



Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Annual Update 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024

Introduction from Kevin Rodgers, Chief Executive

This is the eighth annual Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement¹ and Citizen remains proud of the steps we have taken to combat slavery and human trafficking and remain committed to improving our practices in this area. I can confirm that we have received no reports of slavery or human trafficking in our business or with any of our wider supply chain partners.

Citizen remains committed to our zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and human trafficking and the work we, our partners and supply chains do. We recognise our obligations to identifying, targeting and preventing slavery and human trafficking and we understand that everyone has a role to play to eliminate this.

Our approach to tackling slavery and human trafficking involves -

- Ensuring we have an up-to-date Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.
- Training our staff to understand our policy and procedures for identifying and reporting modern slavery.
- We undertake due diligence in appointing contractors and suppliers.

It is for these reasons that we believe our working practices to be adequate and as such our statement remains similar to those issued in previous years.

Our previous statements will be available on request.

1. Organisation's structure

Citizen undertakes a range of community and social based activities, including housing, regeneration, community development and care. We employ over 1,000 members of staff and manage more than 30,000 homes across Birmingham, Coventry, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the wider West Midlands.

¹ previous statements published at WM Housing Group Limited



We are a not-for-profit social housing business creating homes that are a foundation for life. We do however have Signature New Homes, who develop open market housing to subsidise the development of more affordable homes.

2. Our supply chains

As a registered provider we do not operate extensive, worldwide supply chains. Due to this, we can build close relationships with suppliers which enable us to promote our commitment with regards to slavery and human trafficking.

3. Our policies on slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery in our supply chains or in any part of our organisation. As part of this, we have an Anti Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy which reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships, as well as implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains. This policy was reviewed in May 2022 and is due for review in July 2025. A copy of the policy can be found on our website.

Citizen recognise that modern slavery is not confined to supply chains and modern slavery or human trafficking can occur in domestic settings as well as commercial ones. We are an organisation that plays an active role in our communities and are often in a unique position to spot signs that may indicate a safeguarding concern. We have recently reviewed our safeguarding policies and procedures and have introduced new ways of reporting concerns, including a specific process for concerns relating to modern slavery. We have trained front line staff on using the new process and our Safeguarding Committee keeps the effectiveness of these process under review. We have also liaised with the West Midlands Police force to produce new guidance for staff on spotting the signs of modern slavery and this is available on our staff intranet.

All staff, regardless of role, must undertake some level of safeguarding training, this helps all staff to identify any safeguarding issues within our supply chains or in our homes and ensures they follow the correct referral procedures.

4. Due diligence processes for 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;
- mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains;
- monitor potential risk areas in our supply chains; and

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- protect whistle blowers via our whistleblowing policy.

5. **Our risks and how we manage this**

As we are based in and operate solely within the UK, we have identified that as an organisation our exposure to the risk of slavery and human trafficking is low. However, as part of our ongoing process to identify and monitor risks we have identified that our key area of risk lies in our relationships with supply chains and contractors. To manage this risk, we require third parties to acknowledge our commitment to combat slavery and human trafficking by inserting relevant clauses into our agreements.

6. **Supplier adherence to our values**

As an organisation we have a zero-tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking. To ensure all those in our supply chain and any contractors comply with our values, we have in place a supply chain compliance programme. This consists of incorporating a standard clause into all our new agreements with suppliers and contractors which informs them of our commitment to combatting slavery and human trafficking and requires them to agree to this commitment when working with us.

We are committed to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking and want to work with suppliers who share this commitment.

7. **Our effectiveness in combating slavery and human trafficking**

We use the following indicators to measure how effective we have been in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our organisation or supply chains:

- recording and monitoring any incidents or reports made to us by staff in accordance with our Anti Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy using the mechanisms established in our Speak-Up Policy and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures;
- monitoring any incidents or allegations across our supply chains which conflict with our values; and recording any incidents or complaints received from any third parties concerning slavery and human trafficking.

8. **Training and awareness**

We understand that training is fundamental in our duty to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our business or supply chains. We continue to train and raise awareness amongst staff to help them better understand modern slavery and human trafficking as well as the risks associated with it and how as an organisation, we are working to manage this.

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9. Further steps - 2023/24

We are committed to ensuring that our business and supply chains remain slavery and human trafficking free. During the year we will -

- Ensure there is continuous monitoring of our business and its supply chains to ensure we are free from slavery and human trafficking.
- Undertake a review of our safeguarding procedures to ensure they are working as well as they can.
- Monitoring that our contractors and supply chains act in accordance with our Anti Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy when dealing with us; and
- Refresh the training for staff following the review of the Anti Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

Kevin Rodgers, Chief Executive
Citizen Housing Limited
Date:

10. VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENTS	APPROVED AT/BY	REVIEW
V8.0	March 2023	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2024
V 7.0	March 2022	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2023
V 6.0	March 2021	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2022

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V 5.0	March 2020	Annual update and change to Citizen brand	Kevin Rodgers	March 2021
V 4.0	March 2019	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2020
V 3.0	March 2018	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2019
V 2.0	March 2017	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2018
V 1.0	March 2016	Annual update	Kevin Rodgers	March 2017

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