

**Introduction**

Fortem cares about ensuring that its supply chain is free from modern slavery. We know that slavery, servitude, forced labour and human trafficking is a growing issue and that no sector or industry can consider itself immune or untainted.

**Our business**

We are a national property solutions provider operating in England and Wales. Our main services consist of repairs and maintenance, energy services, cyclical maintenance and project work. Our contracts range from specialist projects to strategic long term repairs and maintenance contracts. Our clients are predominantly local authorities and residential social landlords, although we operate in many other sectors too. We have a large directly employed trade workforce which means that the welfare of the majority of those who deliver our services is under our direct care.

**Our supply chain**

Our primary supply chain consists of building trade and construction sub-contract partners. Our sub-contracting ranges from highly skilled services to semi-skilled labour. We develop and maintain strong long term relationships with our supply chain and predominantly contract with small to medium sized businesses. We have risk assessed our supply chain, consultants and labour agencies. Our use of agency labour is tightly controlled centrally through a small panel of suppliers.

**Policies**

We publish our [Modern Slavery Policy](#) on our website, which sets out our zero tolerance approach to modern slavery and identifies related policies.

**Contractual controls**

We impose contractual controls on our supply chain, and require a director to sign to acknowledge compliance and commit to the principles of our Modern Slavery Policy. We use a range of measures to vet our supply chains, including ConstructionLine, Builders Profile and SSIP.

**Training**

We operate in an environment which already requires vigilance to safeguarding and security concerns. We have built on this through the Fortem 4Life Academy to deliver specific training on modern slavery, from our induction process through to toolbox talks, management academy modules and online training.

Delegates on our Fortem 4Life Senior Management and Leadership Academy were given a task to consider ways to address the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain. They came up with the idea of using our mobile REFERIT App as a tool to report issues observed on-site. Users of this pioneering mobile technology can now use it to report any modern slavery concerns.

**What we did in the year to 31 December 2017**

Fortem previously reported jointly on modern slavery with its sister company, [Willmott Dixon](#), but because we have our own distinct workforce and unique supply chain and processes, we established our own Modern Slavery Working Group to maximise the effectiveness of our approach. Fortem continues to sit on its sister company's working group to share initiatives and resources, whilst reporting separately on slavery and human trafficking.

Through collaboration we have contributed to a shared interactive online training module to raise understanding and awareness and help our employees to identify some of the warning signs of modern slavery.



**Continuous assessment**

The risk of modern slavery is not static, and the Fortem Modern Slavery Working Group will continue to meet regularly to consider ongoing initiatives to tackle the issue and mitigate the risks.

**This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the slavery and human trafficking statement of the companies listed below for the financial year ending 31 December 2017.**

Signed:



This statement sets out the steps taken by Wimpole Equity Holdings Limited (07065104) and Fortem Solutions Limited (04638969) both of which fall within the scope of section 54(2) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Transparency in Supply Chains) Regulations 2015. Although not subject to reporting requirements, the subsidiaries Fortem Energy Services Limited (02589171) and Fortem 4Life Limited (04720691) support and embrace the same approach.