RPS Modern Slavery statement 2023-24

Introduction

RPS Group Limited (‘RPS’) is committed to trading responsibly and ethically, and has a zero-tolerance approach to Modern Slavery (including human rights violations, child and forced labour or human trafficking in any form) in its own operations and throughout its supply chain.

This statement, which covers the activities of RPS and two of its UK trading subsidiaries RPS Consulting Services Limited (RPS CSL) and RPS Environmental Management Limited (RPS EML) for the financial period 1 January to 31 December 2023, is made pursuant to the section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA) and comprises its Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement. This Modern Slavery Statement is published on the RPS website in addition to the UK Government's online registry.

The activities undertaken by RPS have not changed materially over the last year and correspondingly neither have the risks.

As a wholly owned subsidiary of Tetra Tech, Inc. (“Tetra Tech”), RPS and its subsidiaries are committed to maintaining business practice standards that honour and protect the dignity and integrity of everyone with whom the company conducts business, employs, and serves. This includes an opposition to human trafficking and forced labour in any form. This and other relevant policies and procedures are reviewed annually and published on our intranet to ensure wide distribution. Tetra Tech has adopted a policy combating trafficking in persons (TIP) in all aspects of its business, a copy of which can be found in the Combating Trafficking In Persons policy on www.tetratech.com/policies. Tetra Tech is also part of the United Nations Global Compact https://www.tetratech.com/about/united-nations-global-compact/ https://unglobalcompact.org/. This includes a number of commitments in relation to human rights and anti-slavery.

Our business and our supply chain

RPS is a multi-disciplinary international consulting organisation built on a legacy of environmental and social engagement. We are made up of around 5,000 consultants, designers, planners, engineers, technical specialists and support staff, all providing professional client services focused on natural resources, urbanisation, and sustainability.

RPS has several UK trading subsidiaries within the wider group, trading in North America, Australasia and other parts of Europe.

As a largely consulting business, in which employees constitute by far the largest single cost, RPS has a comparatively short and simple supply chain and therefore the extent of risks to which RPS is exposed in this area continues to be relatively limited.

Our approach and our policies

RPS is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business relationships and remains fully supportive of the objectives of the MSA. We take our obligations under the MSA very seriously and will not tolerate any activities within our organisation or our supply chain which amount to either slavery or human trafficking. The RPS Group is also mindful of the Australian Modern Slavery Act.

RPS expects its people to act with honesty and respect. The company has embedded group behaviours alongside the implementation of policies that support and maintain our ethical approach to business. These policies include:
The RPS behaviours, in addition to each of these policies, are brought to the attention of all new joiners as part of the onboarding process. Training courses on modern slavery are available on demand through our Performance Management System. The company additionally operates an externally-managed whistleblowing helpline, which would allow anonymous reporting of any observed concerning behaviours, should colleagues feel unable to raise such concerns via the line management route.

In addition to more formal training on modern slavery and company behaviours, ongoing support is provided to staff with direct interaction with suppliers by line management to better help them identify slavery or human trafficking practices.

**Due diligence processes**

Given the nature of the Group’s business, the existence of modern slavery in our supply chain is considered to be low. Commercial and operational due diligence is standard procedure when appointing a new supplier.

This statement was approved by board of R P S Group Limited on 28 June 2024 and was signed on its behalf by:

Christopher Green
Director