



Kevin Hyland OBE

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

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Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Last year the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which introduced my role as the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), received Royal Assent. The act includes a number of wide reaching provisions bolstering the law enforcement response to human trafficking and modern slavery and strengthening victim support structures.

Today, on Friday 1st April, [Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) comes into force, requiring businesses with a turnover of £36 million to publish annual statements indicating what their company is doing to ensure their supply chains are slavery free.

Transparency is absolutely essential in tackling modern slavery crime. The global and instant communication that has been brought about by our globalised world has enabled a culture of transparency and created an environment for stronger accountability. Section 54 is not directly punitive but it requires companies to take responsibility over the entirety of their supply chains, to demonstrate their commitment to finding out whether forced labour is present in their business activity and, that they are doing everything within their power to ensure that it does not occur.

As Commissioner, I expect all businesses to produce modern slavery reports that are accurate, transparent and demonstrate a proactive approach to ensuring that slavery does not exist in their supply chain, and if it has been identified what remedies have been put in place. The purpose of this measure is to drive up standards in labour markets and supply chains both in the UK and internationally.

Ending modern slavery is now also part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the set of global goals signed by all UN member states in September 2015 that will guide development policy worldwide for the next 15 years. Goal 8.7 calls for the "end of modern slavery and human trafficking". Unlike their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals which were focused on government policy and the aid world, the Global Goals


explicitly call on all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges.

I therefore want to take this opportunity to encourage you and your business to take ownership of goal 8.7 which calls for the end of modern slavery and see the SDGs as a catalyst for innovation and new market opportunities.

The bargaining power of companies at the top of the supply chain is enormous as the behaviour of buying companies has the ability to dictate business standards throughout the chain. I believe that having the leadership and commitment of Chief Executive Officers and their Boards can be a real lever for change in the private sector and beyond.

It is for this reason that engaging with the Private Sector is one of my five priorities as laid out in the Strategic Plan 2015 - 2017 accessible [here](#). I look forward to reading your statements and working with you in my bid to eradicate the scourge of modern slavery from the UK and beyond.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KH' followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back to the left.

Kevin Hyland OBE
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner



The Role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner:

The creation of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner role is one of the key provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Commissioner has been appointed to spearhead the UK's fight against modern slavery and human trafficking with a concerted focus on strengthening law enforcement efforts in the UK and internationally, ensuring that public authorities identify and support victims effectively and working to improve efforts to prevent modern slavery crimes from ever occurring in the first place.

The Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE:

Prior to undertaking the role of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Mr Hyland was head of the Metropolitan Police's Human Trafficking Unit, which was internationally recognised for developing best practice in anti-trafficking operations. He has over 30 years' experience investigating organised crime and has been successful in securing convictions in some of the most challenging cases of slavery and trafficking.