# Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016



Modern slavery and human trafficking are violations of fundamental human rights. Frontier Agriculture has made a series of commitments in support of the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

- We are committed to ethical principles, and require all employees to comply with employment legislation and supply chain management legislation in the countries in which we operate.
- We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business or our supply chain.
- We are committed to ensuring transparency in our own business and in our approach to tackling modern slavery throughout our supply chains.

Frontier recognises that agriculture has been identified as a high risk industry for modern slavery and takes very seriously our duty to ensure our business and supply chains are free from it. The bulk of our own operations are UK based and we have longstanding policies in place to ensure the safety, ethical recruitment and fair management of all our employees.

## **Background information**

Frontier was formed in 2005 as a joint venture between Associated British Foods plc and Cargill plc and, in the financial year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, turned over £1.3 billion. Frontier has 43 sites across the UK, with main offices in Perth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Cranswick, Witham St Hughs, Diss, Sandy, Andover and Rosson-Wye. At June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 Frontier employed 941 permanent staff, increasing in the summer months by around 130 temporary staff for harvest.

Operating across all aspects of arable crop production and grain marketing, Frontier supplies seed, crop protection products and fertiliser to farmers, as well as providing specialist agronomy advice and services. Frontier runs a transport fleet extending to 116 LGVs and is also the UK's largest grain storekeeper, managing around 750,000 tonnes of storage. Frontier has a number of divisions providing additional specialist advice to growers, and also operates a joint venture at Southampton Grain Terminal. Frontier's policies apply to all our divisions and subsidiaries, including new acquisitions.

Frontier's company values of integrity, customer focus and expertise are clearly defined, communicated to all employees and measured as part of every employee's performance appraisal. Our commitment to the value of integrity has been defined as follows:

- We are honest, respectful and reliable in the way we work with each other and the people with whom
  we do business
- We do things properly because we know it's the right thing to do
- We behave consistently in terms of openness, honesty, inclusiveness and high standards
- We deliver what we have promised or are open about why this has not been possible
- We develop company policies and procedures to ensure we operate within the law and we take responsibility for our actions.

Our approach to implementing the 2015 Modern Slavery Act reflects our values and our leadership position in UK Agriculture.

### Our existing processes

Frontier runs a highly skilled, experienced Human Resources department, which operates within a series of policies regarding the recruitment, selection, training and management of our employees. All managers in the business have access to training in all areas of the employee lifecycle and are supported by HR in the way they implement them. In addition, 82 managers have now taken part in our Leadership Development Programme, which includes a specific HR Module.

Our existing policy on Respect, Diversity and Equality details how Frontier values differences and aims to treat people with respect and conduct all activities in a non-discriminatory manner. In addition our Whistleblowing Policy protects those who raise concerns over any aspect of our operations and will equally apply to anyone raising concerns over modern slavery.

Frontier has clearly stated that its number one priority is the health and safety of all our people and those that work with us. Our policies, practices and audits demonstrate our commitment in this area and we make awards for employees who are active in promoting Health and Safety above commercial interests.

The Responsible Choice is Frontier's response to the sustainability agenda and sets out our aspirations and corresponding actions in five key areas: People, Partnership, Planet, Production and Prosperity. Modern Slavery Act compliance forms part of our work under the People pillar but our approach to managing the risk of modern slavery in our supply chains will be simplified by our approach under the Partnership pillar, which requires close collaboration with all colleagues, customers and suppliers.

Frontier is a member of SEDEX (the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) which is dedicated to driving improvements in responsible and ethical business practices in global supply chains.

#### Activity during this financial year

During the financial year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, we created a Modern Slavery Compliance Group, comprising the following members:

Jon Berry – Head of Human Resources (Chair)
Charlie Whitmarsh – Crop Production Director
Simon Christensen – Grain Director
Sharon Kennett – Marketing Director
Tony Grayburn – Commercial Director – crop protection
Richard Pollard – Head of Operations & Logistics
Sarah Cox – Quality Assurance Manager
Ben Chalkley – Human Resources Manager
Rachell Elvidge – Financial Accountant

The Group meets regularly, either in person or by conference call, to assess risk, identify actions and implement the decisions made in relation to modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Compliance Group is responsible for implementing the company's Modern Slavery Policy and auditing our internal control systems to ensure they are effective. Our starting point was to identify the areas of priority and to review our supply chains and existing policies and processes which address specific human rights.

We identified the need to update our terms and conditions of purchase for farmer customers to reflect our commitment to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and our expectation that farmers will comply. The updated terms and conditions documents were mailed to 9,396 farmers in July 2016 with a covering letter pointing out the requirement for adherence to the Act.

The Group also began developing a new company Policy on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which is destined for board approval in November 2016. The new policy will require the company to provide training for those most affected by this policy to ensure they understand and comply with the Modern Slavery Act. Work on identifying suitable training options commenced in readiness for implementation once the new policy is approved.

## **Reporting concerns**

Frontier actively encourages its employees to act with integrity, which means confronting wrongdoing in all its guises. Our Whistleblowing Policy provides protection to any employee who raises a concern, whether substantiated or not.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The Board of Directors of Frontier Agriculture Limited delegated approval of this statement on its behalf to the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Company, at its board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**Mark Aitchison** 

**Chief Executive and Managing Director** 

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30<sup>th</sup> November 2016