

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (*“the Act”*) requires those entities carrying on a business or part of a business in the UK, supplying goods or services, and having an annual turnover of £36 million or more to disclose information regarding the steps they have taken to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from their supply chain as well as within their own organisation during the previous financial year.

Modern Slavery Act Statement

Sangers (Northern Ireland) Limited remains committed to ensuring that we trade ethically, source responsibly and work to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking throughout our organisation and in our supply chain. This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and highlights the key activities we have undertaken during the financial year ending 31 March 2024 to combat modern slavery in our organisation and supply chain.

Business Structure and Organisation

Sangers (Northern Ireland) Limited (Sangers) is a part of the Hallo Healthcare Group and has its head office in the UK.

Sangers has been supplying pharmaceutical and healthcare products to community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and dispensing doctors in Northern Ireland for almost 160 years. Sangers provides a top-quality omnichannel customer focussed service to community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and dispensing doctors. Sangers also provides out-sourced contract logistics, administration and speciality sales and logistics related services primarily to pharmaceutical, surgical and bio-tech manufacturers.

Our Policies, Values and Training

We have appropriate policies in place that underpin our commitment to combat modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. Our policies are reviewed and updated regularly.

Our Modern Slavery Policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically, and with integrity in all our business relationships. We are committed to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to guard against slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains. The Policy is available to all colleagues on our intranet and supported by regular communications to colleagues to reinforce the key messages within the policy. During the course of the next reporting period, we will look to develop and make available to colleagues an online training module to help them understand and identify modern slavery risks within the workplace.

We also have the following policies in place relevant to modern slavery and business relationships, which are reviewed and updated regularly:

- Code of Conduct
- Recruitment Policy
- Procurement Policies
- Whistleblowing Policy and Procedures
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Statutory Board Escalation Policy and Process

Our Code of Conduct provides important guidelines for interactions with customers, suppliers and other business partners. At the core of the Code of Conduct and our activities are our ICARE principles which are; Integrity, Customer-first, Accountability, Respect and Excellence.

We are an equal-opportunities employer committed to creating and ensuring a non-discriminatory and respectful working environment for our colleagues. Our recruitment and people management processes are designed to ensure that all prospective colleagues are legally entitled to work in the UK and to safeguard colleagues from any abuse or coercion once in our employment.

We want all our colleagues to feel confident that they can expose wrongdoing without fear of retaliation.

Our Whistleblowing Policy encourages all colleagues to raise concerns including potential violations of the Code of Conduct, company policies, and the laws of the countries in which we operate. We have reporting mechanisms in place to collect and relay information regarding potential violations to appropriate company resources for review and follow up action. Data on whistleblowing cases is shared with our Board of Directors each month.

These reporting mechanisms include a UK-based confidential helpline which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and a Statutory Board Escalation Process which ensures that colleagues are aware of those matters requiring immediate escalation to the Statutory Directors of Sangers.

We provide online and face to face training for colleagues to emphasise the importance of acting with integrity and in line with our ICARE principles and Code of Conduct.

Supply Chain and Due Diligence

We are committed to sourcing quality products from, and building relationships with, suppliers who share our values and ethical standards. The due diligence processes we have in place, help to ensure that we do not enter into business with any organisation, in the UK or abroad, which knowingly supports or is found to be involved in slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

Our principal suppliers are regulated manufacturers and distributors of medical-surgical products, medical devices and pharmaceutical products.

Some of our suppliers are located in countries that may be more vulnerable to human rights abuses than others. That is why we have implemented several methods to manage our zero-tolerance policy for such abuses, including the following:

- We communicate our expectations clearly to suppliers to ensure adherence to our values and ethical standards.
- We establish appropriate policies and processes within our businesses to make sure that the products we purchase and sell comply with our ethical standards.
- We take a risk based approach to ensuring we proactively engage with our existing suppliers; this engagement includes regular account management meetings, site visits, and top to top meetings
- Our supplier agreements include provisions that require our supplier to obey national and regional statutory requirements in the country in which they operate, including where appropriate, any applicable laws regarding human trafficking, forced labour and other forms of modern slavery.
- We have strengthened our supplier due diligence and onboarding processes with the introduction of an online platform to collect data about our new suppliers and improve our understanding and management of risk around our supplier base.
- Where a new supplier is based in a higher risk country (according to our Countries of Concern framework), we complete enhanced compliance and diligence checks to identify any targeted risks that may need to be considered prior to proceeding with any engagement

For our responsible sourcing and quality management systems, we have designed and implemented a number of processes to assess suppliers of the products introduced into the supply chain. The focus areas included in the assessment process include, but are not limited to, Commercial, Compliance and Quality Assurance.

In the GNFR space we have recently onboarded a new Facilities Management supplier, who manage a significant part of the UK-based facilities management supply chain on our behalf. It was key to us that we partnered with an organisation that demonstrates strong performance in all aspects of Environmental, Social and Governance topics, with robust supplier management and due diligence processes to enhance the Sangers supply chain.

Adverse audit findings, non-conformities and other remediation requirements are prioritised based on risk. If remediation is required, we work with our suppliers to improve their standards with corrective action plans and on-going reviews to make sure our standards are maintained. We aim to build relationships with our suppliers to ensure adherence to our values and ethical standards. If a supplier fails to adequately remediate the issue, the relationship would be re-evaluated and if necessary, terminated.

Effectiveness

We regularly review our governance frameworks to ensure our actions are appropriate and we believe our efforts to date have been effective in preventing slavery and human trafficking from being part of our supply chain.

Training sessions for existing colleagues on the key compliance risks affecting our business and inductions for new starters include the topics of supplier due diligence and modern slavery as appropriate.

Modern slavery risks are captured in our Corporate Risk Register.

Statement of Approval

This Statement has been approved by the Board of Directors of Sangers (Northern Ireland) Limited, and the Board has authorised David Bound, Chief Executive Officer, to sign the Statement on behalf of Sangers (Northern Ireland) Limited.

David Bound
Chief Executive Officer

25 September 2024