

## **Modern Slavery Act Statement for HQIP: Financial Years 2025/26**

### **Introduction**

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is committed to improving health outcomes by enabling those who commission, deliver, and receive healthcare to measure and improve our healthcare services. We are committed to being open and accountable, and to listen, learn and respond swiftly and appropriately as part of our ongoing cycle of improvement.

We acknowledge the seriousness of the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking and recognise our obligation to take all reasonable steps to mitigate any risks related to these practices in our operations and supply chain. This statement is made in compliance with Part 6 (Section 54) of the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015) and pertains to the financial years 2023-2025.

### **Our Organisational Structure**

HQIP was established in April 2008 to promote quality in healthcare, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare quality improvement. We are an independent organisation led by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and The Royal College of Nursing.

HQIP's board of trustees meet three times per year, with one of the three meetings coinciding with the organisation's annual general meeting (AGM). The annual modern slavery statement will be reviewed and approved at board level.

HQIP works collaboratively across the health and care sector to champion national and local clinical audit as a way of achieving improvement in care and patient outcomes. Audit programmes are a key tool for the measurement and monitoring of care and provide a crucial evidence-base on which to build and develop better patient care and healthcare services. HQIP aims to work in a positive, open and transparent way to help enable positive and fruitful working partnerships to build better patient care.

HQIP works closely with funders of our work delivering our portfolio of national clinical audits and other programmes. These include NHS England, Welsh Government as well as, for certain projects, the Health Department of the Scottish Government, DHSSPS Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

### **Supply Chain Management**

The obligations outlined in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 are explicitly mentioned in HQIP's standard contract and Invitation to Tender (ITT) templates. We expect all our contracted suppliers (where applicable) to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Act HQIP undertakes a risk-based categorisation exercise yearly on primary and secondary based suppliers to map out the supply chain, HQIP has this in place to manage and prevent risks of modern slavery and to access the parts of the business and supply chains where risks of modern slavery are highest. Required suppliers have a KPI whereby they provide a yearly modern slavery statement as part of the contract management.

Where suppliers are not bound by the Act, HQIP will require a modern slavery statement outlining initiatives the supplier is taking to eradicate modern slavery as a minimum.

### **Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code**

As part of our commitment to ethical practice, we require suppliers to adhere to the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). This code, founded on the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), ensures that:

1. Adherence to local and national laws
2. Employment is freely chosen,
3. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected,
4. Working conditions are safe and hygienic,
5. Child labour is not used,
6. Living wages are paid,
7. Working hours are not excessive,
8. Discrimination is not practised,
9. Regular employment is provided, and
10. No harsh or inhumane treatment is permitted.

In addition, we ensure our suppliers pay, at a minimum, the national living wage, and in London, the London Living Wage.

### **Training and Awareness**

All staff undertake modern slavery training every two (2) years, our comprehensive staff induction programmes ensure employees are made aware of the standards of behaviour expected of them, aligning with our core values that foster ethical practices, the modern slavery statement is provided to all staff at induction. We disseminate our modern slavery statement yearly via our internal communications channels to ensure all staff are informed and aware.

### **HQIP Policies**

Where applicable HQIP ensures that policies have modern slavery considerations embedded within them and that where appropriate these are made publicly available.

### **Conclusion**

HQIP remains steadfast in its commitment to combatting modern slavery and human trafficking in all its forms and will take all feasible steps to ensure that such practices are not taking place within its operations or supply chains.



This statement has been reviewed and ratified by HQIP's board of trustees and is subject to annual revision.