

Challenges:

For J&K Ross a key challenge surrounds the product lifecycle. As a supplier of PPE, they need to ensure that the way the products are manufactured and the end of life disposal, including the packaging, is as sustainable as possible. It is a challenge to make sure that the products they sell are manufactured ethically, so they have introduced a supplier's code of conduct to help build partnerships with suppliers.

COVID-19 brought new sustainability challenges in sustaining supply through increasing demand for PPE and wellbeing of internal staff.

Impact:

After discovering the School through clients, J&K Ross initially attended a Modern Slavery Workshop in 2019. They have since used the online resources available through the School to develop their knowledge on a range of sustainability topics, which has had the following impacts:

- **Developed internal knowledge:** Through using the flexible and easily accessible learning platform, that has resources for all levels, with a range of topics to choose from, all employees have been able to develop their knowledge, and complete assessments to reinforce understanding.
- **Embedding sustainable procurement:** J&K Ross have now embedded sustainability in their own procurement process through the knowledge gained. They have started mapping the supply chain, recognising the risks, creating greater visibility, in turn enabling mitigation of risks, and improving resilience.
- **Engaging with the local community:** The School's resources have helped raise the importance of social value, and J&K Ross have improved links with their local community. They support a homeless charity, disabled art project and local youth rugby team.

Value gained:

J&K Ross has gained value from being a School member:

- **Costs savings:** As the resources are free to use, J&K Ross have saved costs in developing their sustainability knowledge. Rather than having to create their own e-learning modules, the School platform enables staff to develop their knowledge at no cost.
- **Improved understanding:** The School has helped to improve their knowledge on a range of topics, including modern slavery, sustainable procurement and wellbeing.

Fact box



Company

J&K Ross Ltd

No of employees

> 50

HQ

Warrington

Website

www.jkross.co.uk

Main contact

Naomi Ross

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Services

PPE supplier

About

After being established in 1976 the business soon became a leading supplier of PPE, tapes, and abrasives in the North West region. They are now a PPE clothing specialist supplier whose larger contracts include many in the utilities and manufacturing sectors based in the UK.

- **PR/comms opportunities:** The commitment to gain and retain a Gold level on the School will be useful in future tenders and for building relationships with School Partners.
- **Improved tendering process:** Through embedding sustainable procurement in their business, J&K Ross have improved their structure and understanding, helping with their own tendering processes, particularly in relation to sustainability.