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# Fairtrade Award 2022-24 Update

## Description of the paper

To update on the progress and expected outcomes of the University & Students' Association's submission to the 2022-24 Fairtrade University and College Award due in April 2024.

## Background

The University & Students' Association participated in the initial Fairtrade Award pilot in 2018, gaining a 2-star certificate. It was agreed the University would take part in the Fairtrade Award again in 2019-21. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic which closed the gift shop and catering outlets (including halls of residence and cafes), cancelled all in-person events, and restricted procurement of goods to essential items, the University and Students' Association deferred its submission to 2022 and, at this time, was awarded a 2-star award once again. The University and Students' Association have agreed to submit again as part of the 2022-24 award cycle.

SRS are leading the Fairtrade Award Working Group (FTWG) to continue progressing this submission. This group consists of staff from ACE, the University Gift Shop, the Students' Association and SRS. We are currently exploring whether a colleague from the University Procurement team could sit on this group, having been represented previously.

## Progress to date

Since July 2022, the FTWG have reconvened and are now meeting every 4- 6 weeks in the lead up to the submission deadline in April 2024. SRS have collated a progress report, which is updated following the Fairtrade Award Working Group meetings. This can be found on the [SRS website](#).

The actions that are being progressed by the FTWG have been agreed with the relevant stakeholders as being achievable within the timescale for submission. Of the 51 criteria outlined in the award, a total of 13 criteria have been complete by the FTWG to date, with a further 20 criteria estimated to be completed prior to submission in April 2024 (See Table 1).

Award Criteria Category	No. completed to date	No. in progress	Total no. completed by submission	No. criteria available	Maximum points expected
Mandatory	5	6	11	11	100 (100)
Leadership and Strategy	2	3	5	5	55 (55)
Campaigning and Influencing	3	3	3	12	50 (115)
Procurement, Retail and Catering	1	4	5	11	55 (95)
Research and Curriculum	2	0	2	6	10 (80)
Outcomes	0	4	4	4	40 (40)
Innovative Interventions	0	0	0	1	0 (30)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>310 (530)</b>

Table 1. Overview of criteria completed and in progress for each category of the 2024 Fairtrade University and College Award. Maximum available points for the category are noted in brackets.

In 2022, the University completed 35 of the 54 Award criteria, with a total of 365 points from a possible 585.

## Expected Outcome

Should criteria outlined in Table 1 be fulfilled, the University would be awarded a 1-star Fairtrade Award (see Table 2).

Award level	Total Points Needed (HE)
Fairtrade University/Fairtrade College	100 (all mandatory criteria)
1 star	225
2 stars	350
3 stars	475

This is lower than the award received by the University in 2022. The main reason for this reduction in award achievement is due to reprioritising of the project within the SRS department, as well as the broadening of acceptable alternative sustainability criteria – to include Rainforest Alliance, Fair for Life, FairWear, and the Global Organic Textile Standard - as agreed by the FTWG in 2022 in order to address the challenges of sourcing Fairtrade accredited products through available suppliers.

## Discussion

Overall, the University's Fairtrade Award submission requires dedicated project management in order to be successful. Many of the current criteria not being addressed by the University are where longer-term projects are required (e.g. partnering with external organisations, undertaking in-depth reviews, or including specifications within a procurement tender). With limited staff resourcing available for periods of the accreditation cycle, it has not been possible to complete these criteria.

Though the FTWG strive to complete the 2019-22 Fairtrade Award submission to the highest standard it is noted that, following this Award cycle, the University should evaluate its participation in the Fairtrade Award to ensure it is a driver of positive change at the University and Students' Association.