

Significant gap in understanding and awareness of

MODERN SLAVERY LEAVES UK SMEs EXPOSED



SMEs NEED TO TAKE MODERN SLAVERY SERIOUSLY

TO BE CONSIDERED AS SUPPLIERS
BY LARGE CORPORATES

New research suggests Modern Slavery Act is **“broken”** and **“has a glaring weakness”** as SMEs are overlooked

24%

of UK SMEs are unaware of the
Modern Slavery Act 2015



66% believe that it is the responsibility of both
Government and businesses to tackle
Modern Slavery issues

66%

34%

of SMEs don't understand the legal
requirements the Modern Slavery Act 2015
places on organisations



64% of SMEs don't have a company policy on
their approach to Modern Slavery

64%

56%

of SMEs don't have any particular person
responsible for Modern Slavery



18% of SMEs have large corporate clients

18%

46%

of SMEs think that more specific information from
the Government on how to become compliant would
encourage their company to make it a higher priority



24% of SMEs said that appropriate digital tools could
encourage businesses to ensure compliance to
Modern Slavery

24%

20%

a few SMEs believe that the threat of financial
penalties and criminal charges for non-
compliance could also help encourage businesses



53% state that a higher civil financial penalty would
encourage organisations to take Modern Slavery
more seriously

53%



“Identifying and eliminating Modern Slavery from a supply chain not only requires the practical understanding of what violations look like, but also an understanding of where they generally occur.”

Gemma Archibald, COO - SME, Alcumus

“Our current framework for tackling Modern Slavery has a glaring weakness when it comes to SMEs – despite being the bedrock of our economy.”

Jess Phillips, MP



To address this gap, and empower the nation's SMEs, Alcumus has partnered with Modern Slavery charity, **Unseen**, to launch a toolkit for businesses that will include useful information to **tackle Modern Slavery**