Northumbria University is a Higher Education Corporation and Exempt Charity. We are a research-rich, business focused professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. Our work to address the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals is supported by our commitment to improving our practices to identify and mitigate modern slavery or human trafficking in any of our supply chains which include: goods and services (facilities management, professional services and technology), international recruitment, collaborative partners and students.

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk:

- Consideration is given to suppliers’ environmental and social credentials and we review these factors within the tender process (applying specific weighting to sustainability criteria in the selection process, where relevant) and through contract management, where appropriate;

- We are an active member of the NEUPC, one of six UK Higher Education purchasing consortia who deliver and manage a range of collaborative framework agreements utilised by the University. The NEUPC have considered how to address the risk of slavery and human trafficking in its supply chain. We use public sector frameworks (where the sustainability agenda is well embedded) for the procurement of goods and services, including in 2018/19, laboratory and IT accessory equipment;

- Our tender processes require potential suppliers to confirm their adherence to anti-slavery and human trafficking principles, and our contracts contain appropriate clauses placing obligations on suppliers in relation to the prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking;

- We use and promote a range of Fairtrade products across our campus, including coffee, tea and snacks. Their Fairtrade certifications indicates that they are known to have been produced under conditions which ensure decent working conditions for farmers and producers’

- Using improved data available following the implementation of our P2P system we have implemented and refined our category plans and commodity types. Within our category plans, we have identified the following key commodities that carry potential modern slavery risk:
  - IT equipment
  - Clothing
  - Catering
  - Waste management
  - Taxi Services
  - Laboratory equipment

- In 2018/19, we awarded our end user device contract to Hewlett Packard, who are widely recognised as industry leaders in efforts to reduce modern slavery. We engaged an accredited IT reclamation and recycling company to ensure the responsible disposal and recycling of the majority of the University’s surplus end user IT equipment;

- We updated our Ethical Investment Declaration in June 2019, outlining the commitments made within our Treasury Management and Ethical Invest Policy. This states that we hold no direct

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1 This Statement covers not only Northumbria University but also the following wholly owned subsidiary companies: the University of Northumbria at Newcastle Developments Limited, Northumbria International Limited, Northumbria University Nursery Limited, Northumbria University Services Limited, and Northumbria University Amsterdam BV. In addition to the subsidiary companies, the University has a majority stake in a joint venture company, Northumbria London Campus Limited.
investments in arms companies, tobacco companies and companies complicit in the violation of international law (as well as fossil fuel and alcohol companies).

- Our students at all Northumbria campuses (including London and Amsterdam) have access to a range of specialist welfare services (available 24/7) if they wish to report a concern or request support in relation to suspected instances of modern slavery or human trafficking; and

- We seek to protect staff through our Public Interest Disclosure (“whistleblowing”) Policy should they wish to raise a concern, and through our new “Speaking Up” Code of Conduct.

Our plans for the future

We will continue to develop and enhance systems, processes and controls in an effort to further mitigate the risk of the existence of modern slavery in our supply chain, which may include appropriate training for relevant staff as well as focusing on high risk categories to reduce risk. We will further develop a risk-based approach to the management of our supply chain in the identified risk commodities, so that we can cover a larger supplier base and follow up with suppliers identified through this process and ask those suppliers to demonstrate compliance rather than confirm it. Northumbria will continue to enhance its due diligence framework for the consideration of potential partnering arrangements, including research partners. It is intended that potential partners will be required to confirm and demonstrate the steps which they are taking in relation to safeguarding and related modern slavery issues.

This statement has been approved by the University’s Board of Governors and University Executive and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed:……………………………………………
   Professor Andrew Wathey, Vice-Chancellor