



Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

2014 asp 12

PART 2

GENERAL DUTIES AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES

General duties

8 General duties

- (1) A contracting authority must, in carrying out a regulated procurement—
 - (a) treat relevant economic operators equally and without discrimination,
 - (b) act in a transparent and proportionate manner.
- (2) A contracting authority must also comply with the sustainable procurement duty.
- (3) However, a contracting authority must not do anything in pursuance of subsection (2) that would conflict with its duty under subsection (1).
- [^{F1}(4) A relevant economic operator is an economic operator who is a national of, or is established in, the United Kingdom or Gibraltar.]
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to [^{F2}a higher value regulated procurement].

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 8(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(2)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F2** Words in s. 8(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(3)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 8(1)(4)(5) in force at 18.4.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/30](#), **art. 3** (with art. 5)
- I2** S. 8(2)(3) in force at 1.6.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/30](#), **art. 4** (with art. 5)

Status: Point in time view as at 15/02/2024.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Cross Heading: General duties. (See end of Document for details)

9 Sustainable procurement duty

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, the sustainable procurement duty is the duty of a contracting authority—
 - (a) before carrying out a regulated procurement, to consider how in conducting the procurement process it can—
 - (i) improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the authority's area,
 - (ii) facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses in the process, and
 - (iii) promote innovation, and
 - (b) in carrying out the procurement, to act with a view to securing such improvements identified as a result of paragraph (a)(i).
- (2) The contracting authority must consider under subsection (1) only matters that are relevant to what is proposed to be procured and, in doing so, consider the extent to which it is proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account.
- (3) In this section—

“small and medium enterprises” means businesses with not more than 250 employees,

“third sector bodies” means organisations (other than bodies established under an enactment) that exist wholly or mainly to provide benefits for society or the environment.
- (4) In this section, references to the wellbeing of the authority's area include, in particular, reducing inequality in the area.

Commencement Information

I3 S. 9 in force at 1.6.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/30](#), [art. 4](#) (with [art. 5](#))

10 Guidance on sustainable procurement duty

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may publish guidance on the sustainable procurement duty.
- (2) Contracting authorities must have regard to any guidance published under this section.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of any guidance published under this section before the Scottish Parliament.

Commencement Information

I4 S. 10 in force at 11.1.2016 by [S.S.I. 2015/411](#), [art. 3](#)

11 Supported businesses

- (1) Despite section 8, a contracting authority may restrict participation in a regulated procurement (other than [^{F3}a higher value regulated procurement]) to supported businesses only.

Status: Point in time view as at 15/02/2024.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Cross Heading: General duties. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) Where a contracting authority restricts participation under subsection (1), it must state that fact in the contract notice.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, a “supported business” is an economic operator who operates a supported business, [^{F4}or supported employment programme within the meaning of regulation 21] of the Public Contracts Regulations.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 11(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(3)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F4** Words in s. 11(3) substituted (18.4.2016) by [The Public Contracts \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/446\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 6 para. 2(3)** (with regs. 3-18, 99-101)

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 11 in force at 18.4.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/30](#), **art. 3** (with art. 5)

12 Contracts for health or social care services

- (1) Despite section 8, a contracting authority may award a contract for a health or social care service without seeking offers in relation to the proposed contract.
- (2) In relation to a regulated procurement where, by virtue of subsection (1), a contracting authority does not seek offers, section 23(1) does not apply.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision specifying what is a health or social care service for the purposes of subsection (1) and section 13(1).

Commencement Information

- I6** S. 12 in force at 18.4.2016 by [S.S.I. 2016/30](#), **art. 3** (with art. 5)

13 Guidance on procurements for health or social care services

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must publish guidance on the carrying out of regulated procurements relating to contracts for health or social care services.
- (2) Contracting authorities must have regard to any guidance published under this section.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of any guidance published under this section before the Scottish Parliament.

Commencement Information

- I7** S. 13 in force at 11.1.2016 by [S.S.I. 2015/411](#), **art. 3**

14 Other circumstances in which contract can be awarded without competition

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify circumstances in which a contracting authority may, despite section 8, award a regulated contract without seeking offers in relation to the proposed contract.

Status: Point in time view as at 15/02/2024.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Cross Heading: General duties. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) In relation to a regulated procurement where, by virtue of regulations made under subsection (1), a contracting authority does not seek offers, section 23(1) does not apply.

Commencement Information

18 S. 14 in force at 18.4.2016 by S.S.I. 2016/30, art. 3 (with art. 5)

Status:

Point in time view as at 15/02/2024.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, Cross Heading: General duties.