

Modern slavery and human trafficking statement

Discovery is committed to preventing modern slavery in its corporate activities and supply chains.

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude.

This statement sets out the actions and activities that have taken place within the Dimensions Group (of which Discovery is a member) during the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our organisation and supply chains.

Our organisation

We provide research-based, outcomes-focussed services for people with learning disabilities and autism in England and Cymru (Wales). Alongside supported living and residential care, we also offer vital specialist services including sector-leading Positive Behaviour Support.

Policies

We operate the following policies that describe our approach to the identification of modern slavery risks, and steps to be taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in our operations:

Whistleblowing policy – Discovery encourages all employees, people we support and their families, and business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities, or the supply chains of, the organisation. This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. The whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for employees to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation. Employees, people we support and their families, or any others who have concerns can use our confidential helpline or complete our confidential disclosure form.

Employee code of conduct – our code makes clear to employees the actions and behaviour expected of them when representing the company. The company strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour when operating at home and abroad, and managing its supply chain.

Recruitment and selection policy – We operate a robust recruitment policy, including conducting UK eligibility to work checks for all employees to safeguard against human trafficking or individuals being forced to work against their will.

Due Diligence

HR Officers and Compliance Officers undergo specific organisational investigation training and are responsible for carrying out any investigations and due diligence in relation to known or suspected instances of modern slavery or human trafficking.

Our supply chain

The organisation takes action to ensure our supply chain have taken steps to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking within their business: we use only specified, reputable employment agencies to source labour, and always verify the practices of any new agency before accepting workers from that agency.

Board approval

This statement has been approved by the Dimensions Group Board, who will review and update it annually.

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