

7 March 2022

Rachel Maclean MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Safeguarding)  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

By email: [PS.RachelMaclean@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:PS.RachelMaclean@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dear Minister,

**Modern slavery statement registry**

The registry for modern slavery statements is a very good development and it is encouraging to see how many companies have uploaded their statements.

I attach a short report that we published recently after we sampled how well the system is working. As you will see it is a mixed picture of effectiveness. We have discussed with officials and they appear to be aware of the issues and are working with businesses to improve.

I would encourage this activity as I suspect that current systems will come under more scrutiny following publication of the EU directive on corporate sustainability a few weeks ago.

Yours sincerely,



**Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**



Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM  
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner  
5th Floor, Globe House  
89 Eccleston Square  
London  
SW1V 1PN

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24 May 2022

Dear Dame Sara,

Thank you for your letter of 7 March enclosing the report you published on how businesses are using the Government's Modern slavery statement registry. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

I am glad that you consider the registry a positive development in our efforts to improve transparency on how organisations are preventing modern slavery in their supply chains and operations. As you mentioned, it is encouraging to see the uptake in organisations engaging with the service. Since launching in March 2021, over 7,500 modern slavery statements covering over 25,000 organisations have been submitted on a voluntary basis. As you will be aware, we will bring forward legislation in this Parliamentary session to strengthen our transparency in supply chains regime, including mandating that organisations in scope of section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 submit their statement to the registry.

The response from organisations so far clearly demonstrates the registry's positive impact by providing greater visibility of the steps organisations are taking to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains and empowering investors, consumers and civil society to scrutinise the action organisations are taking.

We appreciate your analysis in the report, and while the onus is on organisations to submit valid links to their statements, as part of our continuous improvement work to improve the registry's functionality and effectiveness, we are actively considering how we can ensure that organisations submit correct links.

**Rachel Maclean MP**