

## Grafton Group plc Modern Slavery Statement 2024

### Introduction

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At Grafton we are committed to respecting and upholding the human rights of the people within our organisation, through our supply chain and in the communities we engage with, following the UN guiding principles on business and human rights. The Group recognises the risks of modern slavery in complex businesses and supply chains and is committed to taking appropriate steps to address these risks. We believe that every individual has the right to freedom, dignity and security. By actively addressing modern slavery, we aim to uphold these rights and contribute to the creation of a fair and just society.

This statement is made pursuant to the expectations set out for businesses in the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015\* and the Netherlands' Child Duty of Care Act 2019\*. However, we are alert to the emerging legislative landscape applicable to our operations in the EU and UK and are preparing for anticipated legislation on forced labour, due diligence and associated reporting requirements.

The Group is committed to acting with integrity across all aspects of our business operations and our commitment to ethical conduct is set out in the Group Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code") which is available on our Group website www.graftonplc.com. All colleagues are required to adhere to this Code across all business units. The Code sets out that we do not tolerate any form of forced, involuntary or child labour.

However, we recognise that no business or supply chain is without risk of modern slavery and are clear that we have a responsibility to understand human rights risks and work in partnership with others, especially suppliers, to identify and mitigate them.

The statement addresses the following key areas:

- 1. Organisational structure and supply chains
- 2. Policies in relation to modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour
- 3. Due diligence processes, risk assessment and management
- 4. Training and key performance indicators

This statement was approved by the Grafton Group plc Board of Directors on 4 March 2025 and is signed by Eric Born, Group CEO, and David Arnold, Group CFO.

#### **Business and supply chains**

Grafton Group plc is an international business operating in the distribution, retail and manufacturing sectors in Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands, Finland and Spain.

Our distribution colleagues serve our customers through regional or national branch networks of leading local brands. In our B2B offering, we focus on small, and medium sized contractors and installers that are mainly active in the residential repair, maintenance and improvement ("RMI") and new-build end-markets.

We also manufacture and distribute direct to end customers in the mortar and timber staircases and windows markets in the UK, and we operate the largest consumer-focused DIY retailer in Ireland which is complementary to our Irish distribution business.

As a Group, we employ approximately 10,000 people in our operations which cover distribution of building materials and related products as well as the manufacture of products including mortar and staircases. We also have an extensive supply chain across goods for resale and goods and services not for resale.

We work with many suppliers and manufacturing locations in Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe and we also source from further afield. In 2024 we published our Supplier Code of Conduct and selected to work with EcoVadis to strengthen our supply chain risk management process. Throughout 2024 we continued working with risk management company Exiger while we prepared for the transition to EcoVadis. More detail on this due diligence process is set out below.

The Grafton Group Supplier Code of Conduct sets out our expectations for suppliers covering legislative compliance, human rights, environmental sustainability and business practice. The Code has been published in multiple languages and on business unit websites.

\* This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the 'Act') and constitutes the modern slavery and human trafficking statement of Grafton Group plc ('Grafton'; the 'Group') in respect of the financial year ending 31 December 2024. It is also made pursuant to the Netherlands Child Duty of Care Act 2019. The Modern Slavery Act applies to the following subsidiaries of Grafton Group plc during 2024: Selco Trade Centres Limited, CPI Mortars Limited, T.G. Lynes Limited, LSDM Limited, Macnaughton Blair Limited and AVC (Stairbox) Limited. On 30 October 2024 we acquired Salvador Escoda S.A.U. in Spain. In 2025 we will be integrating this business into our sustainability programme and associated reporting on environmental and social matters. The Netherlands' Child Duty of Care Act 2019 applies to the following subsidiaries of Grafton Group plc during 2024: Isero B.V. and Polvo B.V. Grafton has adopted a Group approach to supply chain due diligence and this statement applies to all Grafton's businesses to the greatest extent practicable.



# Policies in relation to modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour

Responsible procurement is a key part of the Grafton sustainability strategy which we published in 2021.

The Code states that we will not purchase from suppliers that procure products for Grafton from countries subject to trade sanctions, or if the supplier or its sources are listed in connection with a trade sanctions program or other list of proscribed individuals or entities relevant to the countries in which the Group operates. The Group has a colleague training programme on the Code and monitors compliance rates. The Grafton Deforestation Policy and due diligence programme promotes internationally recognised chain of custody schemes which require compliance with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, prohibiting the use of forced or child labour.

