



## Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

### Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2018

### What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is an international crime and continues in our world today with many people harmed as a result. There are an estimated 40.3 million people in modern slavery.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires commercial organisations supplying goods or services with a turnover of above £36 million to prepare and publish an annual 'Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement'.

The statement must set out the steps the organisations has taken during its financial year to ensure that slavery or human trafficking is not taking place in its supply chain.

### Our Organisation's structure

Yarlington Housing Group Ltd is a provider of affordable housing, owning and managing 10,000 properties in the South West predominantly in Somerset, Devon and Dorset.

We employ approximately 320 staff and have an annual turnover in excess of £60m

Yarlington Housing Group Ltd is a registered Charitable Community Benefit Society and is the parent entity of Yarlington Homes Ltd (YHL), Yarlington Property Management (YPM) and Inspired to Achieve (I2A). All subsidiary companies are registered in England.

More information about our organisation can be found by clicking the following link:

[www.yhg.co.uk](http://www.yhg.co.uk)

### Our policies

Yarlington has a zero tolerance approach to modern slavery across all areas of the organisation, as well as in our supply chains. Yarlington is committed to ensuring we are not connected to modern slavery in any way and our aim is to ensure that our business operates in an open and transparent way.

As part of our commitment our Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking Policy reflects this. The policy can be viewed by clicking the link below:

<http://www.yhg.co.uk/downloads/Policies/Replacements%20June%202016/Anti-Slavery%20and%20Human%20Trafficking%20Policy.pdf>

### **Supplier's adherence to our values**

We are committed, as an organisation, to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking and want to work with suppliers who share our values.

We aim to work in partnership with all our contractors, suppliers and other business partners to ensure that they share and work towards the same values we hold against slavery and human trafficking.

### **During 2017/2018**

We maintained a robust recruitment processes in line with UK Employment laws, ensured document checks were completed, and new staff had contracts of employment. We also benchmarked salaries to ensure staff received market-related pay in addition to promoting wellbeing activities and a good work-life balance.

Within our supply chains we maintained a fair, transparent and responsible purchasing process which includes a request for compliance with the Act through the suppliers' own modern slavery statement.

### **During 2018/19**

Our aim is to examine our supply chain and map out our suppliers in terms of their location, turnover and those considered high risk.

We will update our Suppliers Code of Conduct, which will clearly state our intentions if any occurrence of modern slavery is detected.

We will also continue to identify and assess the potential risks, mitigate the risks of slavery and human trafficking occurring, continue to educate our staff and suppliers, and protect whistle blowers.



22/5/18

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Yarlington Housing Board