

# Modern Slavery Act 2015



## Nexus' slavery and human trafficking statement: 2021/22

### About us

Nexus, the Passenger Transport Executive for Tyne and Wear, is a 'body corporate by statute' (the Transport Act 1968 as amended). Accountable to the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), we report as required through the North East Joint Transport Committee and Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee as appropriate. In accordance with the constitutions of the combined authorities, Nexus is an executive body which plans, procures and promotes transport functions in Tyne and Wear.

Nexus' service delivery activities in Tyne and Wear include:

- Tyne and Wear Metro light rail system
- Cross-Tyne ferry operation between North and South Shields
- A network of socially necessary bus services secured under contract by Nexus
- Provision of information, journey planning and ticketing facilities online at [nexus.org.uk](https://nexus.org.uk)
- Provision of information and customer support through Nexus One Stop Shop
- Provision of bus service timetable information at around 6,000 bus stops throughout Tyne and Wear
- Provision and management of around 2,000 bus shelters in the area
- Provision and management of bus stations and public transport interchanges
- Administration of the statutory English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in Tyne and Wear, together with reimbursement of journeys made under the terms of the Scheme arrangements
- Administration (and reimbursement) of various local discretionary concessionary travel Schemes including Metro Gold Card, Companion Card, TaxiCard and Under18's travel
- Supporting the provision of and planning for local rail services in the area

With over 1000 employees Nexus is required to produce an annual slavery and human trafficking statement.

## **Our policy and values**

Nexus is committed to working in a responsible and sustainable way that serves the long-term interests of our customers, employees, suppliers, the communities we serve and society more widely. We undertake to engage with our people and procure goods and services in a sustainable and ethical manner in compliance with our values, public sector policy and procurement law.

Nexus will therefore not engage in, nor will we condone or tolerate any act of modern slavery and human trafficking. Our Modern Slavery Policy has been developed and published reflecting our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and respecting human rights, including the rights of children. We expect all those who work for and with us to adhere to our zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. These principles are embedded in our Human Resources, procurement and supply chain management policies and practices.

## **Our People**

In relation to direct employees, we undertake appropriate pre-employment checks to ensure a right to work in the UK, and further identity checks where required. Contracts of employment, and pay, are directly with the individual. Those with recruitment responsibilities receive relevant information and support for their role, and our people policies include Whistleblowing and an Employee Code of Conduct. Wider arrangements will be made to increase general awareness about modern slavery through for example placing appropriate articles in in-house staff bulletins.

## **Our supply chain**

Whilst respecting human rights in the supply chain is ultimately our suppliers' responsibility, as the customer, we expect those in our supply chain to respect our values and to adopt suitable anti-slavery and human trafficking policies and practices.

Nexus has around 1,100 registered suppliers, over 99% of which are UK based. The majority of our capital and revenue expenditure was incurred with UK companies some of whom, as large companies with a commercial turnover of £36m or more will also be required to publish an annual statement under the Modern Slavery Act. As such, we have provisionally assessed the risk of slavery and human trafficking in our direct suppliers and their supply chains as low.

Tenderers are asked to confirm that they comply with the Act as part of their Tender submission. Nexus ensures that all new suppliers and contractors are contractually obliged to comply with the requirements of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking legislation, irrespective of whether they are required by legislation to publish a statement.

Nexus is entitled to terminate contracts where the contractor has been found guilty of an offence committed under the Modern Slavery Act without having put in place suitable actions to prevent a recurrence.

Nexus undertakes annual spot checks on a sample of major suppliers to Nexus, to ensure that they continue to have a Modern Slavery policy in place.

## Reporting

We actively encourage the reporting of concerns by employees in accordance with Nexus' Whistleblowing Policy. During 2021/22 there were no reports from employees concerning modern slavery or human trafficking of workers.

## Actions for 2022/2023

Nexus will:

- Continue with its corporate programme to raise staff awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking issues by circulating information through a variety of methods e.g. emails, staff newsletters.

## Signed

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Nexus' slavery and human trafficking statement for the 2021/22 financial year which ended on 31 March 2022.



Martin Kearney

Chief Operating Officer, Nexus