

Modern Slavery Statement

September 2021

Introduction

Modern slavery encompasses a wide range of horrendous crimes such as human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour. The Arts Council England has zero tolerance of modern slavery.

We are committed to improving our practices to prevent modern slavery within our own business and our supply chains. This statement explains the steps taken to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery.

About Arts Council England

The Arts Council of England, trading as Arts Council England, was established by Royal Charter on 13 March 1994. We are also a registered charity, [charity registration number 1036733](#), and an arm's length non-departmental public body.

As an arm's length non-departmental public body, we are accountable to Ministers. The framework document agreed with the [Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#) sets out the Secretary of State's expectations of Arts Council England.

You can find out more information not included in this statement on [our website](#). For example, how Arts Council England is governed, structured, and our history in [About us](#); our 10-year strategy in [our strategy 2020-2030](#); and more in our [annual reports](#).

Our work

We are the national development agency for creativity and culture in England. We deliver our work from 9 offices across England.

Our annual income in 2019/2020 was £742 million.

We believe that great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.

We champion, develop and invest in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

We will invest public money from government and money from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

Our policies in relation to modern slavery

We have reviewed our own business, our supply chains, and our recipients of funding to help us identify where there is risk of us unwittingly employing victims of modern slavery. We provide more detail on the assessments we have done on our employment practices, our supply chains, and recipients of funding below.

Our staff

In 2019/2020 we employed 586 staff (full time and fixed term). Our staff are mostly in professional or technical roles. Our recruitment practices follow Government best practice. As part of our recruitment processes, we confirm eligibility to work in the UK, and all staff are paid above living wage. We also have a code of ethics, which reflects the [Seven \(Nolan\) Principles of Public Life](#), which we expect our staff to follow.

We are proud to hold [Investors In People](#) Gold standard, and as part of holding this accreditation we are independently reviewed by Investors In People.

We recognise a major trade union and we permit that trade union to advertise and recruit freely in our workplaces. We have staff that are Trade Union Representatives.

We also provide an independent and confidential assistance helpline for our staff. The helpline is a telephone and online help service for personal, legal, financial, tax, or work issues.

We believe these policies, practices and processes would identify modern slavery in our employment practices.

Recipients of our funding

In 2019/2020 the Arts Council distributed funding totalling £647 million. The majority of the grants made were distributed to small organisations or individuals based in England.

Our existing terms and conditions for grants obligates our recipients of funding to comply with all relevant laws and government requirements. This will include the Modern Slavery Act 2015 where it applies. In addition, our existing terms and conditions for grants obligates recipients of funding to have appropriate policies and procedures in place and act in accordance with them at all times to help them comply with any relevant law, government requirements or best practice.

Our supply chains

In 2019/2020 we purchased £10,407,000 million goods and services from suppliers.

Most of our suppliers are within the UK, and we always try and use Government framework contracts where possible. This means our suppliers have already been reviewed by [Crown Commercial Service](#), and the process through which we obtain suppliers (the [Crown Commercial Service public procurement policy](#)) means that the due diligence and supplier vetting has already taken place when sourcing suppliers.

If we do not use Government framework contracts when we have high value procurements, we undertake our own due diligence of the supplier(s) and we use a Standard Questionnaire in accordance with Public Procurement Policy. You can find out more information about [Public Procurement Policy on GOV.UK](#). In addition, little of what we directly purchase comes from industry sectors where there may be a higher risk of modern slavery, for example extraction and textiles industries.

As a result of this, we believe that the risk of modern slavery in our supply chains is relatively low. However, we will take proportionate and beneficial steps so that we reduce that risk in our supply chains and our suppliers onward supply chains.

Such steps include updating our tender documents and procurement terms and conditions to contain a reminder for our suppliers that they should review their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Training and awareness

We provide training to our staff on joining through our induction process, and we have ongoing learning and development. This learning includes our organisation's policies, and we have specific learning that our staff must complete to take part in our recruitment processes.

We believe awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking is important to make this statement effective. To achieve this, we will communicate this statement to our staff through email, and our intranet.

In addition, we aim to communicate this statement to our suppliers.

Making our statement effective

We will communicate this statement to all of our staff. Staff who have any concerns may raise these through our whistleblowing policy, or report suspicions through our counter fraud policy. Our whistleblowing and counter fraud contacts are monitored and reported internally to our Chief Financial Officer.

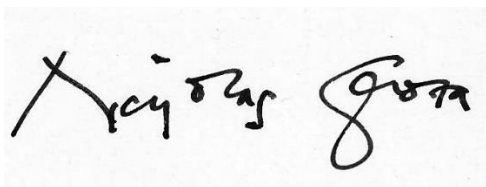
Members of the public, recipients of funding, and our staff either directly or through third parties may raise a complaint with us using our [complaint process](#) about how we have treated them or their application for funding. In addition and separate to our [complaint process](#), we allow anyone to [raise a concern](#) with us whether directly or through a third party. We will investigate any complaint or allegation received.

Review

We will review and update this statement on an annual basis. This statement will next be reviewed in April 2022.

Approval of this statement

This statement is made in accordance with section [54\(1\) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and is approved by the Trustees of Arts Council England. This statement will be made available on [our website](#) and on the [Government's Modern Slavery Statement Registry](#).



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Signed by **Sir Nicholas Serota CH**
Chair

22 September 2021



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Signed by **Dr Darren Henley OBE**
Chief Executive

22 September 2021

For and on behalf of The Arts Council of England