

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54, Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the Act) and sets out Optalis's approach to its responsibilities under the Act.

Optalis is committed to ensuring that there is no form of slavery or human trafficking within our supply chains or in any part of our business. We have a zero-tolerance approach towards slavery and human trafficking. Any identified concerns regarding slavery and human tracking are escalated as part of our company's safeguarding process working in conjunction with other local authority agencies.

Company overview

Optalis Ltd (Optalis) is a Local Authority Trading Company owned by and delivering Adult Social Care in, both The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council

Optalis is committed to providing efficient, effective, and high-quality service to all customers whilst also ensuring these services represent value for money. Support is provided to vulnerable adults in a range of community, residential and home-based services across Wokingham and The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Policies, training and systems

As a provider of social care services, we recognise our responsibility to identify any customers who may be a victim of forms of slavery or human trafficking. To support this, Optalis has a series of policies and processes to identify and prevent slavery and human trafficking, which include:

- All new employees are subject to pre-employment checks as defined within both regulated services such as Care Quality Commission and best practice. This includes checking each employee's UK address, right to work in the UK and suitable references and any gaps in employment.
- Our Rising Concerns to Work (Whistleblowing) policy and guidance,
- Our Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement
- The Berkshire Safeguarding adults policies and procedures, which identifies and defines modern slavery (section 2.3), specifying how the company must react and deal with any identified safeguard concern.
- Our Code of Conduct.

All our employees across the company are required to complete mandatory safeguarding training annually regardless of their role within the company, which includes modules on modern slavery.

We have a dedicated Safeguarding Coordinator who supports management and employees within the company.

When procuring services from third-party companies, we review their published information in respect of their responsibilities under the Act. Where possible, we

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seek to work with local companies which are known to us. We will not work with any organisation which is unable to demonstrate its commitment to complying with the requirements of the Act or which gives us reason to suspect that their supply chains are non-compliant with the Act.

Performance indicators

We will know the effectiveness of the steps that we are taking to ensure that slavery is not taking place within our business or supply chain if no reports are received from employees, the public, or law enforcement agencies or local safeguarding teams to indicate that modern slavery practices have been identified. We monitor all safeguards that are raised by Optalis or against Optalis, in the year reported (20/21) there have been no reported incidents of concerns to modern slavery practices.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Birch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Birch
CEO, Optalis

Date: 12th October 2021
Review due: October 2023

David Birch, Chief Executive Officer