NHS
Commercial Procurement Collaborative
North of England

# Modern Slavery Assessment Tool (MSAT)



## What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is often a hidden crime involving one person denying another person their freedom. It includes slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking.

Collectively, suppliers and the NHS must seek to, where relevant, be aware and mitigate the risk of modern slavery on an ongoing basis through its multifaceted supply chains.

## Modern Slavery Assessment Tool

Suppliers are encouraged to complete a Modern Slavery Assessment Tool (MSAT) annually to identify and manage modern slavery risks within their organisation and supply chain, helping public sector organisations work with suppliers to strengthen protections and reduce exploitation.

You can click here to register and begin the MSAT, and share when completed using NOE CPC's D-U-N-S® number **215585200**. The MSAT must be updated annually to ensure you're both aware and working to improve in suggested areas.

For any technical issues with the registration process and sharing of your MSAT please contact support@nqc.com

NOE CPC prioritises working collaboratively and constructively with its suppliers. Should you value a conversation or how we can support you on anything related to sustainable procurement, MSAT or social value, then please do not hesitate to contact us at ssv@noecpc.nhs.uk.

Further information can be found at:

- PPN 009: Tackling modern slavery in government supply chains - GOV.UK
- Tackling modern slavery in NHS procurement

Scroll down for FAQs

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why modern slavery is important in NHS procurement?

Modern slavery may occur at any tier of the NHS supply chain, including in the manufacture of goods and the delivery of services procured by the suppliers that provide to the NHS. As a publicly funded framework provider, NOE CPC must take proportionate and reasonable steps to prevent and address potential exploitation, comply with relevant legal and policy requirements, and use its procurement to promote ethical, transparent and responsible supply chains.

## What is an MSAT?

The MSAT (modern slavery assessment tool) is a modern slavery risk identification and management tool.

More information can be found here: Modern Slavery Assessment Tool – Supplier Registration Service

## Why am I being asked to complete an MSAT?

Suppliers are asked to complete the MSAT self-assessment annually to help identify assess and manage modern slavery risks within their organisation and supply chain. This supports NOE CPC and public sector organisations to work with suppliers to strengthen protections and reduce the risk of exploitation. Suppliers may also be contractually required to complete the MSAT as part of the social value commitments made at tender stage, or to meet agreed contractual KPIs.

## Who in our organisation should complete the MSAT (and who should approve it)?

The MSAT should be completed by an individual (or small team) with oversight of ethical trade/ modern slavery compliance and knowledge of your organisation's operations and supply chain (for example, procurement, compliance, sustainability/CSR, HR and key operational leads). Responses should be reviewed and approved internally by an appropriate senior manager (and, where applicable, board-level sign-off) to ensure they are accurate and reflect current practice.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What information/documents should we have ready before starting the MSAT?

It is helpful to have the following available before you start:

- Our modern slavery policy/statement and supplier code of conduct
- Details of due diligence and risk assessment processes
- Information on worker standards and recruitment (including agency labour)
- Audit/assessment activity and any corrective action plans
- Whistleblowing/grievance arrangements
- Training records
- An overview of your key suppliers, subcontractors and high-risk regions/materials.

## What if parts of the MSAT do not apply to our organisation?

Where a question is genuinely not applicable, respond accordingly and provide a brief explanation in the comments box (where available). Please avoid selecting 'not applicable' where the intent of the question is relevant; instead, describe your current approach and the rationale.

## What if we do not have a policy/process in place for one of the MSAT questions?

Please answer the question honestly, outlining any existing measures you do have in place and any planned actions and timeframes to address the gap. The MSAT is intended to support continuous improvement; where gaps are identified, NOE may ask for clarification and/or agree an improvement plan as part of contract management.

## What does the MSAT score mean, and what is considered a "good" score?

The MSAT score is generated from your responses and indicates the maturity of your modern slavery controls and risk management. There is no single 'pass mark' that applies in all cases; contracting authorities will typically consider the score alongside the nature of the goods/services, overall risk level and the narrative/evidence provided. A 'good' result is one that is complete, accurate and demonstrates appropriate controls and continuous improvement.

Should a supplier be bidding for an NHS Supply Chain framework, a minimum score of 41% is needed to be eligible to tender. More information is available here Net Zero Supply Chain and Suppliers

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is there a minimum MSAT score required to bid or remain on a framework?

NOE CPC do not require a minimum score to be achieved to bid for frameworks, nor must a specific score be maintained.

As stated above, the MSAT is intended to be used as a continuous improvement tool for bidding and awarded suppliers.

## How often should an MSAT be completed?

The MSAT should be reviewed and updated at least annually to confirm whether your controls remain appropriate, to record progress against any recommendations, and to demonstrate continuous improvement across your operations and supply chain.

## I am having issues with sharing my completed MSAT with NOE CPC – what should I do?

Please ensure the MSAT has a status of **'COMPLETED'** before sharing it via the portal using NOE CPC's D-U-N-S® number 215585200.

For technical issues with registration or sharing within the portal, please contact support@nqc.com.

## I have completed my MSAT and shared with NOE CPC but have received an email saying it's still outstanding

Please check that the MSAT shows a status of **'COMPLETED'** and a score within the portal. Any other status will not be accepted and may continue to trigger reminder emails.

## What happens after we submit/share the MSAT? Will we receive feedback?

Once you have shared your MSAT, NOE CPC will be able to view your responses, score and the improvement recommendations generated by the tool. Depending on the procurement or contract risk level, you may be contacted to clarify responses and/or agree any proportionate improvement actions.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Do we need to share one MSAT per framework/contract, or can the same MSAT be used across multiple?

You can re-use a completed MSAT and share it with multiple public sector buyers via the Supplier Registration Service portal. You should ensure the information remains current for the specific organisation/entity delivering the contract and update the MSAT if there have been material changes since it was last completed.

## Can any other organisations see my MSAT?

Suppliers cannot view other suppliers' MSAT submissions within the Supplier Registration Service portal. Your completed MSAT is only visible to buyers with whom you choose to share it.

## I have completed my MSAT and shared with CPC but received an email saying it's still outstanding

Please check that the MSAT shows a status of **'COMPLETED'** and a score within the portal. Any other status will not be accepted and may continue to trigger reminder emails. For an MSAT to show as 'COMPLETED' any recommendations generated by your responses should be accepted.

## I have shared my organisations Modern Slavery Policy, is this acceptable?

No. A supplier's modern slavery statement, as required under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, is a statutory disclosure and does not provide the evidence required through the MSAT, which is intended as an interactive tool to support risk identification, management and continuous improvement.

A supplier's modern slavery policy may be reviewed for appropriateness at the selection stage (PSQ), where applicable; however, it is not accepted as a substitute for completion and sharing of the MSAT.

## I have a query regarding the Supplier Registration Portal functionality

For queries relating to Supplier Registration Service portal functionality, please contact support@nqc.com in the first instance.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Will MSATs be more commonly requested because of the new NHS modern slavery policy launched in May 2026

The NHS England / DHSC guidance on tackling modern slavery in NHS procurement includes the MSAT within its suggested 'reasonable asks'. As a result, suppliers may be required to complete and share an up-to-date MSAT more routinely for future procurements assessed as medium or high risk.

The policy is available to review here NHS England » Tackling modern slavery in NHS procurement (post consultation updated draft guidance)