

SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2016 No. 49

The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016

PART 1 **S**

GENERAL

CHAPTER 1 **S**

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT, EXTENT, DEFINITIONS AND SUBJECT-MATTER

Citation, commencement and extent **S**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

Commencement

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), these Regulations come into force on 18th April 2016.

(3) Regulation 38(1) to (7) (rules applicable to communication) comes into force—

- (a) for the purposes of regulations 50 (dynamic purchasing systems), 51 (electronic auctions), 52 (electronic catalogues), 61 (communication of technical specifications), 69(1) (form and manner of sending notices for publication at EU level) and 71 (electronic availability of procurement documents) on 18th April 2016;
- (b) for the purposes of regulation 53(6) (centralised purchasing activities and central purchasing bodies) on 18th April 2017; and
- (c) for all other purposes on 18th October 2018.

(4) Regulation 53(6) (centralised purchasing activities and central purchasing bodies) comes into force on 18th April 2017.

Extent

(5) These Regulations extend to Scotland only.

Commencement Information

II [Reg. 1](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Interpretation **S**

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“accelerated open procedure” means an open procedure in which the utility has exercised the power conferred by regulation 43(5) (open procedure) to fix a time limit for the receipt of tenders which is shorter than the minimum specified in regulation 43(3) (open procedure);

“ancillary purchasing activity” means activity consisting of the provision of support to a purchasing activity, in particular in any of the following forms—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) technical infrastructure enabling a utility to award a contract or to conclude a framework agreement for works, supplies or services;
- (b) advice on the conduct or design of procurement;
- (c) preparation and management of procurement for and on behalf of the utility concerned;

“buyer profile” means a page on the internet set up by a utility containing one or more of the following: periodic indicative notices, information on on-going invitations to tender, prospective and concluded contracts, cancelled procedures and any useful general information such as a contact point, telephone number, facsimile number, postal address or e-mail address;

“body governed by public law” means a body that has legal personality, is established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, and which—

- (a) is financed for the most part by the State, regional or local authorities, or by any other body governed by public law;
- (b) is subject to management supervision by any such authority or body; or
- (c) has an administrative, managerial or supervisory board more than half the members of which were appointed by any body referred to in sub-paragraph (a);

“call for competition” means a call for competition made in a manner permitted by regulation 42(5) (choice of procedures) or, where relevant, one of the notices referred to in regulation 89(1) (publication of notices) or a contest notice;

“candidate” means an economic operator that has sought an invitation or has been invited to take part in—

- (a) a restricted procedure;
- (b) a negotiated procedure with prior call for competition;
- (c) a negotiated procedure without prior call for competition;
- (d) a competitive dialogue procedure; or
- (e) an innovation partnership;

“central purchasing body” means a utility or contracting authority which provides one or more centralised purchasing activities whether or not including an ancillary purchasing activity;

“centralised purchasing activity” means activity conducted on a permanent basis in one of the following forms—

- (a) the acquisition of supplies or services intended for a utility;
- (b) the award of contracts or the conclusion of framework agreements for works, supplies or services intended for a utility;

“commenced”, in relation to procurement, except where otherwise provided, means—

- (a) where a contract notice has been [^{F1}submitted to the UK e-notification service] in order to invite offers or requests to be selected to tender for or to negotiate, or be selected to participate in a dialogue in relation to a contract, in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) where a periodic indicative notice has been [^{F1}submitted to the UK e-notification service], in which case the contract award procedure that has commenced is the procedure for the award of any proposed contract the intention to award which was indicated in the notice, but only if the requirements in regulation 65(3)(a) or (b) (periodic indicative notices) are satisfied;

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) where the utility has dispatched any form of advertisement seeking offers or expressions of interest in the proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- (d) in any case where there is no such advertising, where the utility has contacted any economic operator—
 - (i) in order to seek expressions of interest or offers in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
 - (ii) in response to an unsolicited expression of interest or offer in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
- (e) where the utility has ^{F2}submitted a notice to the UK e-notification service] in order to hold a design contest;

F3
...

