



## MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (“the Act”) and sets out the steps that we, South East Water Limited (“SEW”) have taken (and are taking) to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in our supply chain or in any part of our business.

### **Our Business and Supply Chain**

SEW is a regulated water supply company in England and Wales, and we have 2.1 million people living in our supply area who depend on us to deliver safe, high quality drinking water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our business predominately focuses on the supply of drinking water in the South East of England and provides wholesale water services to household and non-household premises and retail services to our household customers.

Our supply chains include a wide range of suppliers across all our requirements for example, everything from the supply of stationery for the office to our large capital delivery programme.

### **Our Policy on Slavery and Human Trafficking (Ethical Purchasing Policy)**

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. Our anti-slavery policy contained within our ‘Ethical Purchasing Policy’ reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

### **Our Due Diligence processes regarding Slavery and Human Trafficking**

We have zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking. As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk we have in place systems to identify and assess potential risk areas in our supply chains. We operate a ‘whistle blowing’ policy so that any staff can raise any concerns confidentially and anonymously.

We carry out activities in compliance with law and we ensure that all our employees and require that any staff in our supply chain are paid at the Living Wage. We require that all such staff have the right to work in the UK.

Our procurement processes include a number of checks and reviews to ensure that any suppliers that we engage with can meet the requirements of our Ethical Purchasing Policy. Where the contract value is over £100,000 we will generally engage our suppliers through a pre-qualification procurement system (Achilles) which also undertakes a number of checks in relation to the modern slavery act requirements.

Last year, and in order to ensure compliance with the Act, we:

1. Undertook an audit of our supply chain to highlight any areas of risk which involved specified visits to some such suppliers and we were pleased to report no concerns were found; and
2. We continued an ongoing programme to train all new starters on Modern Slavery.

### **Further Steps**

We will continue to conduct audits to review our supply chain and to conduct visits specifically to assess any suppliers that could be considered high risk to ensure we are doing all we can to commit to eliminating Modern Slavery.

We will also continue to promote the awareness of Modern Slavery through ongoing training.

This statement constitutes South East Water's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

This statement has been approved by the Board of South East Water at the Board meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Signed



**Paul Butler**  
**Managing Director**  
**South East Water**