



Energy for  
generations

## Electricity Supply Board

### Statement on the Prevention of Slavery and Human Trafficking - 2018

#### INTRODUCTION

Electricity Supply Board ('ESB') has a zero tolerance approach to modern slavery and is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in its own business or in any of its supply chains.

ESB is committed to ensuring there is transparency in its own business and in its approach to tackling modern slavery throughout its supply chains and expects the same standards from all its contractors, suppliers and other business partners.

In April 2017, ESB published its first statement on the prevention of slavery and human trafficking in response to the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 ('the Act'). This is ESB's second statement and sets out the steps taken by ESB during 2017 to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Act and constitutes the ESB statement for its financial year ended 31 December 2017.

#### ESB'S BUSINESS AND SUPPLY CHAIN

ESB is a vertically integrated utility whose business activities include the generation, transmission and distribution and supply of electricity in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

As the majority of ESB's operations are undertaken in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK, ESB considers that the risk of modern slavery is more likely to arise in its supply chains rather than from its own business operations.

Excluding fuel, the company's annual procurement spend is around €800m across approx. 5000 vendors.

Further details of ESB business operations can be found at [www.esb.ie](http://www.esb.ie).

#### STEPS TAKEN

ESB seeks at all times to comply with employment law applicable to the jurisdictions in which it operates and puts in place contractual arrangements with providers of agency staff requiring that they achieve the same level of compliance.

Following on from its first statement on the prevention of slavery and human trafficking, ESB has, during 2017, taken the following steps to prevent acts of modern slavery from occurring within its supply chains:

- Conducted a risk assessment of all its vendors with annual spend of greater than €250,000 based on their geographical location & industry sector
- Issued questionnaires to vendors identified as being potentially high risk based on this initial assessment
- Assessed these returns and identified a number of vendors for further investigation / audit
- Appointed a third party with extensive expertise in the area of modern slavery and forced labour to undertake these audits & to provide support to ESB's programme to prevent modern slavery in its supply chains during 2018
- Updated ESB's Supplier Charter & Requirements for Agents, Suppliers, Contractors, Advisers and other Third Parties, to incorporate appropriate anti-slavery and human trafficking obligations into procurement agreements and contractual processes
- Revised our vendor pre-qualification processes, tenders, contracts and orders to make specific provision for ESB's requirements in relation to modern slavery, and require all preferred tenderers and vendors to formally confirm their acceptance of these requirements from the outset of our business relationship
- Designed and provided training to ESB Procurement Teams in the relevant aspects of modern slavery.

ESB's Policy on Modern Slavery (available at [www.esb.ie](http://www.esb.ie)) was adopted by the ESB Board in 2016, and was also communicated to employees. This policy sets out the actions that ESB will take to ensure the prevention of modern slavery, the roles and responsibilities from Board level down to each individual employee and the means by which any suspected incidences of modern slavery should be reported. Employees are encouraged to report any suspected wrongdoing, and ESB's Policies sets out the protections for employees in reporting serious malpractice at work.

In order to understand how effective these controls are to ensure that modern slavery does not exist within our supply chain, arrangements have been made, during 2018, to conduct audits of the activities of a number of suppliers considered to operate in high risk regions or industries. ESB will investigate any modern slavery risks as identified by these audits, or any other means, and put in place corrective actions as appropriate.

The specific work outlined above will be complemented by a further programme of work for 2018, including the development on an on-line training module on modern slavery for all ESB staff.

## **APPROVAL**

This statement was approved by the Board of Directors of ESB on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.



**Signed by: Pat O'Doherty**

**Chief Executive,  
Electricity Supply Board.**

**27 March 2018**