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# Modern Slavery Act Statement

Section 54 of the [UK Modern Slavery Act](#) requires companies to produce a statement that describes what actions they are taking to address modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. This is not intended to be, and should be approached, as a compliance exercise. Rather, companies are encouraged to take the necessary time and effort to consider their existing processes and practices related to modern slavery, as well as labour standards more generally. An effective, informative and substantive statement will address and report on modern slavery in the context of a broader human rights due diligence context.

## Supply chain ethics

In 1998, a group of UK companies, NGOs and trade union organisations, with the backing of the then Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short, launched a radical approach to protecting workers' rights in global supply chains. Their aim was to build an alliance of organisations that would work together to define how major companies should implement their codes of labour practice in a credible way - and most importantly, in a way that has maximum impact on workers. The companies that joined ETI in 1998 were ASDA, Premier Brands, The Body Shop, Littlewoods and Sainsbury's, and BBS Natural Stone are among those companies now totaling over 90 members. The ETI base code is recognised by The FCO, UNHCR and HM Government as a standard for delivering ethical transparency within its supply chains.

The zero tolerance policy towards slavery adopted by BBS Natural Stone is part of our Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) reporting. As part of our globally accepted auditing procedures the ETI Base code is the center of where our work begins.

The base code enables companies to build on the minimum required for ethical transparency, human rights and slavery. BBS Natural Stone are an active member of the ETI group forum meeting other companies committed to the ethical cause. This forum allows ideas to be shared and experiences expanded on to enable companies to demonstrate their clear and understood ethical purchasing.

## Our employees

BBS Natural Stone holds regular in-house training for all employees, enabling everyone to be up to speed with the latest initiatives and guidelines. Our commitment at BBS Natural Stone in expanding and encouraging knowledge on human rights, ethical trading and modern slavery is continuous

Kevin Hives - Director