

# Modern Slavery Act 2015 Policy

## INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF METHODS BUSINESS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY LTD

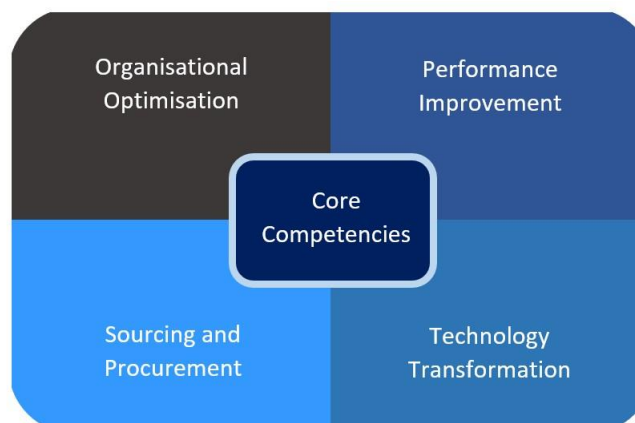
We are committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking. Methods Business and Digital Technology Ltd ("Methods") takes its obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 seriously and has robust working practices to comply with its obligations. This policy document sets out those practices and gives insight into the supply chain and business processes of the company.

*Any concerns from any of Methods' colleagues, contractors, Associates, or other stakeholders regarding a likely risk of, or actual, breaching of our policy or the Legislation must be raised to the Chief Operating Officer at the earliest opportunity.*

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS

Methods is the UK's leading independent Digital Transformation partner for Public Services. Methods delivers IT Services to a range of Central Government Departments and the wider public sector, to transform the way the Public Sector operates in the UK. Our mission is to help safeguard public-facing services and apply latest digital thinking and delivery disciplines to make sure the future of Public Services is citizen-centric.

Our practice is focused into four broad competency areas, as illustrated below.



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LONDON | BIRMINGHAM | BRISTOL | CARDIFF | CHELMSFORD | EDINBURGH | MANCHESTER | SHEFFIELD

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We offer a different approach to professional services. Our team comprises recognised industry experts who are specialists in the design and delivery of flexible, cheaper, and citizen-centred services for a digital age. Our delivery model comprises employed colleagues; selected Associates; contractors; and partner firms (most of which are SMEs) to deliver collectively our products and services. This business 'ecosystem' approach means we always have both capacity and capability, regardless of how busy we are, including access to highly specialised resources when clients require them.

## OUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Methods has a long history of working with partner organisations and associates and our business operating model relies on an integrated and seamless service to clients, regardless of which mix of resources is delivering that service.

At any one time, we will have circa 40 Partner Organisations (most of whom are SMEs) and circa 300 Associates and contractors as part of our supply chain working alongside our employed Methods' colleagues in delivering our services.

Our supply chain is underpinned by a rigorous contractual process which means that every Partner has either a Partner Agreement or a Framework Consultancy Agreement in place. Both documents have distinct obligations to comply with our Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy. Each Partner contractually assures that they will comply with this policy. Furthermore, we have rights of audit to enable us to ensure the policy is being enforced. Each of our Associates and contractors have either Associate or contractor contracts which contain a copy of this policy. We also have rights of audit for both of these partners.

Our partners, contractors and Associates are carefully selected and each of them is allocated to an experienced Methods' member of staff to maintain effective communication and assess their business performance on our projects.

## PROCESSES AND ACCREDITATION

As an experienced and mature service provider all of our services are underpinned by robust ISO9001:2015 certified processes and a variety of industry accreditations and affiliations. These currently include:



ISO 9001; ISO 14001; ISO 27001



All of our accreditations are built into an internal Quality Management System which defines the control systems and quality procedures used throughout the company to ensure that we provide an excellent quality service. It is audited internally throughout the year and externally on an annual basis by [DNV](#)

## **OUR ANTI SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICIES**

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chain or in any part of our business. Our Anti-Slavery Policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere within our supply chain.

Our policies include a plan to audit suppliers to ensure adherence to our supplier requirements and ensure that our supply chain is free from slavery and human trafficking.

## **DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES FOR SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk we have in place systems designed to:

- Identify and assess potential risk areas in our supply chain
- Mitigate or resolve any identified risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chain
- Monitor potential risk areas in our supply chain
- Protect whistle blowers

These systems are managed through the relationships between Methods colleagues and their allocated Partners, Contractors and Associates.

## **SUPPLIER ADHERENCE TO OUR VALUES AND ETHICS**

We have zero tolerance of slavery and human trafficking. To ensure all those in our supply chain and contractors comply with our values we have a dedicated compliance support team, which requires involvement from the following departments to support and ensure our adherence to the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

- Legal
- Finance
- Audit and compliance
- Human resources
- Procurement
- Sales

## MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS AND STEPS BEING TAKEN

Methods will continue to follow its due diligence processes of auditing suppliers and partners during the coming year. We aim to audit at least 10% each year. With select suppliers this will go beyond audit and contractual compliance and will seek direct engagement with workers on sites.

## TRAINING

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we provide regular training to our colleagues. We also require our Partners to provide training to their staff, suppliers and providers in their respective supply chain.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 30th April 2021.

**Peter Rowlin**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Methods Business and Digital Technology Ltd*  
*1<sup>st</sup> May 2022*