“common technical specification” means a technical specification in the field of information and communication technology laid down in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European standardisation ^{F4}as it has effect in EU law], amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council(1) as amended from time to time;

“concession contract” means a “works concession” or “services concession” as defined in paragraph (1) of Article 5 of the Concession Contracts Directive and which includes the transfer of an operating risk as set out in that paragraph;

“Concession Contracts Directive” means Directive 2014/23/EU of the European Parliament and Council on the award of concession contracts(2);

“contest notice” means the notice referred to in regulation 92(1) (notices);

“contract”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), and except where otherwise provided, means any works, ^{F5}supply or service] contract for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between one or more economic operators and one or more utilities;

“contract notice”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means the notice referred to in regulation 67 (contract notices) or, where relevant, 89(1)(a) (publication of notices);

“contracting authority” means the State, a regional or local authority, a body governed by public law or an association formed by one or more such authorities or bodies;

^{F6}“covered by regulation 3(2)”, in relation to an activity, an element, a part of a contract or a procurement, means that regulation 3(2)—

- (a) applies to that activity, element, part or procurement, or
- (b) would do so if these Regulations applied.]

“CPV” means the Common Procurement Vocabulary as adopted by Regulation (EC) No. 2195/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Procurement Vocabulary(3) as amended from time to time and “CPV Code” shall be construed accordingly;

(1) OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p.1.
(2) OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p.1.
(3) OJ L 340, 16.12.2002, p.1.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

“Defence and Security Regulations” means the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011⁽⁴⁾;

“design contest”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means those procedures which enable a utility to acquire, mainly in the fields of town and country planning, architecture, engineering or data processing, a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes;

“disabled”, in relation to a person, means a disabled person within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010⁽⁵⁾ and, in relation to a worker, means a disabled person who is a worker;

“dynamic purchasing system”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means the system referred to in regulation 50 (dynamic purchasing systems);

“economic operator”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means a person or a utility, or a group of such persons or utilities or both, including any temporary associations of undertakings, which offers the execution of works or a work, the supply of products or the provision of services on the market;

[^{F7}“eIDAS Regulation” means Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market;

“electronic document” has the meaning given in Article 3(35) of the eIDAS Regulation;]

“electronic means” means electronic equipment for the processing (including digital compression) and storage of data which is transmitted, conveyed and received by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic means;

[^{F8}“electronic signature” has the meaning given in Article 3(10) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the eIDAS Regulation;]

^{F9}
...

“European standard” means a standard adopted by a European standardisation organisation and made available to the general public;

“European Technical Assessment” means the documented assessment of the performance of a construction product, in relation to its essential characteristics, in accordance with the relevant European Assessment Document as defined in point 12 of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council [Directive 89/106/EEC](#)⁽⁶⁾ as amended from time to time;

^{F10}
...

“financial year” except where the context otherwise requires, means the period of 12 months ending on the date in any year in respect of which the accounts of a utility are prepared;

“framework agreement”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means an agreement between one or more utilities and one or more economic operators, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular, terms with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged;

(4) [S.I. 2011/1848](#), amended by [S.S.I. 2012/88](#), [S.S.I. 2012/89](#), [S.I. 2015/102](#) and [S.S.I. 2015/446](#).

(5) [2010 c.15](#).

(6) [OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p.5](#), last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 574/2014 ([OJ L 159, 28.5.2014, p.41](#)).

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

“GPA” means the Agreement on Government Procurement [^{F11}signed at Marrakesh on 15th April 1994, as amended on or before [^{F12}30 October 2023]](7);

[^{F13}“GPA party” means any country, state or separate customs territory that is—

- (a) listed in Schedule A1 (parties to the GPA); or
- (b) a member State of the EU;]

“innovation” means the implementation of a new or significantly improved product, service or process, including but not limited to production, building or construction processes, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations including with the purpose of helping to solve societal challenges or to support ^{F14}... sustainable and inclusive growth;

“international standard” means a standard adopted by an international standardisation organisation and made available to the general public;

^{F15} ...

