The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015

Transparency in Supply Chains Clause Statement 2025/26

The statement covers the activities of Branston Ltd and Branston Holdings Ltd in the UK up to 26 July 2026.

Introduction

Branston Ltd and Branston Holdings Ltd are aware of Modern Slavery risks and remain committed to achieving an ethical fresh food supply chain free from worker exploitation. We recognise that current pressures on labour markets have increased the scale of the challenge and the associated risks. We will work collaboratively with our supply chain partners to improve awareness, training and communication to mitigate the risks of Modern Slavery in our business.

We continue to take a risk-based approach which will focus on continuous improvement.

Structure and supply chains

Branston is a farmer-controlled business established in 1968. The company supplies major UK retail, wholesale and food manufacturing businesses with fresh potatoes, sweet potatoes and a range of prepared produce, including mash and jacket potatoes.

Branston's packing activities are all based in the UK and a majority of the products come from UK farms. We do source from other countries to ensure year-round supply. The countries sourced from during 2025/26 were: USA, Italy, Israel, Spain, Germany, Denmark, South Africa, Egypt, France and Holland.

This statement includes the progress the company has made in the last financial year (25/26) and plans for the next year.

It remains the responsibility of the HR Director to put in place effective measures to ensure compliance with The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015.

We identify the protection of human rights as a core principle of how we operate and do not accept any forms of Modern Slavery or knowingly work with any businesses that do not sign up to these principles.

Relevant Policies

To support our activities to minimise the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking within the business the following policies have been developed and are adhered to:

- Ethical Trade & Worker Welfare Policy
- Equal Opportunities & Worker Welfare Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy (reviewed and updated in 2023)
- Recruitment Policy
- Code of Practice for Labour Providers
- Child Labour Policy (2025).

Training and awareness

We are committed to reducing the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking within our own business and our supply chains. We recognise that characteristics of modern slavery crimes are hidden and we understand that staff need to be trained to identify potential abuse. Key personnel in the Human Resources, Procurement and Technical teams have attended Stronger Together Workshops. Internal ethical training has been delivered across the wider business and site Technical teams have attended customer-specific training against ethical standards.

We are pleased to report that the plans for the last financial year were actioned resulting in the following steps being taken:

- On site review meetings with overseas Sweet Potato suppliers to cover off ethical policies and close out any SMETA non-conformances.
- Stronger Together Good Practice Implementation Checklist was completed
- Further collaboration with Tier 1 ingredient suppliers regarding Ethical Compliance
- Review of all policies relating to responsible sourcing and worker welfare
- Visits from Branston trained staff to all high-risk sites to conduct ethical risk audits and agree next action plans with farm/factory owners
- Reviews with Tesco Responsible Sourcing Manager to assess ethical risks throughout the year
- Engagement activities internally and within the supply base on Anti-Slavery initiatives during the awareness week in October.
- Supply chains monitored using the SEDEX Radar tool.

Measuring effectiveness

All labour providers were audited twice in the financial year 2025/26. All of these audits in the second half of the year were conducted by telephone. These audits included worker interviews.

We encourage our employees, customers and suppliers to report any concerns related to ethical issues within our business. A monthly report is published on the status of any complaints received through the whistleblowing line. All complaints are responded to although it was noted that no complaints were received in the previous 12 months.

All sites host regular employee representative ‘How we do business’ forums, throughout the year, giving workers a voice.

All raw material suppliers were subject to a desktop ethical risk assessment audit conducted by a member of the Agronomy team.

Plans for the next year:

- Risk assessments will be conducted on all labour supply agencies against the updated risk assessment tool
- The new mash facility audited against 2 pillar SMETA, Version 7. A full action plan to sign off non-conformances completed
- Plan to host further Stronger Together training workshop at the Lincoln site
- We will review and update our risk assessment audit tool for labour supply agencies in the UK
- Review options to appoint external in country support to manage ethicial auditing on farm
- Engagement in awareness activities around Anti-Slavery Awareness week in October

We will work alongside the relevant agencies to actively investigate any suspected instances of modern slavery or human trafficking.

Our Modern Slavery statement will be uploaded to the government Modern Slavery registry.

We have made progress in the last financial year but understand that there is more work to be done in this area and we will continue to play our full part to help ensure that the practice is eradicated completely.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our transparency in supply chains clause statement for the financial year ending 26 July 2026. It has been approved by the Main Board who will review and update it annually.



Jim Windle
CEO

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