Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

Scottish Procurement and Property Directorate

Covid-19 Newsletter

Over the past month, buyers across the country have been working hard to support their organisations, suppliers and their communities. A lot has been achieved, yet there is no doubt that we will be dealing with the uncertainty and challenges associated with this virus for the foreseeable future.

While the return to our new normal is anything but clear, work is already underway across the public sector on what actions will be needed to help re-start our economy. On 21 April, Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture <u>announced</u> the government's four step economic plan which focusses on the '4 Rs' — Response, Reset, Restart and Recover.

We thought it might be useful to summarise some of the work delivered to date against this framework and highlight where our plans are evolving.

Respond and Reset

We are **simplifying our processes** to ensure that we make the best use of our resources and have the flexibility to respond quickly to emerging challenges and priorities. In support we have:

- Issued a Scottish Public Procurement Policy Note, highlighting the flexibility buyers have within the current rules to place contracts at this time;
- Published guidance, offering hints and tips on simplification and reminding public bodies of the range of procurement procedures available to them during the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Released a Construction Policy Note, which offers the opportunity for electronic signatures on trust documents for project bank accounts (PBAs);
- Issued guidance to allow public bodies to apply for up to one year extensions, to leases due to expire during the current Covid-19 crisis.

We are **supporting our suppliers** through the crisis by offering relief, including helping to address potential cash flow issues. In support, we have:

- Published guidance, promoting prompt payment of invoices and highlighting options to help suppliers at risk because of the current crisis;
- Issued tailored policy guidance for construction procurements which also

- supports the COVID-19: Guidance For Construction Sector;
- Amended Scottish legislation to extend the period of time, before Landlords may apply to end commercial property leases for non-payment of rent from 14 days to 14 weeks .(Continued over)



Respond and Reset (continued)

We are strengthening and building on existing **cross sector collaboration** at this critical time.

- Working across the Scottish Government, NHS, Central Government sector, Higher and Further Education and Local Authorities communities to address common challenges, including the procurement and distribution of critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing.
- Our Collaborative agreements provide a quick and easy route to secure common goods and services.
- Scottish Government have established a single point for contact to help prioritise

third party offers of support, from where offers are triaged and prioritised as appropriate. Local authorities and Resilience Partnership Co-ordinators can access information about these offers of assistance.

If your organisation has a specific need, and wants to find out if the Scottish Government has received an offer of assistance that might help meet it, you should contact covid19response@gov.scot with the wording "RP request" at the start of the subject line. When doing so, please provide contact details, an indication of the service required, and the geographical area.

Next Steps

Over coming weeks, our focus will increasingly turn to Restart and Recover. We're working on developing our strategies and plans alongside our Scottish Government Economy and Policy colleagues, the procurement Centres of Expertise and industry representatives. Whilst it's early days, work is currently evolving along the following lines:

Restart

- National policy guidance
- Alignment of contracting plans
- Construction industry support

Recovery

- Identifying and targeting emerging priorities
- Clarifying construction pipelines
- Cross-functional/organisational interventions



Scottish Procurement and Property Directorate

And Finally

This month our Collaborative and Scottish Government Procurement Division has restructured into two separate, but closely linked, divisions. This may result in a change to your usual point of contact.

- The Collaborative Procurement Division, led by Ian Howie, will assume responsibility for all collaborative procurement activities.
- The Procurement Services Division, led by Graeme Cook, will oversee all procurement activities for Scottish Government and the wider central government sector.

We appreciate how busy everyone is right now and we want to strike the right balance between keeping you up to date and allowing you to focus on your own priorities. We will communicate any urgent information on Covid-19 and its impact upon procurement or our activities through future newsletters when required.

If you have any procurement related queries we have attached a contacts list, which can be used during this period.









Scottish Procurement and Property Directorate

Who's who guide

Scottish Procurement is providing a number of critical services during this time. This chart is designed to give a quick update for colleagues on who to contact across specific areas. This list is under review as the situation develops and will be updated regularly.

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Scottish Procurement and Property Directorate

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If you are unsure who to contact about Covid-19 related issues, please

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