“label” means any document, certificate or attestation confirming that the works, products, services, processes or procedures in question meet certain requirements;

“label requirements” means the requirements to be met by the works, products, services, processes or procedures in question in order to obtain the label concerned;

“life cycle” means all stages which are consecutive or interlinked, or both, including research and development to be carried out, production, trading and its conditions, transport, use and maintenance, throughout the existence of the product or the works or the provision of the service, from raw material acquisition or generation of resources to disposal, clearance and end of service or utilisation;

“main contractor” means an economic operator to which a utility has awarded a contract or framework agreement;

“national standard” means a standard adopted by a national standardisation organisation and made available to the general public;

^{F16} ...

“periodic indicative notice”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), means the notice referred to in regulation 65 (periodic indicative notices) ^{F17}...;

“procurement” means the process leading to the award of a contract or framework agreement or establishment of a dynamic purchasing system for the acquisition of works, supplies or services from an economic operator;

“procurement document” means a document produced or referred to by the utility to describe or determine elements of the procurement or the procedure, including the contract notice, the periodic indicative notice or the notices on the existence of a qualification system where they are used as a means of calling for competition, the technical specifications, the descriptive document, proposed conditions of contract, formats for the presentation of documents by candidates and tenderers, information on generally applicable obligations and any additional documents;

“Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations” means the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015(8);

(7) All the substantive provisions of the Agreement were substituted by the Protocol which was approved, on behalf of the EU, by Council [Decision 2014/115/EU](#) (OJ L 68, 7.3.2014, p.1), to which the text of the Protocol is attached (at OJ L 68, 7.3.2014, p.2). In accordance with Article 3 of the Protocol, the Protocol has entered into force in the EU.

(8) [S.S.I. 2015/446](#).

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F18}“the Retained Treaties” means anything which is retained EU law by virtue of section 4 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018^{F19} because of the effect which the Treaty on European Union or TFEU had immediately before IP completion day in giving rise to any of the rights, powers, liabilities, obligations, restrictions, remedies and procedures mentioned in that section,]

[^{F20}“qualified certificate for electronic signature” has the meaning given in Article 3(15) of the eIDAS Regulation;]

“selection criteria”, except in regulation 93 (rules on the organisation of design contests and the selection of participants and the jury), means selection criteria set out by the utility in accordance with regulations 76 (criteria for qualitative selection) or 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations);

“service contract” means a contract which has as its object the provision of services other than those referred to in the definition of “works contract”;

[^{F21}“SPD” means the standard procurement document referred to in regulation 60 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations,]

“standard” means a technical specification, adopted by a recognised standardisation body, for repeated or continuous application, with which compliance is not compulsory, and which is an international standard, a European standard or a national standard;

“supply contract” means a contract which has as its object the purchase, lease, rental or hire-purchase, with or without an option to buy, of products, whether or not the contract also includes, as an incidental matter, siting and installation operations;

“technical reference” means any deliverable produced by European standardisation bodies, other than European standards, according to procedures adapted to the development of market needs;

“technical specification” has the meaning given by regulation 58 (technical specifications);

“tenderer” means an economic operator that has submitted a tender;

“TFEU” means the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union⁽⁹⁾;

[^{F22}“the UK e-notification service” has the meaning mentioned in regulation 69(5), and references (in whatever terms) to the submission of notices to that service are to be construed in accordance with the provisions applied (and adapted) by regulation 69(5),]

“Utilities Contracts Directive” means [Directive 2014/25/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on procurement entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing [Directive 2004/17/EC](#)⁽¹⁰⁾;

“utility”, subject to regulation 111(6) (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), has the meaning given to it by regulation 4 (utilities);

“VAT” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994⁽¹¹⁾;

“a work” means the outcome of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole which is sufficient in itself to fulfil an economic or technical function;

“works” means activities within the meaning of Schedule 1 (activities constituting works) and activities related to these;

“working day” means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday in Scotland within the meaning of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971⁽¹²⁾;

(9) OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p.47.

(10) OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p.243.

(11) 1994 c.23.

(12) 1971 c.80.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

“works contract” means a contract which has as its object one of the following—

- (a) the execution, or both the design and execution, of works related to one of the activities specified in Schedule 1;
- (b) the execution, or both the design and execution, of a work;
- (c) the realisation by whatever means of a work corresponding to the requirements specified by the utility exercising decisive influence on the type or design of the work; and

“written” or “in writing” means any expression which can be read by a person, reproduced and subsequently communicated, including information transmitted and stored by electronic means.

