



**SLAVERY AND  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
STATEMENT  
2020 - 2021**

**FW THORPE PLC**

## STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54, of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps the Company has taken, in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (FY21), to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in our supply chains or in any part of our business. As a business we are committed to doing all we can to combat slavery and human trafficking. We will update our company policies and procedures and put systems in place which will reflect our zero tolerance approach. We will encourage our suppliers to mirror our values and complement our stance on the issue. We will deliver training to ensure a high level of understanding and promote a company culture where a clear and robust stance against modern day slavery and human trafficking is maintained.



*Mike Allcock*  
Chairman and Joint CEO - FW Thorpe Plc

## ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

FW Thorpe Plc designs, manufactures and supplies professional lighting systems in the building and construction sector. It consists of a number of lighting companies specialising in specific sectors of the lighting market. With the recent acquisition of a Spanish emergency lighting company the Group now has a global annual turnover in excess of £130m and over 800 employees. FW Thorpe Plc sales and manufacturing operations are predominantly based in the UK but operations in the Netherlands and Spain are becoming increasingly important. Sales offices also exist in a few additional locations worldwide. The head office is based in Redditch, where over 400 people are employed and the site contributes £70m to the Group turnover.

## OUR BUSINESS

The production facilities at each of the lighting companies are supported by various departments including; Finance, Purchasing and Materials, Human Resources, Quality, Lighting Design, Design and Technical Engineering, Commissioning. We have robust procedures in place for the vetting of new employees and ensuring that we are able to confirm their identities.

## OUR SUPPLY CHAINS

The FW Thorpe Plc supply chain comprises approximately 100 mainline product suppliers. These companies are based throughout the world and vary considerably, both in terms of size and amount spent with them. All our product suppliers are subject to an approvals process before they are permitted to supply products. Many hold international quality standards and accreditations and are regularly audited both by the issuing authorities and ourselves to ensure ongoing compliance to quality standards and other regulatory requirements.

In addition, we have approximately 500 non-product suppliers, who are predominantly based in the UK. These suppliers are subject to the same due diligence processes as for the product suppliers.

## DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES

Slavery and forced labour can take many forms, including human trafficking or child labour. We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

We continue to develop our Anti-Slavery Policy to reflect our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and review our processes when working with new and existing suppliers. Our processes continue to focus on “face-to-face” supplier contact backed up, where we see increased risk, with suppliers signing up to the FW Thorpe Plc Supplier Code of Contact\*. This clearly states that we will not tolerate forced labour or child labour in our operations or in the supply chain. FW Thorpe Plc Group companies will not continue to purchase goods or services from any supplier that is found to be engaging in human trafficking or using slave labour.

We continually review external media for reports, fines or sanctions against suppliers or countries where slavery incidents have occurred and have a process in place to act on anything that is highlighted. In 2020 for example, we took a number of actions as a result of Operation Fort uncovering a significant number of slavery victims in the UK. We reviewed our own internal recruitment policy and those of our key supplier to ensure that our processes were robust enough and had the capability to identify and query any suspicious activities.

\* Available to view at:

[www.fwthorpe.co.uk/pdf/fwthorpe-supplier-code-of-conduct.pdf](http://www.fwthorpe.co.uk/pdf/fwthorpe-supplier-code-of-conduct.pdf)

## RISK ASSESSMENT

As in previous years we continue to build on the framework of supply base risk assessment. This approach considers the business sector the supplier operates in, the size and scope of its business, its geographical location, the length of time the relationship has existed with that supplier, any known issues identified by the procurement team and any measures that our suppliers have implemented to tackle modern slavery in their own supply chains.

To safeguard against human rights abuses in our supply chain the selection of suppliers is prioritised by;

- building long standing relationships, where possible, with local suppliers and making clear our expectations of business behaviour.
- mitigating risk by encouraging sourcing from UK, European or US suppliers as we expect these entities to have suitable anti-slavery and human trafficking policies and processes.
- maintaining contact with a UK/European company or branch, where the supplier is outside the geographical locations stated above, as we would expect them to adopt due diligence on the next link in the chain. For these suppliers a periodic inspection of their premises will be conducted to observe their operations, make clear our expectations of behaviour and ensure compliance with slavery and human trafficking laws.
- assessing the risk of any additional suppliers based on geographical location. This risk assessment is performed with input from external stakeholders, such as the FCO (*Human Rights and Democracy: The 2019 Foreign and Commonwealth Report*, published in July 2020), and the Walk Free Foundation Global Slavery Index. (see fig. 1). Any higher risk suppliers will be asked to sign our Supplier Code of Conduct document, confirming that they, and their supply chains, conform to our Slavery and Human Trafficking policy. A periodic inspection of their premises will be conducted to ensure compliance with slavery and human trafficking laws.
- organisations that have policies to safeguard whistle blowers and encourage the reporting of slavery and forced labour concerns.

