

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Barbican Centre Board	20 th November 2017
Subject: Modern Slavery statement – Barbican Centre	Public
Report of: Louise Jeffreys, Director of Arts Report Author: Nick Adams, Senior Communications Manager	For Decision
Summary	
<p>In 2015 Parliament passed The Modern Slavery Act, a piece of legislation setting out a range of measures on how modern slavery and human trafficking is dealt with in the UK, including trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery.</p> <p>In June 2017, the Barbican Board Risk Committee took the decision that the Barbican should publish an annual statement on its website in response to this legislation, setting out the steps it is taking as an organisation to ensure that modern slavery is not occurring in its supply chains or in the organisation itself.</p> <p>The Appendix to this paper is a draft of this statement covering the 2017/18 financial year, submitted to the Board for review and approval. If approved, the statement would be published on the Barbican website and the actions set out in the statement implemented this financial year.</p> <p>Recommendation: That the Statement set out in the appendix be approved and published on the Barbican website.</p>	

Main Report

Background

In 2015 Parliament passed [The Modern Slavery Act](#), a piece of legislation setting out a range of measures on how modern slavery and human trafficking is dealt with in the UK, including trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery.

One area the act covers is transparency in supply chains, which makes the following provision:

‘The Act requires that any commercial organisation in any sector, which supplies goods or services, and carries on a business or part of a business in the UK, and is above a specified total turnover, must produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation.

Regulations have set the total turnover threshold at £36m. The statement must set out what steps they have taken during the financial year to ensure that modern slavery is not occurring in their supply chains and in their own organisation.’

The statement in the Appendix sets out the action the Barbican is, or will be, undertaking to ensure modern slavery and human trafficking are not occurring in its supply chain. The statement covers key areas such as recruitment, payment of staff and contractors, staff conduct, whistleblowing, ethics, and procurement and supply chains.

The statement has been agreed by the City of London Corporation Procurement, Legal and Town Clerk's departments, as well as the Barbican Directorate.

Current Position

Currently the Barbican does not write or publish an annual Modern Slavery statement. Previously the City of London legal team had advised that as a local authority venue the Barbican was not carrying on a business or a commercial organisation and was therefore not required to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement under s54 of the 2015 Act.

In June the Barbican Board Risk Committee took the decision that the Barbican should publish an annual statement in order to ensure transparency in its supply chains and to avoid reputational risk.

Options

We are asking that the Board agrees to adopt the current draft of the Modern Slavery statement with the option of suggesting any amendments.

There are no estimated costs associated with this option. If not adopted, there are potential reputational risks due to accusations that the Barbican is not taking its responsibilities in this area seriously.

Should the statement gain this approval, it would be published on the Barbican website and used as a framework for decision making across the organisation.

Proposals

The current draft of the Modern Slavery statement has been approved by the Barbican Directorate with the recommendation that the organisation adopts it, subject to approval of the Barbican Board.

Publishing and undertaking the actions set out in the statement would ensure we are following corporate best practice and fulfilling our ethical obligations in putting effective systems and controls in place to safeguard against any form of modern slavery.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Adopting this modern slavery statement commits the Barbican to undertaking measures that minimise the risk of modern slavery occurring in its supply chains. A number of new measures that will help to do this are outlined in the statements

including directing staff to information and training on this subject, introducing a new clause to Barbican contracts and working with the City Corporation procurement team to develop a Corporation-wide ethical sourcing policy.

The policy references existing City of London Corporation policies such as the employee code of conduct, recruitment and selection policy, London Living wage policy, whistleblowing policy and responsible procurement strategy. The statement is compliant with existing City of London Corporation governance procedures.

Implications

The draft text of the statement has been agreed with the City Solicitors department who have ensured the text will have no legal implications and is in line with current City of London Corporation governance procedures.

The text has also been approved by the Town Clerk's department and the Procurement team. The statement commits the Barbican to working alongside the Procurement team to develop a Corporation-wide Modern Slavery statement and Ethical Sourcing Policy.

Conclusion

- The Barbican has committed to publishing an annual Modern Slavery statement in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- The draft statement sets out the action the Barbican is, or will be undertaking to ensure modern slavery and human trafficking are not occurring in its supply chains.
- Should the statement gain approval, it would be published on the Barbican website and the actions set out in the statement implemented this financial year.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Modern Slavery statement for 2017/18 financial year

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