WWU Group Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement for the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Approved by the Board of Directors on 19 July 2018
Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement

Wales & West Utilities Limited, Wales & West Gas Networks (Senior Finance) Limited, Wales & West Gas Networks (Junior Finance) Ltd Wales & West Utilities Holdings Limited, Wales & West Utilities Finance plc, Wales & West Gas Networks (Holdings) Limited, West Gas Networks Limited, Western Gas Networks Limited, (together the “WWU Group”)

For the Financial Year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Background

Wales & West Utilities Limited (WWU) is the licensed gas transporter for Wales and the south west of England, with its head office based in Newport, South Wales. WWU has a workforce of more than 1,300 skilled and dedicated staff providing connections and gas supply to 7.5 million customers, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

WWU is owned by a consortium of three corporate shareholders, namely CK Infrastructure Holdings Limited (CKI), Power Assets Holdings Limited (PAH) and Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited (CKH). CKI is a diversified infrastructure group with operations that span the globe. PAH owns and operates a vertically integrated electricity generation, transmission and distribution business in Hong Kong. CKH has a diverse portfolio of investments in energy infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, water infrastructure, waste management, energy-from-waste, infrastructure related business and aircraft leasing business.

WWU has an objective to be recognised as one of the leading gas networks for customer experience and efficiency - and by the Health and Safety Executive for our safety performance. WWU and its owners are committed to supporting our business in its mission to provide a safe and reliable gas service and to deliver excellent customer service.

Anti-Slavery Commitment

WWU and its owners are fully committed to ensuring that the group complies with all applicable legal requirements including without limitation the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The WWU Group and its owners have a zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking and are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

Supply chain and Procurement

The WWU Group has updated its suite of standard form contracts to expressly require suppliers to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The WWU Group reserves the right to audit compliance by its suppliers with this Act and ultimately reserves the right to terminate an agreement if the supplier in question is found to have breached the Act.
The WWU Group has updated its internal Procurement policy to expressly require compliance with the Act in addition to updating its invitation to tender pre-qualification questionnaire, which requires prospective suppliers to confirm their compliance with the Act as a prerequisite to selection as a prospective supplier to the WWU Group.

In addition, Achilles, the operator of the Achilles UVDB (Utilities Vendor Database), which is used by the WWU Group as an approved qualification system for the purposes of compliance with the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006, has updated its standard supplier selection questionnaire by similarly requiring suppliers to confirm compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as a prerequisite to registration as an approved supplier pursuant to the Achilles UVDB.

Human Resources

All new and existing employees are subject to prescribed right to work checks so as to ensure that the WWU Group does not employ illegal workers thereby ensuring compliance with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

The WWU Group has implemented an Anti-Slavery Policy that reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

The WWU Group operates an employee code of conduct which requires employees amongst other things, to uphold the WWU Group’s high standards of business integrity, honesty and transparency in all its business dealings. Employees are required to immediately report any possible breach of the code of conduct to their line manager, Human Resources or a member of WWU’s Senior Management Team or via WWU’s confidential whistleblowing line.

Statement

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the WWU Group's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2019.

Name: Graham Edwards
Position: Chief Executive Officer, Wales & West Utilities
Signature:

Date: 2/8/18