

Introduction

The Natural History Museum is a world-class visitor attraction and leading science research centre. Our vision is of a future where both people and planet thrive and our mission is to create advocates for the planet. One of our five strategic priorities is to create a resilient and sustainable organisation and the way in which we acquire goods, services and works forms a significant part of that challenge.

This Statement is designed to satisfy the requirements of Section 54 of the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#), by informing our visitors, partners, suppliers, staff and the public about the Museum's policy with respect to modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour rights violations in its supply chains and the steps taken to identify, prevent and mitigate the risks. This is the Museum's fifth annual statement to be published under the Act.

In our 2019-20 Statement, we set out what we did during the year to address the risk of human rights abuses in our supply chains and what we plan to do in the future. This year's Statement will show how we have moved that agenda along during the year 2020-21.

Our organisation

Managing the Museum's non-retail supply chains is the direct responsibility of the Procurement Manager, who reports to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services and thence to the Museum Director and the Board of Trustees.

Supply chains of goods for resale are the responsibility of the Head of Retail, who reports to the Director of Commercial and Visitor Experience and thence through the Executive Director of Engagement to the Museum Director and the Board of Trustees.

During 2020-21, the Museum spent in excess of £35m on goods, services and works, from a total expenditure of £79m.

Our policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

The Natural History Museum is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct in our activities. Ethics are an essential part of decision-making and of ensuring proper and transparent administration. The Museum's [Code of Ethics](#) sets out the key ethical principles and commitments that govern the Museum and its staff.

Our objective is to achieve best value and the highest professional standards in the procurement of all goods, services and works and our [Responsible Procurement Policy](#) and our central procurement function ensures propriety, transparency and compliance with the Museum’s legal obligations and ethical standards. The Museum is committed to procuring goods, services and works without causing harm to others.

The Museum supports the UK Government’s [National Action Plan](#), updated in May 2016, to implement the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

Our spend categories and those that present risks of human rights abuses

The Museum’s principal spend categories are:

- Building maintenance services;
- Construction services;
- Exhibition design and construction services;
- Information technology equipment, software and services;
- Goods for resale in our retail outlets;
- Laboratory equipment, services and consumables;
- Library resources;
- Marketing and publishing services;
- Professional services;
- ‘Soft’ facilities management services (cleaning, catering and security services); and
- Temporary labour (for e.g. front-of-house and retail services).

In 2017-18, the Museum completed a risk assessment exercise to identify ‘high-risk’ spend categories. The principal categories which the Museum deems as carrying higher risks of human rights abuses were identified as garments, electronic equipment and services such as cleaning, catering and security services. In 2020-21 we added construction services, recognising two significant forthcoming construction projects for the Museum, the [Urban Nature Project](#) and the planned [new centre for science at Harwell](#) in Oxfordshire.

The Museum deems the corresponding source countries to be as follows:

Category	Countries of Origin
Garments	Bangladesh, China
Electronic equipment	East Asia, China, India, Eastern Europe, Mexico
Goods for re-sale	East Asia, China, India
Construction services	United Kingdom
Cleaning services	United Kingdom
Catering services	United Kingdom
Security services	United Kingdom

Our supply chain due diligence and its effectiveness

In line with developing good practice in public procurement, the Museum follows a risk-based approach to supply chain due diligence. We do this by adopting a tailored approach to mitigating the risk of human rights abuses in each 'high-risk' spend category listed above.

Helping eradicate abuses in electronics supply chains: Affiliation to Electronics Watch

In April 2018, the Museum became affiliated to [Electronics Watch](#) through an arrangement with London Universities Purchasing Consortium (LUPC). Electronics Watch is an international, non-profit, collaborative organisation of public authorities monitoring global electronics supply chains for human rights abuses. In June 2020, the Museum's Procurement Manager was elected to Electronics Watch's [Board of Trustees](#), further demonstrating the Museum's commitment to ethical public procurement.

