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FIN POL009
Modern Slavery Statement
2026/7

Document Type	Policy Statement	
Document Ownership	Social Value and Sustainability Manager	
Title of Document	Modern Slavery Statement 2026/27	
Status	Live	
Reference number	FIN POL009	
Agreed with Unison / date:	N/A	
Approved by / date:	<i>Simon Hill</i>	21/09/2026
Publication date	Simon Hill (Sep 21, 2026 11:05:10 GMT+1) October 2026	
Next Review date	September 2026	
Current Version	V6	
Distribution	Online website and Policy Management System	
Replaces document	Modern Slavery Statement 2026/27	
Related documents	Social Value and Sustainability Strategy FIN POL010 Responsible Procurement Policy FIN POL006 Anti-Bribery Policy Statement QMS SOP001 New Product Introduction Procedure QMS POL001 Quality Policy YPO Supplier Code of Conduct	
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1. Introduction

This statement has been produced in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the “Act”). As a ‘commercial organisation’ defined by the Act, YPO has a legal duty to publish a modern slavery statement and as a professional, responsible and socially conscious public procurement organisation, YPO recognise the importance of operating to high ethical standards and expect the same from its supply chains. YPO take a zero-tolerance approach to unethical practices and is committed to always treating people in its business and supply chains fairly, with integrity, and in a way that upholds ethical standards.

YPO is committed to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from its business and supply chains, guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact.

2. Our Business

YPO is the largest publicly owned public sector buying organisation in the UK. Established in 1974 by a group of 13 local authorities. YPO is governed by a joint committee and operate under the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970. A full list of members and associate member authorities can be found at <https://www.ypo.co.uk/about/governance/structure>. However, as a centralised procurement authority, defined by the Procurement Act 2023, YPO products and frameworks are open for use by any public sector organisation in the UK. Based in Wakefield, YPO supply around 30,000 products and resources from our warehouse, as well as offering around 100 public sector framework agreements.

YPO customers are UK-wide and include schools, local authorities, charities, emergency services, the wider-public sector and other businesses such as nurseries and care homes.

YPO categories of spend normally fall into one of the following areas;

- Corporate and Financial Services
- Education, Learning and Office Supplies
- Emergency Services
- Facilities Management
- Fleet and Highways
- Food and Catering
- Furniture
- Health and Social Care
- HR Services
- Technology and Communications
- Utilities

As a drive to offer YPO customers value for money, YPO have invested in an own brand range, typically covering products such as stationery, arts and crafts, sport and early years products. Some of these are sourced direct from overseas suppliers with 676* out of 1597 product lines classified as globally sourced. Following Brexit, YPO now classify any factory outside of the UK as globally sourced including those in Europe, this currently means that

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YPO source from 30 global factories across Bulgaria, China, Denmark, France, , Taiwan and Thailand.

3. Due Diligence

With numerous categories of spend, YPO have a wide range of supply chains each with individual characteristics, covering both product and service-based supply chains. YPO therefore identifies the areas of high risk to human rights and act accordingly.

3.1 Global Sourcing

Whilst YPO is aware that modern slavery can occur much closer to home, it also believes that global sourcing activity presents the highest risk of all, to human rights within YPO's supply chains. Therefore, YPO has put in place a robust procurement and audit process. Ethical audits to the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) Base Code as a minimum are requested as part of the tender process and we request factories are re-audited at least every three years.

YPO work with Société Générale de Surveillance SA (known as SGS) as its appointed independent audit organisation, however YPO also accept audits from other independent, approved organisations where appropriate. Currently 95% of YPO globally sourced products are sourced from a factory that has been ethically audited to a satisfactory standard. Each year our Quality Assurance team sends a Global Sourcing Review to the category teams to inform them of the status of the factory audits within their categories to enable them to chase any outstanding audits as part of their supplier relationship management programme. An ethical review is also performed at the end of each year and presented to Senior Leaders as part of our ISO9001 Management Review.

3.2 All supply chains (including global sourcing)

As a UK Public Sector Buying Organisation, YPO has applied the approach set out in PPN 009. PPN 009, which replaces PPN 02/23 for procurements from 24 February 2025 onwards, builds on the original guidance by aligning with the Procurement Act 2023 and introducing enhanced requirements for tackling modern slavery in government supply chains. YPO uses this guidance to support risk assessment across both new procurements and existing contracts, including consideration of supply chain transparency, exclusion grounds, and current risk indicators such as commodity type, supplier location and business or supply chain model. Six key characteristics to consider

Industry type

1. Nature of workforce
2. Supplier location

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3. Context in which the supplier operates
4. Commodity type and
5. Business / supply chain model

As part of the Conditions of Participation (CoP), YPO asks following questions relating to a supplier's commitment to preventing modern slavery:

Question		
1.	Tacking Modern Slavery in Supply Chains: Are you a relevant commercial organisation* subject to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015? *‘Relevant commercial organisations’ are defined as commercial organisations that carry on a business or part of business in the UK, supply goods or services and have an annual turnover of £36 million or more	
2.	Modern Slavery Statement (or equivalent statement/document): If you are ‘a relevant commercial organisation’ subject to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act please provide a link or copy of your latest statement which covers the following points: The organisation’s structure, its business and its supply chains Its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking Its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains The parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk Its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate The training and capacity building about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff	Detail the web address to the document The name of the uploaded document Insert N/A if you are not subject to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act
3.	If you are not a ‘relevant commercial organisation’ but have a turnover of more than £36 million,	Detail the web address to the document.

