

The Transparency Act – Account of due diligence assessments at Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS

The Transparency Act entered into force on 1 July 2022, according to which Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS (hereinafter "SVW", "we", "us" or "the firm") is required to carry out due diligence assessments on fundamental human rights and decent working conditions in our own operations, in our supply chain and with our other business partners. This report includes due diligence assessments for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023.

If you have any questions about the report or other questions related to the Transparency Act, including inquiries under the right to information in Section 6, please contact post@svw.no.

1 About the company's activities

Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS provides business law services and is a private limited company owned by partners in the company. In 2023, SVW has practiced law as principal in internal partnerships from offices in Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and Tromsø, mainly providing legal advice in the area of business law. In addition, SVW has conducted business through a separate company in Singapore. As per 31 December 2023, the company owned 100% of the shares in Simonsen Vogt & Wiig Services Pte. Ltd.

SVW cooperates closely with the Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig Kristiansand DA in Kristiansand and Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig Trondheim AS in Trondheim, but it has no ownership interests in these companies. This account therefore only applies to Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS and Simonsen Vogt & Wiig Services Pte. Ltd.

The main responsibility for follow-up and compliance with the Transparency Act lies with the HR manager in SVW. This involves checking that SVW complies with the Transparency Act, including that due diligence assessments are carried out and published in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Act.

2 Our internal policies and procedures

The firm has adopted ethical guidelines for responsible business conduct and actively adheres to the OECD Due Diligence Guide for Responsible Business Conduct and other relevant sector-specific guidelines for responsible supply chains. According to these principles, the industry has a responsibility to respect human rights. In addition to basic principles of legal ethics and the requirements set out in the Transparency Act, SVW must comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. SVW, its lawyers and employees, will respect human rights in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles and is an active partner for our clients in the work to ensure respect for human rights and decent working conditions.

We support work to promote human rights, including through our outward, voluntary activities and pro bono work.

SVW's clients and partners shall be confident that products and services offered by SVW do not entail negative consequences for fundamental human rights and decent working conditions. To ensure this, we have purchasing routines that ensure that there will be a screening of all new suppliers. For suppliers in vulnerable and/or sector-specific industries and areas, as part of these procurement routines, additional requirements are set for the supplier's documentation for compliance with the Transparency Act. Our company handbook contains an internal code of ethics, our employee handbook (incl. HSE) covers the area "Transparency and ESG" and in addition, this is included in our introduction program for new employees.

3 Result of the due diligence assessment


The assessments related to SVW's own core business indicate that our legal practice does not entail a risk of adverse effects on our 230 employees' human rights and decent working conditions. Last year's sickness absence in our company was 3.04%, and we conducted an employee survey and workplace survey in connection with moving to new premises. We are committed to ensuring a good working environment. We have a whistleblowing channel for reporting censurable conditions and have not received any notifications for the period to which this report applies. Our efforts to conduct due diligence in accordance with the Transparency Act are therefore primarily focused on our supply chain and our business partners.


SVW's compliance officer has conducted a review of SVW's supplier list to identify suppliers that potentially represent a risk. The company still has just over 400 supplies, of which the vast majority had a turnover of less than NOK 150,000 in 2023.


When reviewing the supply chain, we had a particular focus on suppliers with a turnover of more than NOK 500,000 (approx. 43 suppliers). To these suppliers we send our Responsible Business Conduct Principles that apply to SVW. In addition, we send a questionnaire listing a number of requirements that the suppliers are required to satisfy and confirm in writing. We operate in an industry where the assumed greatest risk is related to suppliers of goods or services that support our day-to-day office operations, such as the purchase of electronic products, etc. Our suppliers are all established in Norway, but some of them use subcontractors in countries outside Norway, including in low-cost countries where there may be a risk of violations of human rights and decent working conditions. However, preliminary reviews show that all suppliers are well aware of requirements for compliance with the Transparency Act, and they all appear to be at low risk when it comes to possible violations of fundamental human rights or decent working conditions in their supply chain. We have not identified any negative conditions.


4 External inquiries from others covered by the Transparency Act


Continuously throughout 2023, SVW has carried out and accounted for our due diligence assessments, as well as provided information about our measures and findings, to external parties when requested.


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 Peter Aall Simonsen
 Chairman of the Board


Signed by:

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 Lill Egeland
 Board member


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 Jan Magne Langseth
 Board member

DocuSigned by:

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 Jan Vablum
 Board member

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 Thom Erik Borgen
 Board member

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 Henning Wahlberg
 Board member

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 Agnete Nummedal
 Board member

DocuSigned by:

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 Jørgen Lindboe
 Board member

DocuSigned by:

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 Mona Søyland
 Managing Partner