^{F23}(2)

^{F23}(3)

(4) In these Regulations (except regulation 101(4) (enforcement of duties through the courts)), where these Regulations refer to a period of time—

- (a) where the period follows an action taken, the day on which the action takes place is not counted in the calculation of the period;
- (b) the period must include at least 2 working days; and
- (c) where the last day of the period is not a working day, the period is extended to include the next working day.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(i)(aa)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F2** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(i)(bb)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F3** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F4** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F5** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(2)**
- F6** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(iv)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F7** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) inserted (22.7.2016) by [The Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/696\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 3 para. 21(2)(a)**
- F8** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) inserted (22.7.2016) by [The Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/696\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 3 para. 21(2)(b)**
- F9** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(v)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F10** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(vi)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F11** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) substituted (11.6.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(2)(a)**
- F12** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) substituted (30.10.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/287\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(2)**
- F13** Words in [reg. 2\(1\)](#) inserted (11.6.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(2)(b)**

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F14** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(viii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F15** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(2)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F16** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(ix)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F17** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(2)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F18** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(x)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F19** 2018 c.16 (“the 2018 Act”). Section 4 of the 2018 Act was amended by section 25 of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement Act 2020 (c.1).
- F20** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (22.7.2016) by The Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/696), reg. 1, **Sch. 3 para. 21(2)(c)**
- F21** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(v)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F22** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(a)(xi)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F23** Reg. 2(2)(3) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(2)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I2** Reg. 2 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Subject-matter and application of these Regulations **S**

3.—(1) Parts 1 to 4 establish rules on the procedures for procurement for the award of a contract, or [^{F24}for the organisation] of a design contest, by a utility which—

- (a) has a value estimated to be not less than the threshold mentioned in regulation 15 (thresholds); and
- (b) is not excluded from the scope of Parts 1 to 4 by any other provision in Chapters 2 and 3 of this Part.

[^{F25}(2) Parts 1 to 4—

- (a) do not oblige the United Kingdom to supply information the disclosure of which it considers contrary to the essential interests of its security,
- (b) do not preclude the United Kingdom from taking such measures as it considers necessary for the protection of the essential interests of its security which are connected with the production of or trade in arms, munitions and war material, provided that such measures do not adversely affect the conditions of competition regarding products which are not intended for specifically military purposes.

(2A) The arms, munitions and war material to which paragraph (2)(b) applies are those included in the 1958 List.

(2B) Any measures which, if they had been taken immediately before IP completion day, would have been covered by Article 346 of the TFEU shall be regarded as measures covered by paragraph (2)(b).

(2C) In this regulation, “the 1958 List” means the list of arms, munitions and war material adopted by the Council of the European Economic Community in its Decision 255/58 of 15 April 1958 as that list is to be treated for the purpose of Parts 1 to 4 of the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016^{F26}.]

- (3) The scope of Parts 1 to 4 does not include non-economic services of general interest.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F24** Words in [reg. 3\(1\)](#) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(3)**
- F25** [Reg. 3\(2\)-\(2C\)](#) substituted for [reg. 3\(2\)](#) (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(3)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F26** [S.I. 2016/274](#), amended by [S.I. 2016/696](#).

Commencement Information

- I3** [Reg. 3](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Utilities **S**

4.—(1) For the purpose of these Regulations, a utility is a person which—

- (a) is a contracting authority or public undertaking and which pursues one of the activities referred to in regulations 8 to 14;
- (b) is not a contracting authority or public undertaking but whose activities include an activity referred to in regulations 8 to 14 which operate on the basis of special or exclusive rights granted by a competent authority.

(2) In this regulation, “public undertaking” means a person over which one or more contracting authorities are able to exercise, directly or indirectly, a dominant influence by virtue of one or more of the following—

- (a) their ownership of that person;
- (b) their financial participation in that person;
- (c) the rights accorded to them by the rules which govern that person.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), a contracting authority is considered to be able to exercise a dominant influence over a person in any one or more of the following cases where it, directly or indirectly—

- (a) possesses the majority of the undertaking’s subscribed capital;
- (b) controls the majority of the voting power attached to the issued share capital of that person;
- (c) can appoint—
 - (i) more than half of the individuals who are ultimately responsible for managing that person’s affairs;
 - (ii) more than half of its members; or
 - (iii) in the case of a group of individuals, more than half of those individuals.

