

**Position Statement: Addressing Exploitation or Modern Slavery in the  
Healthcare Sector**

June 2024



## **Introduction**

Exploitation, modern slavery, and human trafficking can take place in a wide range of employment sectors, including health and social care. People using or working in a health and social care service may be victims of exploitation, modern slavery, or human trafficking.

The Jersey Care Commission (the Commission), as the independent healthcare regulator in Jersey, plays a contributory role in addressing the risks of exploitation, modern slavery or human trafficking within the health and social care sector.

The Commission acknowledges the significant contribution of overseas workers to the health and social care workforce. While the recruitment of international staff itself is not a risk for exploitation or modern slavery, the Commission recognises the importance of its responsibilities due to the prevalence of work permit workers, agency staff and foreign workers.

## **Position Statement**

*The Jersey Care Commission is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of the health and social care workforce in Jersey. We actively promote best practices, raise awareness, and ensure compliance with relevant laws to address modern slavery risks and unethical recruitment practices through rigorous evaluation of providers' recruitment processes, emphasis on safeguarding policies, and support mechanisms for staff reporting suspicions.*

## **Our responsibilities**

As the independent regulator in Jersey, we are not legally obliged to publish a statement on exploitation, modern slavery, or human trafficking, we have a contributory role in addressing and raising awareness of ethical recruitment practices across the sector to reduce the risk.

This statement by defining our responsibilities highlights the Commission's role in the prevention, detection, and eradication of exploitation, modern slavery or human trafficking in the health and social care industry:

### **1. Enforcement of Laws and Regulations**

The Commission enforce the Regulation of Care (Jersey) Law 2014, and the Regulation of Care (Standards and Requirements) (Jersey) Regulations. This includes regulations related to recruitment practices, and policies.



## 2. Robust Monitoring and Inspection

Carry out regular monitoring and annual inspections to ensure care providers comply with laws and published standards. This may involve unannounced inspections, to identify and rectify any instances of exploitation or modern slavery.

## 3. Training and Education

Promote learning events on ethical recruitment practices and for registered providers and managers to understand their role in preventing and reporting such cases.

## 4. Collaboration with other Key Agencies

Foster collaboration between other healthcare agencies and Jersey law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of modern slavery. This includes sharing information, coordinating efforts, and ensuring a swift response to allegations.

## 5. Whistleblower Protection

Ensure that strong whistleblower protection policies within the healthcare industry are in place. This encourages healthcare professionals and employees to report any suspicions or evidence of modern slavery without fear of retaliation.

## 6. Continuous Improvement and Adaptation

Regularly review and update regulations and guidelines to adapt to evolving challenges and new forms of exploitation. Stay informed about emerging issues and be proactive in addressing them within the healthcare sector.

By taking these positions, the Commission is committed to contribute significantly to the prevention, detection, and eradication of exploitation, modern slavery, or human trafficking in the healthcare industry.

**We will continue to develop our response to exploitation, modern slavery or human trafficking and keep this statement under review.**