



MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LIMITED (NVSL)

In respect of the financial year ending 30th April 2022

Introduction

This statement sets out NVSL's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and steps in place aimed at reducing the risk of slavery or human trafficking in its own business and its supply chains.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

As an employer in the Distribution and Logistics industry, NVSL recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. NVSL is committed to ensuring our employees work in satisfactory conditions and that we fully comply with both Health and Safety and employment law standards and requirements in the United Kingdom.

NVSL is committed to the principles of fair and honest trading, through the way in which we source goods and develop relationships with suppliers who share the same principles.

Organisational structure and supply chains

This statement covers the activities of National Veterinary Services Limited (NVSL) including National Veterinary Services, Nationwide Laboratories and VetIT. National Veterinary Services Limited are part of Patterson Companies Inc.:

Business Activities: Supplying medicines, surgical instruments, equipment, consumables, pet products and accessories; the provision of IT business solutions and laboratory services to the Veterinary industry.

Nature of Supply Chain: Our supply chain involves the sourcing of 3rd party manufactured products for wholesaling to veterinary practices.

Countries of Operation and Supply: The organisation currently operates in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Goods are sourced from mainly UK based suppliers.

Responsibility

Responsibility for the organisation's anti-slavery initiatives is as follows:

- **Policies:** We have zero tolerance for modern slavery and human trafficking. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships, and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery is not taking place anywhere in our own business. We expect the same of our business partners and do not knowingly conduct or engage in commercial or operational activities with any individuals or companies that participate in improper labour practices, including child labour, physical punishment, forced or prison labour, or human trafficking.
- All Directors and Senior Managers are responsible for compliance in their respective departments and for their supplier relationships.
- Employees are educated in the concept of modern slavery and are responsible for reporting any behaviours which do not meet the standards described in this statement.

Relevant policies

The organisation operates the following policies that describe its approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and steps taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its operations:

- **Whistleblowing policy** - The organisation encourages all of its employees to report any concerns related to the direct activities or the supply chains of the organisation.

This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. The organisation's whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for employees to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation. Individuals with concerns can use the Company's confidential compliance helpline: 0800 014 8928 or visit <http://www.speakuppatterson.com>. All new starters receive a copy of this policy.

- **Code of Business Conduct** We annually review and promote the organisation's code to employees to ensure their actions and behaviours and those they witness are to the levels expected of them when representing the organisation.

In managing its supply chain the organisation strives to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behaviour.

- **Additional Resources** A copy of the U.K. Modern Slavery Act, 2015 can be accessed [here](#) and general information on the principles for government action is available [here](#).

Due Diligence

The organisation undertakes due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers. Within the organisation's due diligence:

- We will issue a supplier questionnaire to help us assess the risk of modern slavery within our supply chain.
- Where possible we will build long standing relationships with suppliers and make clear our expectations of business behaviour.
- We will invoke sanctions against suppliers that fail to improve their performance in line with an action plan that may be agreed.

Risk Assessment

The following is a process by which the company assesses whether particular activities or countries are higher risk in relation to slavery or human trafficking:

- We mainly source goods from UK suppliers and require these entities to have suitable anti-slavery and human trafficking policies and processes and commit to not sourcing from countries considered to be higher risk as identified by the global slavery index.

Key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken

We have the following activities in place to strive to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain:

- For our workforce, we have processes in place to verify our new hires have the right to work in the UK, including documentation checks. Additionally, we require new employees to be paid into a bank account of their own name.
- For our suppliers, we have processes in place to only accept new suppliers who meet the requirements of our assessment.

Training on modern slavery and trafficking

The organisation raises awareness of modern slavery issues through communication and training.

Managing Director Approval

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our company's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year to the 30th April 2022. It has been approved by the organisation's Managing Director who will review and update it annually.

Managing Director's signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Riley' with a small '2' written below the 'y'.

Director's name: **Martin Riley**

Date: 12th September 2022