(4) In this regulation, “special or exclusive rights” mean rights granted by a competent authority by way of any legislative, regulatory or administrative provision, the effect of which is to limit the exercise of activities specified in regulations 8 to 14 to one or more entities, and which substantially affects the ability of other entities to carry out such activity.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), rights do not constitute “special or exclusive rights” if they are granted by means of a procedure in which—

- (a) there was adequate publicity; and
- (b) the granting of those rights was based on objective criteria.

(6) The procedures referred to in paragraph (5) include—

- (a) procurement with a prior call for competition in accordance with—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) these Regulations or the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012(13);
 - (ii) the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations or the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012(14);
 - (iii) the Concession Contracts Directive; or
 - (iv) the Defence and Security Regulations; and
- (b) procedures in accordance with other legal acts of the EU as mentioned in Annex II of the Utilities Contracts Directive, as amended from time to time.

Commencement Information

14 Reg. 4 in force at 18.4.2016, see reg. 1(2)

Mixed procurement covering the same activity **S**

5.—(1) Where a procurement has as its subject different types of procurement all covering the same activity any part of which is covered by [F27 regulation 3(2)] or the Defence and Security Regulations, regulation 24 (mixed procurement covering the same activity and involving defence and security aspects) applies.

(2) Where a procurement has as its subject a mixed contract including works, supplies or services for the pursuit of a single activity covered by these Regulations, the application of these Regulations to the procurement is determined by that part of the contract that characterises the main subject of the contract in question.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), in the case of a mixed contract—

- (a) consisting partly of services of a kind referred to in Chapter 1 of Part 3 and partly of other services; or
- (b) consisting partly of supplies and partly of services,

the main subject shall be determined by reference to which of the respective supplies or services has the highest estimated value.

(4) Where a procurement has as its subject a mixed contract intended to cover a single activity but which includes different parts which are objectively separable and the procurement of which, if separate, would include matters that would be subject to the application of these Regulations and matters that would not, a utility may choose to award—

- (a) separate contracts for the separate parts; or
- (b) a single contract.

(5) Where a utility decides to award separate contracts under paragraph (4)(a) the application or otherwise of these Regulations to the procurement of each separate part shall be determined by reference to the characteristics of such part.

(6) Where a utility decides to award a single contract under paragraph (4)(b) these Regulations shall apply to the procurement of the single contract irrespective of the estimated value of any parts that, if separated, would not have been subject to the application of these Regulations.

(7) Where a single contract referred to in paragraph (4)(b) combines elements of works, supplies or service contracts together with a concession contract, the procurement shall be subject to the application of these Regulations where the estimated value of the part of the contract that would constitute a contract covered by these Regulations, calculated in accordance with regulation 16

(13) S.S.I. 2012/89.

(14) S.S.I. 2012/88.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(methods for calculating the estimated value), is equal to or greater than the applicable threshold determined in accordance with regulation 15 (thresholds).

(8) Where a mixed contract includes different parts which are objectively not separable the application or otherwise of these Regulations to the procurement of that contract shall be determined by reference to the main subject-matter of that contract.

Textual Amendments

F27 Words in [reg. 5\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(4\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 [Reg. 5](#) applied (31.12.2020) by [S.S.I. 2015/446](#), [reg. 4\(2\)](#) (as amended by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 4\(4\)\(b\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#)))

Commencement Information

I5 [Reg. 5](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Procurement covering several activities **S**

6.—(1) Where a procurement has as its subject a contract intended to cover several activities and includes an activity which is covered by [^{F28}regulation 3(2)] or the Defence and Security Regulations, regulation 25 (procurement covering several activities and involving defence and security aspects) applies.

(2) Where a procurement has as its subject a contract intended to cover several activities, a utility may decide to undertake procurement for the award of—

- (a) separate contracts for the separate activities; or
- (b) a single contract.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), the choice between awarding a single contract or a number of separate contracts must not be made with the objective of excluding any such contract from the scope of (where applicable)—

- (a) these Regulations;
- (b) the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations; or
- (c) the Concession Contracts Directive.

