



Slave-Free Alliance and Severn Trent

HOW SEVERN TRENT IS HELPING THE UTILITIES SECTOR
TO BECOME A 'NO GO ZONE' FOR TRAFFICKERS



SLAVE-FREE
ALLIANCE

Working Towards a
Slave-free Supply Chain

TOGETHER WITH



A strategic and operational partnership

HOW SEVERN TRENT IS HELPING THE UTILITIES SECTOR TO BECOME A 'NO GO ZONE' FOR TRAFFICKERS

As one of the founding members of Slave-Free Alliance, water company Severn Trent is taking a proactive approach to protecting its own business from modern slavery and working with others in the utilities sector to identify risks and establish best practice.

The company's goal is to make sure human traffickers see the utilities sector as a no-go area.

Starting the journey

Modern slavery was already on Severn Trent's radar when bosses from the water company met representatives of Slave-Free Alliance's umbrella charity, Hope for Justice, at a supply chain seminar. They saw the benefit that could be gained from drawing on the knowledge and experience of the Hope for Justice team. When Hope for Justice launched its social enterprise Slave-Free Alliance, to help businesses work towards a slave-free supply chain, Severn Trent was one of the first to come on board.

Severn Trent recognises that the fight against modern slavery is a journey rather than an event and they are committed to putting systems and processes in place to protect their supply chain and achieve their vision to be the UK's most trusted water company.

"Slave-Free Alliance is a critical friend in our journey towards a slave-free supply chain and a utilities industry that is free from human trafficking. They have set us on a clear path and stand beside us as an independent sounding board and expert guide to compliance and best practice. We have learnt so much, which has been sobering at times and also hugely enlightening."

- Lucy Darler, Severn Trent

“Severn Trent has shown complete commitment since day one to working towards a slave-free supply chain. They are taking all the right steps to protect their business with a ‘beyond compliance’ mindset, and to establish Seven Trent as a leader in the utilities sector and the wider marketplace.”

- Elaine Jones, International Operations Director for Slave-Free Alliance and Hope for Justice

Working together

IDENTIFYING RISK

The Slave-Free Alliance team has worked closely with Severn Trent to carry out an independent modern slavery gap analysis, identifying compliance risks and building up a clear picture of the supply chain. This has helped them understand where the greatest threats lie and which suppliers pose the highest risk.

A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Slave-Free Alliance is an independent lens, looking strategically at the whole organisation, its systems and processes and any company policies linked to the supply chain. Working together, and based on the outcome of the gap analysis, we have developed a five-year action plan to continually reduce risks to the business and work towards Severn Trent’s vision of being the most trusted water company. This is the foundation of a robust modern slavery strategy with a clear process for mitigating risk.

EQUIPPING STAFF

A key aspect of Slave-Free Alliance’s work with Severn Trent has been to raise awareness of modern slavery throughout the organisation. This has helped them identify the teams most in need of comprehensive training, which Slave-Free Alliance has delivered. Now staff understand what modern slavery is and how to spot the tell-tale signs, they have the confidence to act and the capability to respond.

ONGOING SUPPORT

As part of Slave-Free Alliance’s ongoing work with Severn Trent, experts from the charity attended one of the company’s conferences and presented to its top 60 managers. This generated even more strategic thinking in key roles. Slave-Free Alliance continues to work with Severn Trent both strategically and operationally as part of the company’s commitment to change attitudes and behaviours throughout the sector they work in.



Business benefits for Severn Trent

Raising awareness

of modern slavery throughout the organisation

Working towards its vision

of being the most trusted water company

Demonstrating responsibility

to their millions of customers

Equipping staff

with the skills to spot the signs of slavery and know what to do about it

Establishing best practice

in the utilities sector

Taking a strategic approach

towards a slave-free supply chain

“Severn Trent is not just ticking a box and writing a modern slavery statement. For them, this is about citizenship more than corporate social responsibility. They want to make an impact and completely reform their business sector to make sure traffickers don’t even consider this industry as an option.”

- Gary Booth, Slave-Free Alliance

WONDERFUL ON TAP



SLAVE-FREE ALLIANCE

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slavefreealliance.org

Slave-Free Alliance Ltd is a registered company (no. 11258651) and is a part of Hope for Justice, which is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1126097) and in Scotland (no. SC045769).