

Monday 10 August 2020

The Modern Slavery Act and Construction Supply Chains

A new collaboration led by University of Bristol Management PhD student Chris Pesterfield, will use data from national construction firm nmcn PLC, in relation to labour exploitation, and specifically modern slavery practices in the supply chain. This collaboration will build on the work currently undertaken by nmcn on supply chain mapping, which will now specifically consider supply risk with a modern slavery dimension. As well as identifying high risk areas in nmcn's supply chain and procurement processes in respect of modern slavery, the project will also deliver recommendations for improvements to nmcn's Modern Slavery Statement.

Chris Pesterfield University of Bristol said 'Since the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, large companies in the UK have had to produce an annual statement detailing actions taken to identify and address areas of the business, including the supply chain, that may be tainted by modern slavery practices. Through their desire to further develop existing measures, nmcn are providing access to supply chain data in order to identify, where possible, the ultimate source of the commodities that form the materials and products that nmcn buy. I will help nmcn use this data to identify any potentially high-risk products, in addition to collaboratively revising their modern slavery statement in time for its annual publication in February 2021'.

Michaela Skodova, nmcn's Group Environmental Manager said: 'At nmcn we place sustainability at the centre of our business and aim to have a positive impact on everything we touch. We are excited to work with Chris and to draw on to the latest academic research on modern day slavery and on supply chains. This innovative approach will mean we will be at the forefront of implementing a new modern slavery approach in the industry, which have clear and significant value but can also contribute towards nmcn's sustainability and ethical status.

Additional information

Project title: The Modern Slavery Act and Construction Supply Chains.

Funder: this project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council Accelerating Business Collaboration fund.

Project team:

- Chris Pesterfield, University of Bristol Management PhD student: Researches UK construction company responses to labour exploitation, including modern slavery, in supply chains, procurement, and corporate social responsibility agendas.
- Dr Harry Pitts, Department of Management at the University of Bristol: interested in how the management and organisation of work is shaped by the wider political and economic context within which firms operate.
- Dr Huw Thomas, Department of Management at the University of Bristol: researches labour governance and working conditions in global production networks.

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Notes to editor:

nmcn

nmcn Plc (formerly known as North Midland Construction Plc/ Nomenca Ltd) is a leading engineering and construction company in the UK. Its talented 1800-strong team offers multi-sector engineering and construction skills, technical innovation, design and specialist fabrication.

The company delivers major built environment and water industry projects across the UK - from buildings and highways to large-scale water networks and treatment plants. With its history dating back to 1946, nmcn now has 12 UK offices and four off-site manufacturing facilities.

<https://nmcn.com>

About the University of Bristol

The University is ranked within the top 10 universities in the UK and top 60 in the world (QS World University Rankings 2021); it is also ranked among the top five institutions in the UK for its research, according to analysis of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014; and is the 4th most targeted university by top UK employers.

The University was founded in 1876 and was granted its Royal Charter in 1909. It was the first university in England to admit women on the same basis as men.

The University is a major force in the economic, social and cultural life of Bristol and the region, but is also a significant player on the world stage. It has over 20,000 undergraduates and over 7,000 postgraduate students from more than 100 countries, and its research links span the globe.