

# **STOFORD**

## **STOFORD PROPERTIES LIMITED**

### **MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015: SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT**

This modern slavery and human trafficking statement is made by Stoford Properties Ltd on behalf of the companies within its group ("Stoford") pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the "Act"). It describes the steps taken by Stoford towards seeking to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our business or supply chains.

Stoford has zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking in all its business activities. Stoford are committed to the prevention of slavery and human trafficking in all its forms and will not tolerate or condone it within any part of the business or supply chains.

***This statement applies to the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Additionally, this statement describes steps taken during the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Stoford will update this statement following the end of the current financial year, ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.***

#### **1. Structure and Supply Chains**

Stoford is a UK-focused commercial developer, with extensive experience in dealing with complex and challenging sites. Stoford is focused on the long-term development of commercial property.

Stoford procures its construction projects via UK-based regional and national building contractors and is supported by specialist professional consultants to deliver these projects.

#### **2. Policies and Supply Chain Due Diligence**

Stoford include appropriate clauses in its standard construction documents (building contracts and professional consultant appointments) placing an obligation on the contractor or consultant (as applicable) to comply with UK legislation, including the Act.

Additionally, before entering into a contract with a consultant or contractor, the pre-qualification process now requests the following:

- an annual declaration confirming their compliance with the provisions of the Act;
- a copy of their annual modern slavery statement (where required to produce one in accordance with section 54 of the Act); and
- a copy of their anti-slavery and human trafficking policy (if applicable).

If Stoford were to find evidence that one of the contractors or consultants had failed to comply with the Act, then Stoford would encourage the relevant contractor or consultant to remedy such non-compliance and Stoford would consider terminating its relationship should there be no improvement in changing procedures to achieve compliance with the Act.

Stoford has employment policies in the staff handbook containing a Whistleblowing policy. This provides a clear route for concerns to be raised and ensures the protection of whistleblowers who report slavery or human trafficking, and which should be read in conjunction with its Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy.

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### **3. Risk Assessment and Future Plans**

Stoford acknowledges that the prevalence of a flexible labour force within the construction industry (often involving the use of temporary or migrant workers) potentially creates a higher risk of exploitation, particularly where cost is such a key driver. Given the nature of the construction industry, it can be difficult to have direct control or transparency over the identity of its subcontractors' workforce and living conditions. However, records must be kept and maintained in a true manner amongst the contractors and consultants. Stoford may ask to inspect these at any time, and the supplier must provide this with complete transparency. In order to further mitigate these risks, Stoford only engage with reputable, well-established UK-based main contractors who pass the pre-qualification processes in respect of the Act and can meet their contractual obligations in terms of compliance. Stoford then require them to flow down those requirements to their own suppliers and contractors to drive higher standards further down the supply chain.

### **4. Training, Effectiveness and KPIs**

As at 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Stoford have audited all contractors and key supply chain partners who are employed by Stoford and fall under the remit of the Act to publish such a statement. These declarations are held under a register system held in the office files. Where contractors and consultants are not required to publish a statement, Stoford nonetheless audit their ethical trade credentials and reporting, obtained via publications on their websites and online intelligence gathering. For this reporting period, the majority of contractors and consultants required to publish statements have done so.

Prior to publication, this statement was communicated to all Stoford employees, and Stoford have confirmed that any queries about its content or application, or any requests for training relating to this matter should be directed to the Managing Directors.

### **5. Sign Off**

This statement is made in accordance with section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Stoford's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

Signed: 

Title: **Director**

Date: **17 January 2025**