## SUPPLIER ADHERENCE TO OUR VALUES

We have a zero tolerance stance on slavery and human trafficking. We expect all those in our supply chain and contractors to comply with our values.

We have a cross-functional compliance team which consists of Directors and senior managers from the following departments, Human Resources, Purchasing, Materials Project Management and Design, that will co-ordinate all the necessary activities to ensure FW Thorpe PLC complies with the requirements of the Act.

## TRAINING

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and trafficking, we provide training to the procurement team and relevant members of our senior management team. Directors and senior managers in the business are also briefed on the subject.

Those employees engaging with new suppliers or suppliers from geographical locations where we see increased risk are actively involved with the Supplier Code of Conduct documentation and have a good understanding of modern slavery risks. Supplier awareness and commitment has recently been reaffirmed by the re-signing of Supplier Code of Conduct documents by the Directors of a number of long-standing suppliers.

We continually promote openness and transparency and provide avenues to all our employees and those working on our behalf to raise concerns. A confidential helpline is available for those who may have personal challenges and/or concerns that may affect well-being and/or work performance. We take all allegations of any type of unethical or illegal behaviour very seriously and have personnel trained to deal with all reported concerns sensitively and thoroughly. We carry out independent investigations and take any relevant action.

fig.1

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOCUS COUNTRIES



### Americas

Haiti, Columbia and Venezuela

### Asia

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan

### Europe and Middle East

Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen

### Africa

Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mauritania, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Zimbabwe

## OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN COMBATING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We will measure how effective we have been in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our business or supply chains by monitoring and recording;

- the number of employees trained in the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- the number of suppliers that confirm that their organisations are slavery and human trafficking free.

COVID-19 restrictions had an unprecedented impact throughout FY21 and we were unable to pursue our preferred method of engagement with suppliers by visiting their premises to observe their operations. Consequently, our primary means to make clear our expectations of labour and ethical behaviour and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with slavery and human trafficking laws was severely impeded. To mitigate the restrictions of on-site visits we asked a number of suppliers to review our Supplier Code of Conduct document and reaffirm their compliance. In FY21 we had a total of 35 suppliers that had signed up to the FW Thorpe Supplier Code of Conduct. As COVID-19 restrictions ease we hope to undertake a greater number of supplier visits in FY22.

7 members of the procurement team are specifically trained in the risks of modern slavery and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Our FY21 review of suppliers did not identify any high risk suppliers or evidence of any modern slavery non-conformances in the supply chain. Additionally, no employees reported any concerns.

## PROGRESS ON LAST YEAR'S PLANS

In last year's statement we stated that our efforts would be concentrated on reinforcing staff awareness on modern slavery issues through increased training for the procurement team and by communicating further information to employees across the company. In FY21 we updated our internal training documents on modern slavery and presented these to the procurement team. To create a greater awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking across the wider business we also communicated key messages to staff via company devices during the year. This was presented in a clear infographic format and provided practical information to help show the warning signs and impact of modern slavery and related issues.

In addition, we said we would review the labour and ethical practices adopted in the countries and industries at most risk of slavery. In response to this we have specifically targeted selected suppliers, within and external to the UK, to reaffirm their compliance with the FW Thorpe Supplier Code of Conduct and all modern slavery and human trafficking laws.

## OUR PLANS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

We will continue to review the effectiveness of the steps we have taken to ensure there is no slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains by continuously improving our policies, procedures and systems that we have implemented.

Our zero tolerance approach will continue in FY22 with particular focus on organisations;

- operating in countries identified as having a poor record with regard to human rights and working conditions .
- with employees from the top 20 source countries of origin for potential victims of modern slavery identified by the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

We will also work with all the companies within the enlarged FW Thorpe Group around the world to ensure they understand our;

- zero tolerance policy on slavery and human trafficking within our operations or in the supply chain.
- expectations of behaviour and compliance with all applicable slavery acts and regulations.

Where practical, as COVID-19 restrictions ease, re-engage with suppliers on a face-to-face basis to make clear our expectations of labour and ethical behaviour and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with slavery and human trafficking laws.

## APPROVAL

This statement constitutes the FW Thorpe PLC slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 2020 - 2021. It has been formally approved by the Board of FW Thorpe Plc on the 10th December 2021 and signed on its behalf by Mike Allcock, Chairman and Joint Chief Executive Officer.



*Mike Allcock*  
10th December 2021  
Chairman and Joint CEO - FW Thorpe Plc

## This statement covers the following FW Thorpe Plc subsidiary companies:

Thorlux Lighting	Solite Europe Ltd
Thorlux Lighting Ireland	Portland Lighting Ltd
Thorlux Lighting Deutschland	TRT Lighting Ltd
Thorlux Lighting Australia Pty Ltd	Lightronics BV
Thorlux Lighting LLC	Famostar BV
Philip Payne Ltd	