

## Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2017

This statement is made on behalf of Forsters LLP ("Forsters"), a limited liability partnership providing legal services to clients, based primarily in England and Wales, but also elsewhere in the world. This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the Act) as Forsters' slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 30 March 2017.

### About Forsters

Forsters is a leading law firm regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales. All of our offices are in London. Our mission is to provide exceptional legal advice to clients, principally drawn from the real estate and private wealth sectors. Our aim is to be collaborative and responsible in all that we do and we embed these values across the firm.

Forsters takes the issue of modern slavery very seriously and is committed to ensuring that unfair working practices have no place in our business nor in any of the businesses, we engage with. We work in a low slavery risk jurisdiction and we consider the likelihood of any form of modern slavery being present in our business to be minimal. However, we have taken the following steps, to ensure that slavery and human trafficking does not take place in any part of our business nor in any part of our supply chain:

### Our Clients

As a provider of legal services, we are required by applicable legislation and codes of conduct to take steps to identify our client and our scope of engagement. The overriding principle is that we will not act for clients where it is either illegal or inappropriate for us to do so. We have systems in place to enable us to monitor any clients or any instructions from clients, which we have identified as "high risk". Partners and members of staff are required to report any known or suspected breaches of laws or ethical standards.

### Supply chains

Our suppliers and service providers include suppliers of IT and communications equipment and services; property; office cleaning and other facilities management services; transport and delivery services, including couriers; marketing such as merchandise suppliers and conference providers; office equipment and supplies; and professional services such as auditors, legal counsel, banks, insurers and recruitment agencies.



Forsters is committed to ensuring no modern slavery or human trafficking is present in our supply chains or any other aspect of our day-to-day operations. We expect our all our suppliers and service providers to uphold the highest professional standards and to ensure full compliance with all laws and regulations. We only appoint highly reputable third parties to work with us and in many cases have long-standing relationship with them. We monitor the performance of suppliers and providers of services and we review our supply chain regularly to identify areas of possible risk. As part of our procurement process, we have recently introduced new requirements for the vetting of suppliers and providers of services to the firm. These requirements include stringent expectations of suppliers providers in terms of business ethics. We are working with existing suppliers to introduce a supplier code of conduct.

### **Risk monitoring and compliance**

Our Risk & Compliance team is responsible for overseeing compliance with our policies and requirements. This team has expanded over the last 18 months, during which time; we have invested significant resources into this area and have developed new systems and processes. Forsters provides training broad ranging training in relation to compliance for example including training in relation to money laundering, terrorist financing, bribery, corruption and tax evasion. We will continue to focus on risk and compliance to help us comply with our obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This will include undertaking due diligence that is specifically supplier focused.

### **Training**

To ensure a high level of awareness and understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we have develop training and materials to support any Forsters staff who procure supplies or services on behalf of the firm.

We have a whistleblowing policy, which is designed to support individuals who wish to raise concerns about any matter, including slavery and human trafficking so that any person raising such concerns, in accordance with the policy, will not suffer any repercussions as a result.

