

# Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people (of any nationality, gender, or age) for personal or commercial gain. It can include:

- Labour exploitation: victims are forced to work with little or no pay and may suffer poor working conditions, excessive working hours or wage deductions, or be housed in squalid accommodation
- Domestic servitude: victims are forced to work (normally in private homes), subject to ill treatment, humiliation and excessive working hours with little or no pay
- Sexual & criminal exploitation: victims are forced into prostitution or forced to commit crimes.

Slavery was abolished but never eradicated. In 2016, around 40.3 million men, women and children globally were victims of slavery with over 50% in forced labour in sectors such as construction, manufacturing, mining, utilities, agriculture, forestry, fishing and domestic work. And there were 5,144 modern slavery offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2019, an increase of 51% from the previous year

If you're concerned that an employee, or someone working on our behalf could be a victim of modern slavery, you must report it to your line manager or supervisor. You can also contact the national helpline Modern Slavery Helpline – 0800 0121700 (24 hours) If you're worried that the individual is in immediate danger, phone 999.