The Group also has an anti-bribery and corruption policy as well as a SpeakUp Policy, described in further detail below, designed to ensure ethical business practices as well as encourage concerns to be raised.

For Grafton colleagues there is a suite of Human Resources policies to ensure the Group protects the rights of all colleagues and dedicated HR personnel at Group level and within each business unit to support management in ensuring that these policies are adhered to.

#### **Due diligence and risk management**

In 2023 we carried out extensive stakeholder engagement as part of the double materiality assessment in preparation for the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). This process of engagement reaffirmed the importance of respecting the human rights of people in the organisation and through the value chain.

Grafton invested more resource in supplier management in 2024 recruiting a new Group Procurement Programme Manager and selecting EcoVadis to further strengthen our supplier risk management programme. As we prepare to move to EcoVadis, we continued to work with our existing risk management provider throughout 2024.

The process includes sanctions and adverse media screening and completion of a questionnaire covering business data including product type, supplier and manufacturing locations, health and safety, human rights, quality, sustainability and hazardous material disclosures. Together these elements are used to form a risk assessment of each supplier which then drives actions to mitigate potential exposures.

At the end of 2024, 84 per cent of suppliers on the risk management system have completed the assessment which has increased from 81 per cent at the end of 2023. In 2022 to 2024 there have been 40

screening reports which flagged concerns and have been raised and resolved by the relevant business unit in partnership with the supplier in question.

This process has helped us to gain greater visibility of our supply chain and inform our risk-based approach to supply chain management. The Group Risk Committee reviews the response rate to the questionnaires and the commercial teams in each business unit are responsible for engaging suppliers on completion.

A number of our business units have extended the risk management programme further and partnered with external supply chain due diligence experts to assess ethical standards in high risk suppliers and support the implementation of their supplier manual.

For example, in 2024 Selco started working with Surity for their direct sourcing programme. Surity carry out detailed compliance and sustainability assessments on and develop improvement programmes with each factory that they work with covering ethical, environmental, safety and quality issues.

CPI Euromix maintained its Construction Products Certification (CPC) BES 6001 accreditation for product and supply chain sustainability and ethics.

#### 2024 Supply chain due diligence\*



\* Due diligence process to be updated in 2025 to incorporate EcoVadis programme.

#### **Recruitment and human resources**

We are committed to full compliance with all applicable employment laws and regulations in the countries where we operate. Grafton has implemented rigorous HR processes and controls to ensure that every colleague's right to work in the respective jurisdiction is verified. Grafton has established workplace equality processes and ensures that wages, benefits, and working hours adhere to the relevant legislation in each jurisdiction. Our business units conduct regular reviews of HR policies and controls to maintain the highest standards of compliance and fairness. This commitment forms a crucial part of Grafton's efforts to combat modern slavery and uphold human rights within its operations.

#### **Training and key performance indicators**

All Group colleagues are required to complete Ethical Business training within three months of joining the Group and at two yearly intervals thereafter. At the end of 2024 the compliance rate was 92.44 per cent. The completion of this training is a key performance indicator which is overseen by our Group Risk Committee and is part of our sustainability strategy and there is ongoing activity to improve this compliance rate further. There is a more detailed Anti Slavery Course on our learning platform available for colleagues to take.

In addition, as outlined above, we monitor adherence, response rates and corrective actions through the risk committee as part of our supply chain management process.

An independent third-party reporting service ("SpeakUp") is available to allow colleagues and third parties to raise concerns anonymously and with someone outside the Group should they wish to do so. Colleagues also receive training on the SpeakUp policy. This policy sets out the duty of Group colleagues, external consultants, contractors and agency staff to report any concerns they may have about suspected wrongdoing. The policy sets out how colleagues and third parties can report concerns and how those reports and the individuals making reports will be treated. Over the past two years there has been an increase of 54 per cent in the number of cases received through the service, with reports received from a wider number of business units. The increase reflects the greater awareness of colleagues and third parties of SpeakUp. 35 per cent of cases were substantiated following investigation and resulted in remedial action including disciplinary, dismissal, retraining and/or process improvements. However, none of the reports related to modern slavery. All colleagues also have a channel available for feedback to the Board and senior management via Colleague Forums.

We recognise that modern slavery, child labour and wider human rights programmes require continued focus and improvements and are committed to strengthening our risk assessment, training and due diligence programmes in the coming years.

Eric Born Group CEO 5 March 2025

David Arnold

David Arnold Group CFO 5 March 2025