During 2019-20, the Museum used LUPC's collaborative framework agreements that include supplier due diligence and monitoring clauses for the procurement of digital workplace solutions spanning some 1,000 devices. This gave the Museum contractual rights, as part of Electronics Watch, to enter into dialogue with suppliers and collaborate with them to establish due diligence and mitigation strategies to address labour rights risks. During 2020-21 and in full compliance with our contract, our supplier duly disclosed the location of factories that had assembled the devices purchased during the previous year, information which the Museum then passed to Electronics Watch. At the end of the year, the Museum's Chief Information Officer and Procurement Manager received a report from an Electronics Watch Monitoring Partner following an audit at a major assembly plant in eastern Europe, where many of the Museum's devices were manufactured. The Museum has emphasised to the supplier the importance of corrective action to address non-compliance, while welcoming the good progress it has made in other factories supplying the Museum.

Working to improve working conditions in garment supply chains and goods for re-sale: Membership of Sedex

In 2018-19, the Museum joined [Sedex](#), home to one of the world's largest collaborative platforms for sharing responsible sourcing data on supply chains. It is used by companies, particularly those in the garments industry, to manage their performance around labour rights, health and safety, the environment and business ethics. This helps to mitigate the risk of poor working conditions and human rights abuses for workers employed in manufacturing:

- uniforms worn by our front-of-house and retail staff and also by our contractors' cleaning, portage, catering and security staff working in the Museum; and
- goods for resale in our retail outlets.

In 2020-21, the Museum's retail operation continued to commit suppliers to ethical monitoring through Sedex, although the retail supplier base shrank significantly during the year. No new supplier is engaged unless it too commits to joining Sedex, or its equivalent in the toys and games manufacturing sector, providing additional health and safety protection to customers.

Reducing the risk to people working in high-risk activities in the Museum

In 2019-20, the Museum secured from its soft facilities management services contractor a written undertaking that it employs all cleaning and portering workers directly and will not use third party agencies. This practice virtually eliminates the exposure of workers to the risk of human trafficking. In 2020-21, the Museum's security services contractor gave a similar written undertaking.

Training and capacity building

In 2019-20, the Museum undertook to codify and communicate for wider use in public service those due diligence processes that were found to be the most successful.

In 2020-21, the Museum's Procurement Manager collaborated with the Business, Human Rights and the Environment Research Group (BHRE) at the University of Greenwich to develop and deliver free online training events on modern slavery in public supply chains to audiences in local government (with the Local Government Association) and the National Health Service (with NHS Commercial Solutions). This training was well received, as the wider public sector prepares for the mandatory publication of annual modern slavery statements.

Also in 2020-21, the Museum's Procurement Manager was invited to serve on the Home Office Working Group on Modern Slavery in Public Supply Chains. The Museum is also represented on the [Steering Committee](#) of [International Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights](#) as a practitioner of public sector procurement.

Our Goals for 2021-22

The Museum reconfirms its commitment to better understanding its supply chains and working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards people working on them. We will continue to work with our partners and suppliers to undertake supply chain due diligence and mitigate the risks to human rights in our supply chains.

In the year ahead, the Museum's efforts will concentrate on its two major construction projects, the Urban Nature Project and the new science centre at Harwell. The risks of labour rights abuses in the supply of temporary labour to UK construction sites are considered to be high. In compliance with the Museum's Annual Operating Plan and the [Cabinet Office's Procurement Policy Note 06/20](#), the Museum will incorporate contract award criteria designed to mitigate the risks of slavery and human trafficking into these principal contracts, as part of its effort to take account of social value in the award of public contracts.

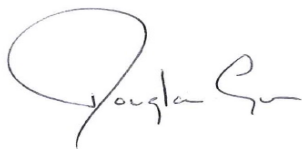
This Statement has been approved and published by the Board of Trustees and will continue to be reviewed at least once annually.

[Approved by the Board of Trustees and Signed]



The Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint
for the Board of Trustees

6 July 2021



Dr Douglas Gurr
Museum Director

6 July 2021