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	please provide a link or copy of your latest statement which covers the following points:- The organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains Its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking Its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains The parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk Its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate The training and capacity building about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff	The name of the uploaded document Insert N/A if you are not a relevant commercial organisation and have a turnover of less than £36 million
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As part of our procurement process and due diligence on any tender exercise, additional questions or terms and conditions may be included to assess our suppliers and the supply chain specifically related to their approach to eradicating modern slavery. Including the standard "Mandatory Requirement" below;

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its responsibilities to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking within its operations and supply chain, in line with UK government expectations and guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery (including, where applicable, the Modern Slavery Act 2015). This applies to all suppliers, including organisations not legally required to produce a Modern Slavery Statement. Your confirmation should include that your organisation has: • Policies and procedures in place to prevent, identify and address modern slavery and human trafficking risks; • Processes to monitor, assess, and manage these risks within your own organisation and your supply chain on an ongoing basis;	PASS – Yes, our organisation meets all the above requirements. FAIL – No, our organisation does not currently meet these requirements. PASS – I am a sole trader and do not operate a supply chain or sub-contract any work. PASS – I am an organisation that
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• Regular reviews of these policies and processes to ensure they remain effective; • Awareness and compliance (where relevant) to UK government guidance, available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery. Evidence of the above will be required upon request by YPO or any Contracting Authority.	meets the requirements but do not sub-contract any work or have any supply chain.
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Where tenders are deemed high risk there it is recommended to use an award question on how suppliers prevent, identify and manage modern slavery risks within their organisation and supply chain.

YPO's procurements are also supported with a "Responsible Procurement Policy" which sets out the social value outcomes that are important to YPO. Theme 6 includes how YPO's supply chains show commitment to Modern Slavery via its procurement activities;

Priority Theme	Example Outcomes
Promote ethical trading practices within supply chains	Requiring global suppliers to provide third party evidence of good ethical practice, using the ETI Base Code. Quality Team conduct a modern slavery risk assessment at pre-tender stage and suggested mitigations

3.3 YPO Supplier Code of Conduct

The YPO Supplier Code of Conduct is now a mandatory condition of contracting with YPO and sets out our base expectations for its supply chains in relation to employment rights, working conditions, anti-slavery, non-discrimination and environmental protection. It is based on the [Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code](#) and reflects a number of YPO's own values, which are Be kind, Do the right thing, Embrace creativity and Make a difference.

4. Our Policies

This statement explicitly addresses our position in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking however it also has links to other relevant policies and procedures;

- Social Value and Sustainability Strategy
- Responsible Procurement Policy
- Anti-Bribery Policy Statement
- New Product Introduction Procedure

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- YPO Quality Policy
- YPO Supplier Code of Conduct

5. Effectiveness and Performance Indicators

YPO monitors the effectiveness of its approach to modern slavery through supplier due diligence activity, ethical audit coverage, supplier responses to procurement questions, and internal review of high-risk sourcing areas. In 2026/27, YPO will continue to monitor the proportion of globally sourced products supplied by factories with satisfactory ethical audits, review the status of outstanding audits through category teams, and use procurement risk assessments to identify where additional due diligence or contractual requirements are required.

6. Training and Raising Awareness

As a procurement organisation, YPO already have a large number of staff who hold or are working towards a professional qualification from the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). CIPS have a wide range of eLearning modules available for members including the Ethical Procurement and Supply which we encourage all procurement staff to complete.

Internal training and guidance is provided to staff who are responsible for sourcing products from overseas.

A small number of staff have reviewed or completed the Home Office e-learning course and the Government Commercial College “Tackling modern slavery in supply chains: PPE case study” course.

YPO is also committed to raising awareness by collaborating with similar organisations to discuss issues relating to Modern Slavery.

7. The Future

As a professional public sector buying organisation, YPO recognises the responsibility it has to embed social value into its business activities. This includes working towards eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking in our business and supply chains. YPO will continue to make further improvements and remain committed to an ethical supply chain.

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YPO will continue to work with its suppliers, member and associate member authorities, customers, staff and other stakeholders to share best practice and to encourage more commitment to eradicating slavery and human trafficking from all supply chains.

During 2026/27, YPO will continue to strengthen its approach through the ongoing review of supplier due diligence processes, monitoring ethical audit coverage of globally sourced products, and identifying opportunities to increase staff awareness of modern slavery risks in procurement and contract management activities.

This statement has the support and commitment of the YPO Board who will review it on an annual basis.

*All figures are correct at the time of writing.

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Final Audit Report

2026-09-21

Created:	2026-09-21
By:	Nicola Helliwell (nicola.helliwell@ypo.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAySpu5YkyDc5EPB_5OloZIC9aUiwWkJI4

"Modern Slavery Statement 2026-27" History

-  Document created by Nicola Helliwell (nicola.helliwell@ypo.co.uk)
2026-09-21 - 8:33:05 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Simon Hill (simon.hill@ypo.co.uk) for signature
2026-09-21 - 8:33:53 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Simon Hill (simon.hill@ypo.co.uk)
2026-09-21 - 10:04:51 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Simon Hill (simon.hill@ypo.co.uk)
Signature Date: 2026-09-21 - 10:05:10 AM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_TYPE
-  Agreement completed.
2026-09-21 - 10:05:10 AM GMT