Our approach
CIPS continues to support members and the wider procurement community on how to combat modern slavery in supply chains, building on our expert guidance and tools to better equip organisations to minimise the risk.

Throughout 2020 we reported on the increased risk of modern slavery in supply chains during the pandemic through Supply Management magazine encouraging procurement professionals to be on high alert, particularly in what were already very busy and challenging times. High demand for items such as PPE and localised lockdowns opened opportunities for exploitation and labour abuses.

In July 2020 CIPS interviewed the UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton in a podcast to alert procurement professionals to these increased risks and examples of exploitation during the pandemic. Dame Sara then closed day 2 of the CIPS Virtual Global Conference in October discussing modern slavery in supply chain risk. [Click here to watch the video.]

CIPS has also developed a more in-depth support package for organisations. The CIPS Modern Slavery in the Supply Chain Programme is designed to examine your supply chain policies, procedures and strategy in targeted detail. Acting as a catalyst for change, the programme helps you to achieve a sustainable supply chain, following a four-stage process.

Stage 1: Education
Training to build a shared awareness of the issue, a comprehensive understanding of legal requirements, and an introduction to how to produce a modern slavery statement for your organisation.

Stage 2: Statement review, gap analysis and risk assessment
A review of your Modern Slavery Statement with suggestions for improvement. Then we look for evidence of compliance of your responsible sourcing practices against best practice using a CIPS framework that covers 25 criteria under six dimensions – Leadership and Organisation, Strategy and Policy, People, Process and Systems, Reporting/Transparency, and Governance. This will result in a gap analysis to show where to target your efforts and a roadmap to reduce risks.

Stage 3: Perform your own due diligence
You may choose to conduct a detailed audit, or commission a third party to conduct an audit, of any suppliers and/or supply chains which have been highlighted as higher potential risk.

Stage 4: Action plan
CIPS can work with you to close any gaps and support you to develop an action plan to mitigate risks. [Click here to find out more]
The CIPS Ethical Procurement and Supply eLearning Programme and Ethics Test was refreshed and adapted in 2020 to ensure that procurement professionals build confidence with their suppliers, employers and colleagues. Ethical and responsible procurement behaviour should be embedded throughout the procurement team and the elearning is a great way to put a stamp on that.

The Ethics Test has been developed for all levels of procurement professionals anywhere in the world. The new content challenges people’s beliefs more and builds a deeper understanding to change behaviours and mitigate your supply chains against risks.

The new content has more international references to modern slavery legislation and standards from organisations such as the International Labour Organisation, the Ethical Trading Initiative and the United Nations Guiding Principles and Trafficking Protocols.

There are more reflective activities that you can relate to your own experiences that aim to challenge your understanding and future behaviours under three main topics: Environmental Procurement, Human Rights and Fraud, Bribery and Corruption.

All CIPS staff who are MCIPS or FCIPS and/or are responsible for the sourcing and management of supplier undertake the Ethics elearning on a yearly basis. Click here to find out more about the Ethics elearning.

Our supply chains include:
• Training and teaching services
• IT equipment and services
• Publishing and printing services
• Travel and conferencing/venues

We have introduced general contract terms and conditions of purchase which strengthen the focus on modern slavery and anti-corruption adherence. In line with our own Values, we encourage suppliers to engage with the spirit of the Modern Slavery Act and we commit to educating and raising the profile of the importance of eradicating modern day slavery.

We maintain a Risk Register for all aspects of CIPS business which is reviewed quarterly by the Global Board of Trustees.

Paul Thorogood
Chair, CIPS Global Board of Trustees