

## **Modern Slavery Statement**

### **Introduction from the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive**

At Aston University our society is one of the key beneficiaries of our strategy. As part of this, we continue to be highly committed to combatting slavery and human trafficking and delivering our obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

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**Professor Aleks Subic, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive**

### **The University's Structure**

Aston University is research-led University known for its world-class teaching quality and strong links to industry, government and commerce. Aston employs over 2,000 staff in the UK and has an annual turnover of £201 million for the financial year 2021/22. The University has one wholly-owned subsidiary operating in the UK, Conference Aston Limited, and the following wholly-owned dormant subsidiaries: Optimus Energy Limited, EBRI UK Limited, Aston University Consulting Limited, Beautiful Canoe Limited and Aston Franchise Limited. References to the University for the purpose of this statement are also references to these subsidiaries.

### **Our Supply Chain**

We have a zero tolerance policy to slavery and human trafficking and ensure all our contractors and all those in our supply chain comply with our values through our contractual arrangements with them. We have due diligence processes in place to identify and assess potential risk areas in our supply chains; mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains; and monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains and protect whistle-blowers.

### **Our Policies**

The University recognises its responsibility to be an exemplar of behaviour and conduct in all that it does, and it aspires to demonstrate a fully compliant approach to ethical practice. The University's values, as identified in the Strategy, are to be professional and ambitious; to be innovative and collaborative; and to be ethical and inclusive. Our Principles and Policy reflect our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective due diligence and contractual compliance. A copy of our Principles and Policies, including our Anti-Modern Slavery Policy can be found through the University's Publication Scheme.

### **Training**

Published training is available on our Policies and colleagues can request additional training at any time. Aston has a Speak Up Policy to ensure that members of the University feel able to raise any concerns. Aston encourages members of the University to speak up promptly if they have any reason to suspect that there has been a breach or potential breach of the University's ethical principles or any other misconduct.

### **Effectiveness and Further Steps**

Aston University is satisfied with the effectiveness of the measures it has taken in the 2021/22 financial year to combat slavery and human trafficking. An ongoing action plan is in place to allow the University to develop more effective strategies and tools to reduce, and preferably eliminate, the potential for any contravention of the Modern

Slavery Act 2015. In the forthcoming financial year, this includes the further development of due diligence technology which will support compliance with the anti-modern slavery policy to further ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our organisation or supply chain.

**Statement**

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 2021/22 for the University and its subsidiaries.



**Signature:**

**Aleks Subic**  
**Vice- Chancellor and Chief Executive**

**Date:** 17 November 2022