(4) Where a utility decides to award separate contracts under paragraph (2)(a), the application or otherwise of these Regulations to the procurement of each separate activity is determined by reference to the characteristics of such activity.

(5) Where a utility decides to award a single contract under paragraph (2)(b) the application of these Regulations to the procurement of the contract is determined by the activity for which the contract is principally intended.

(6) Where it is objectively impossible to determine for which activity the contract is principally intended pursuant to paragraph (5), the application of these Regulations to the procurement of the contract is determined in accordance with the following—

- (a) if one of the activities for which the contract is intended is subject to these Regulations and another is subject to the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations, the procurement of the contract is subject to the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations;

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) if one of the activities for which the contract is intended is subject to these Regulations and another is subject to the Concession Contracts Directive, the procurement of the contract is subject to these Regulations;
- (c) if one of the activities for which the contract is intended is subject to these Regulations and the other is not subject to these Regulations, the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations nor the Concession Contracts Directive, the procurement of the contract is subject to these Regulations.

Textual Amendments

F28 Words in [reg. 6\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(5\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 [Reg. 6](#) applied (31.12.2020) by [S.S.I. 2015/446](#), [reg. 4\(2\)](#) (as amended by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [4\(4\)\(b\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#)))

Commencement Information

I6 [Reg. 6](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

CHAPTER 2 **S**

ACTIVITIES

Common Provisions **S**

7.—(1) For the purposes of regulations 8 (gas and heat), 9 (electricity) and 10 (water), “supply” includes—

- (a) generation;
- (b) production, with the exception of the production of gas in the form of extraction; and
- (c) wholesale and retail sale.

(2) For the purposes of regulation 14 (extraction of oil and gas and exploration for, or extraction of, coal or other solid fuels) “supply” includes production of gas in the form of extraction.

Commencement Information

I7 [Reg. 7](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Gas and heat **S**

8.—(1) In the case of gas and heat, these Regulations apply to the following activities—

- (a) the provision or operation of fixed networks intended to provide a service to the public in connection with the production, transport or distribution of gas or heat;
- (b) the supply of gas or heat to such networks.

(2) The supply, by a utility which is not a contracting authority, of gas or heat to fixed networks which provide a service to the public shall not be considered an activity within the meaning of paragraph (1) where—

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the production of gas or heat by that utility is the unavoidable consequence of carrying out an activity other than one referred to in paragraph (1) or in regulations 9 to 11; and
- (b) the supply to the public network is aimed only at the economic exploitation of such production and amounts to not more than 20% of the utility's turnover, calculated on the basis of the average for the preceding 3 years, including the current year.

Commencement Information

18 Reg. 8 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Electricity **S**

9.—(1) In the case of electricity, these Regulations apply to the following activities—

- (a) the provision or operation of fixed networks intended to provide a service to the public in connection with the production, transport or distribution of electricity;
- (b) the supply of electricity to such networks.

(2) The supply, by a utility other than one which is a contracting authority, of electricity to fixed networks which provide a service to the public shall not be considered an activity within the meaning of paragraph (1) where—

- (a) the production of electricity by that utility takes place because its consumption is necessary for carrying out an activity other than one referred to in paragraph (1) or regulations 8 (gas and heat), 10 (water) or 11 (transport services); and
- (b) the supply to the public network depends only on that utility's own consumption and has not exceeded 30% of that utility's total production of energy, calculated on the basis of the average for the preceding 3 years, including the current year.

Commencement Information

19 Reg. 9 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Water **S**

10.—(1) In the case of water, these Regulations apply to the following activities—

- (a) the provision or operation of fixed networks intended to provide a service to the public in connection with the production, transport or distribution of drinking water;
- (b) the supply of drinking water to such networks.

(2) These Regulations also apply to procurement for the award of a contract or design contest by a utility which pursues an activity referred to in paragraph (1) and which is connected with any of the following—

- (a) hydraulic engineering projects, irrigation or land drainage, provided that the volume of water to be used for the supply of drinking water represents more than 20% of the total volume of water made available by such projects or irrigation or drainage installations;
- (b) the disposal or treatment of sewage.

