



WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GROUP PLC  
WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND OPERATIONS LIMITED  
WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND COMPANY LIMITED

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## MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015 – TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-2019

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### CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND TRADING ENTITIES

Watches of Switzerland Group plc and Watches of Switzerland Operations Limited are not trading companies, but are holding companies of Watches of Switzerland Company Limited. We believe that Watches of Switzerland Group plc and Watches of Switzerland Operations Limited are fully compliant with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: they achieve this compliance through the operations of Watches of Switzerland Company Limited.

The various brands operated by Watches of Switzerland Company Limited (Watches of Switzerland, Mappin & Webb and Goldsmiths) are not separate limited companies, but are trading divisions of Watches of Switzerland Company Limited.

### BRANDS AND BUSINESSES COVERED BY THIS STATEMENT

This statement relates to all of the brands operated by Watches of Switzerland Company

Limited in the United Kingdom:

- Watches of Switzerland
- Mappin & Webb
- Goldsmiths

# INTRODUCTION

At the Watches of Switzerland Group, one of our Values is to do the right thing, and as a business we do our best to live up to this standard. This Value commits us to being fair, reasonable and responsible in all of our interactions.

We would certainly never knowingly engage with a supplier that was in any way involved in human trafficking, servitude, forced labour or any other aspect of modern slavery. However, we recognise that such people and organisations will take steps to conceal the true position, meaning that vigilance is always necessary.

## GEOGRAPHICAL REACH OF OUR SUPPLY CHAIN

We source our products from a number of countries around the world, principally:



### WATCHES

- 1 Switzerland
- 2 Germany
- 3 China
- 4 Japan
- 5 Italy

### JEWELLERY

- 1 United Kingdom
- 2 Thailand
- 3 China
- 4 India
- 5 Italy

### RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL

We are proud to be a member of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC). This is an independent body that carries out comprehensive audits of its members and aspiring members, to ensure that they met its exacting standards of business practice, not least in relation to the treatment of their employees.

We ask our suppliers to be members of the RJC, or working towards such membership. Indeed, in the Financial Year in question, we imposed a condition on two new vendors, who were required to commit to joining the RJC as a prerequisite of winning our business. We are pleased to report that both of these vendors were happy to agree to this stipulation.

Fifteen of our current suppliers of jewellery and precious metals are RJC members (and therefore accredited and audited by that body). Amongst our major suppliers the proportion is even greater: all of our top ten suppliers (when measured by value of spend) are RJC accredited. Many of the watch brands that we carry are also accredited by the RJC.

### OUR SUPPLIER MANUAL AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Our membership of the RJC is extremely important to us, and a supplier's membership will naturally give us a good deal of confidence that its products are not tainted by modern slavery or other unacceptable practices. However, not all of our suppliers have this membership, and we therefore need to take further steps to obtain the necessary assurances. To that end, we have produced our own Supplier Manual, which we provide to all of our suppliers of watches, jewellery and precious metals. We ask our suppliers to return a letter of acceptance to confirm that the supplier, and its staff, will comply with the specifications and requirements set out in the Manual.

### Within our Supplier Manual is a Supplier Code of Conduct, which contains twelve principles:

Employment is freely chosen

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Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected

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Working conditions are safe and hygienic

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Child labour shall not be used

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Living wages are paid

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Working hours are not excessive

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No discrimination is practised

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Regular employment is provided

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No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed

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Responsible environmental practices

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Zero tolerance of conflict products

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Compliance with the Watches of Switzerland Group's Code of Conduct

Our Supplier Manual has been revised and updated, so as to require an even greater level of compliance and verifiability from our suppliers. We now pay particular attention to verifying the origin of raw materials, meaning that we are taking even further steps to ensure that human rights have been respected throughout our supply chain.

## FACTORY VISITS

In order to test compliance with our Supplier Manual and Code of Conduct, we carry out factory visits. On these visits, senior members of our management make a personal check of the factory environment and working arrangements (including health and safety standards).

When we visit a factory for the first time, we require our vendors to sign a specific Statement of Commitment, confirming that they operate in compliance with our Code of Conduct, as well as with applicable laws, rules and regulations. All of our top ten suppliers of jewellery and precious metals have been visited by our management, who have carried out an audit on behalf of the company.

## CONFLICT DIAMONDS AND THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS

The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative between governments and industry to restrict the supply of conflict diamonds, which are used to finance wars and insurrection against legitimate governments. Further details of the Kimberley Process can be found at [www.kimberleyprocess.com](http://www.kimberleyprocess.com)

We require that our suppliers of diamonds have signed up to the Kimberley Process, and ensure that they have made a statement to that effect on their invoices.

## SUPPLIERS OF GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS

In January 2019 we wrote to all of our jewellery suppliers who provide us with precious metals, asking them to name the source of their raw material. We then checked the suppliers' responses against the Good Delivery List operated by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA). The LBMA's list seeks to ensure that the bullion is sourced responsibly, that it is not acquired from conflict areas and that human rights standards are properly respected. We are pleased to report that our suppliers were 100% compliant.

## STAFF AWARENESS

Our Buying teams are made aware of our Code of Conduct and its requirements, and we explain it to any new recruits to those teams, as part of their induction process. We have a whistleblowing policy in place and our employees are encouraged to inform us if they suspect unacceptable practices, whether within our own business or our suppliers.

## COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE

We are by no means complacent, and we recognise that further steps can always be taken to ensure that nobody involved in the production, distribution and sale of our products is a victim of modern slavery. We are currently preparing for our fourth RJC audit, which will be completed by early 2020. Subsequent audits will be against the RJC's latest code of practice, which is significantly more exacting than the previous code, particularly in relation to Human Rights compliance. As a result, over the coming two years we will go deeper into our supply chain to ensure that not only our manufacturers, but also their suppliers, meet the standards of the OECD in relation to human rights. We will then have even better evidence of the ethical nature of our supply chain, and in the sad event of any of our suppliers falling short of these standards we will withdraw our custom until they have put this right.

I confirm that this statement has been approved by the board of directors of Watches of Switzerland Group plc.

**Brian Duffy**  
Chief Executive Officer  
28 October 2019