

# 1. ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY

## 1.1 Policy Statement

This statement sets out Central Groups actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and its supply chains.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. We have a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and we are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains.

We are also committed to ensuring there is transparency in our own business and in our approach to tackling modern slavery throughout our supply chains, consistent with our disclosure obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We expect the same high standards from all of our contractors, suppliers and other business partners, and as part of our contracting processes, we include specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory or trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude, whether adults or children, and we expect that our suppliers will hold their own suppliers to the same high standards.

## 1.2 What do we mean by Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery can take many forms. It is a complex and multi-faceted problem. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA) covers four key criminal activities:

- Slavery: where ownership is exercised over an individual
- Servitude: involves the obligation to provide service imposed by coercion
- Forced and compulsory labour: all work or service, not voluntarily performed, which is obtained from an individual under the threat of force or penalty.
- Human trafficking: involves arranging or facilitating the travel of another with a view to exploiting them

Other forms of modern slavery, which we will not tolerate, but are not specifically referenced in the MSA include, but are not limited to:

Child labour: whilst not always illegal in the jurisdiction in which it takes places, child labour involves the employment of children that is exploitative, or is likely to be hazardous to, or interfere with, a child's education, health (including mental health), physical wellbeing or social development].

Tackling modern slavery requires us all to play a part and remain vigilant to the risk in all aspect of our business and business relationships.

This policy applies to all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners.

This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

### **1.3 Responsibility for the Policy**

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The board of directors has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it.

The HR & Business Services Manager has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering modern slavery.

Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it and the issue of modern slavery in supply chains.

You are invited to comment on this policy and suggest ways in which it might be improved.

Comments, suggestions, and queries are encouraged and should be addressed to the HR & Business Services Manager.

### **1.4 Compliance with the Policy**

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You must ensure that you read, understand, and comply with this policy.

The prevention, detection, and reporting of modern slavery in any part of our business or supply chains is the responsibility of all those working for us or under our control. You are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.

You must notify your manager or the HR & Business Services Manager as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred or may occur in the future.

You are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of modern slavery in any parts of our business or supply chains of any supplier tier at the earliest possible stage.

If you believe or suspect a breach of this policy has occurred or that it may occur you must notify your manager or report it in accordance with our Whistleblowing Policy as soon as possible.

If you are unsure about whether a particular act, the treatment of workers more generally, or their working conditions within any tier of our supply chains constitutes any of the various forms of modern

slavery, raise it with your manager or the HR & Business Services Manager.

We aim to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken. We are committed to ensuring no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of reporting in good faith their suspicion that modern slavery of whatever form is or may be taking place in any part of our own business or in any of our supply chains. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, threats or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the HR & Business Services Manager immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and you are an employee, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.

## **1.5 Communications and Awareness of this Policy**

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Training on this policy, and on the risk our business faces from modern slavery in its supply chains, forms part of the induction process for all individuals who work for us, and regular training will be provided as necessary.

Our zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors and business partners at the outset of our business relationship with them and reinforced as appropriate thereafter.

## **1.6 Breaches of this Policy**

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Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for misconduct or gross misconduct.

We may terminate our relationship with other individuals and organisations working on our behalf if they breach this policy.

## Modern Slavery Statement 2025

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This statement has been published in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It outlines the steps taken by Central Group to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in its own business operations and supply chain.

### **ORGANISATION'S STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS**

The Central Group team is made up of over 180 dedicated employees who provide high-quality commercial roofing, cladding, and building envelope solutions for medium to large-scale construction projects. We use innovation to deliver complex projects across a range of sectors, including healthcare, education, residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.

### **OUR SUPPLY CHAINS**

Our supply chain involves more than 1300 suppliers and subcontractors, the majority of which are based in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. Central Group operates a preferred supplier system. We require all suppliers and subcontractors to prequalify for approval to work with Central Group, and to comply to this policy if they do not have one of their own.

### **OUR POLICIES ON SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business and in so far as possible to requiring our suppliers to hold similar ethos.

Our policies in relation to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 are:

- Ethics Policy
- Bullying & Harassment Policy & Procedure
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

### **DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES FOR SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

We have in place a policy to protect whistleblowers who highlight to us any risk of slavery or human trafficking within our business.

We undertake due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers, and annually review our existing suppliers. Our due diligence and reviews include:

- Assessing geographical risks of modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Evaluating the modern slavery and human trafficking risks of each new supplier.



- Regularly reviewing all aspects of the supply chain to identify risks of modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Invoking sanctions against suppliers that fail to improve their performance in line with an action plan or seriously violate our supplier code of conduct, including the termination of the business relationship.

### **TRAINING**

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we aim to develop training for our staff. Training requirements will be reviewed to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in all areas of our value chain.

### **FURTHER STEPS**

Following a review of the effectiveness of the steps we have taken to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our business we intend to look to develop a specific policy for inclusion in our existing business policies and to share this with our supply chain and impress upon our supply chain the need to adopt a similar policy.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 2024.

Signed:

James Broady

Group MD

Reviewed: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024