



## MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received royal assent on 26 March 2015. The Act consolidates the current offences of slavery and human trafficking. It also serves to lengthen the maximum prison sentence for such crimes, introduces new civil orders to increase law enforcement and includes provision for the creation of a new Anti-Slavery Commissioner. The Act is available here: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/pdfs/ukpga\\_20150030\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/pdfs/ukpga_20150030_en.pdf)

Additionally, and perhaps of most relevance to law-abiding businesses, the Act also introduces a requirement for commercial organisations over a certain size (£36 million turnover) to disclose, on an annual basis, the steps taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in their organisation or associated supply chains.

This new obligation can be found at Part 6, section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains etc.) of the Act. If you fall in the turnover threshold, then you will be required to look at your supply chain overseas as well as your UK operations.

The Home Office is currently working to produce guidance for UK businesses on what they need to do next, and what will need to be included in the annual reports. The guidance is currently expected to be issued in October 2015. We will update with relevant information to member businesses as it is released.

BFFF are supporters of Stronger Together, a scheme that helps employers look for the signs of forced labour but also provides resources to help employees come forward. All of the resources are free and available here: <http://stronger2gether.org/>

If you have any queries on this please don't hesitate to contact [crystalholmes@bfff.co.uk](mailto:crystalholmes@bfff.co.uk)