have particular vulnerabilities which should be considered when determining whether modern slavery is taking place. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 specifically recognises that it is not necessary for a child to have been forced, threatened, or deceived into their situation for it to be defined as exploitation.

Westchurch Homes is a northwest based construction company that carries out the construction of new homes.

Westchurch Homes do subcontract/use the services of subcontractors. All are checked to ensure relevant skills, knowledge, training and experience.

All personnel working for the company are fully employed by Westchurch Homes.

This policy will be reviewed regularly or in the event of legislation change or serious incident.

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