

## **Modern Slavery Act – Annual Statement**

The Modern Slavery Act came into force on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and places an obligation on QTS to publish an annual statement on the activities that QTS perform to eliminate modern slavery in our business and supply chains. This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the activities undertaken by QTS in respect of the prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking and constitutes the company's annual statement for the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Amendment Bill 2013 redefined "labour exploitation" to "a work or service which is exacted from a person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily". Under this legislation, both companies and individuals can be prosecuted for trafficking and forced labour. Irish courts can also exercise jurisdiction over offences committed outside of Ireland, where such crimes have been committed by Irish citizens or persons ordinarily resident in Ireland. Irish companies therefore can be prosecuted for trafficking and forced labour, both at home and abroad (BITCI, Mitigate the Risk of Modern Slavery, 2021)

QTS Group provides specialist construction, engineering and vegetation control services in support of the creation and maintenance of assets for both public and private infrastructure sector customers. Work is conducted within the United Kingdom and Ireland by a directly employed and contracted workforce all of whom are fully eligible to work within the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Modern Slavery is a criminal offence, it can occur in various forms, including servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. All of these deprive a person of their liberty by exploiting them for personnel or commercial gain.

QTS have a zero tolerance approach to modern slavery and are committed to acting ethically and with integrity to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking within the business and our supply chains.

We carry out a robust system for supplier approval and monitoring. Suppliers will fail to be approved or will be disqualified and removed from the approved suppliers list for failure to fulfil the fundamental human rights of their workers, or if found to employ minors, or to have slavery or human trafficking taking place within their organisations. We ensure transparency within the organisation and with suppliers of goods and services to the organisation.

As a minimum, with the exception of apprenticeship schemes, all of our employees will be paid the National minimum wage in line with age and responsibilities, we will endeavour to ensure that this is carried through to our supply chain.

Pre-employment checks are carried out for all employees to reduce the risk of QTS directly employing individuals that could fall within the scope of modern slavery and also to ensure that they have a right to work within the United Kingdom and Ireland. All staff have received awareness training and those involved in the engagement and induction of workers, and those dealing with our supply chain matters have, or will, receive appropriate levels of additional training in these issues.

To ensure QTS is compliant with the act we carry out due diligence within the organisation and within our supply chain. We have an internal compliance

department that carry out and continually monitor routine checks and audits to ensure that our processes are effective and in full compliance with the act.

This statement will be subject to annual review and has been approved by the QTS Group Ltd board.

Signed:  
Alan McLeish  
Managing Director



Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

The above policy is available to interested parties online at [www.qtsgroup.com](http://www.qtsgroup.com)