(3) The supply, by a utility other than one which is a contracting authority, of drinking water to fixed networks which provide a service to the public shall not be considered an activity within the meaning of paragraph (1) where—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the production of drinking water by that utility takes place because its consumption is necessary for carrying out an activity other than one referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) or regulation 8, 9 or 11; and
- (b) the supply to the public network depends only on that utility's own consumption and has not exceeded 30% of that utility's total production of drinking water, on the basis of the average for the preceding 3 years, including the current year.

Commencement Information

I10 [Reg. 10](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Transport services **S**

11.—(1) These Regulations apply to activities relating to the provision or operation of networks providing a service to the public in the field of transport by—

- (a) railway;
- (b) automated systems;
- (c) tramway;
- (d) trolley bus;
- (e) bus; or
- (f) cable.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a network shall be considered to exist where the service is provided under operating conditions laid down by a competent authority, such as—

- (a) conditions on the routes to be served;
- (b) the capacity to be made available; or
- (c) the frequency of the service.

Commencement Information

I11 [Reg. 11](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Ports and airports **S**

12. These Regulations apply to activities relating to the exploitation of a geographical area for the purpose of the provision of any of the following—

- (a) airports;
- (b) maritime ports;
- (c) inland ports;
- (d) other terminal facilities to carriers by air, sea or inland waterway.

Commencement Information

I12 [Reg. 12](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Postal services **S**

13.—(1) These Regulations apply to activities relating to the provision of any of the following—

- (a) postal services;
- (b) services other than postal services, on condition that such services are provided by an entity which also provides postal services which are not directly exposed to competition within the meaning of regulation 32(2) (activities directly exposed to competition).

(2) In this regulation—

“postal item” means an item addressed in the final form in which it is to be carried, irrespective of weight, which includes—

- (a) correspondence;
- (b) books;
- (c) catalogues;
- (d) newspapers;
- (e) periodicals; and
- (f) postal packages containing merchandise with or without commercial value;

“postal services” means services consisting of the clearance, sorting, routing and delivery of postal items, including both services falling within as well as services falling outside the scope of the universal service set up in accordance with the Postal Services Act 2011(15); and

“services other than postal services” means services provided in the following areas—

- (a) mail service management services (services both preceding and subsequent to despatch, including mailroom management services);
- (b) services concerning items for post not included in the definition of “postal item” in this paragraph, such as direct mail bearing no address.

Commencement Information

I13 Reg. 13 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Extraction of oil and gas and exploration for, or extraction of, coal or other solid fuels **S**

14. These Regulations apply to activities relating to the exploitation of a geographical area for the purpose of—

- (a) extracting oil or gas;
- (b) extracting coal or other solid fuels;
- (c) exploring for coal or other solid fuels.

Commencement Information

I14 Reg. 14 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

CHAPTER 3 S

MATERIAL SCOPE

SECTION 1

Thresholds

Thresholds S

15.—(1) These Regulations apply to a procurement where the estimated value of the contract to be awarded (^{F29}inclusive of VAT, where appropriate) is equal to or greater than—

- (a) in the case of a supply or service contract or design contest, ^{F30}£426,955];
- (b) in the case of a works contract, ^{F31}£5,336,937];
- (c) in the case of a contract for a service listed in Schedule 2 (social and other specified services), ^{F32}£884,720].

(2) Where proposed works, acquisition of supplies or provision of services may be procured in the form of separate lots these Regulations do not apply to the award of a contract for a lot where—

- (a) the estimated value of that lot is less than—
 - (i) ^{F33}£70,778], in the case of supplies or services; or
 - (ii) ^{F34}£884,720], in the case of works; and
- (b) the estimated total aggregate value of all such lots to be awarded without application of these Regulations does not exceed 20% of the estimated aggregate value of all the lots calculated in accordance with ^{F35}regulation 16(1)(a)] (methods for calculating the estimated value).

^{F36}(2A) For the avoidance of doubt, in determining for the purpose of paragraph (2)(b) the estimated aggregate value of all the lots, no account is to be taken of any lot if its estimated value is taken to be a certain amount by virtue of regulation 16(1)(b) (rather than being an amount calculated in accordance with regulation 16(1)(a).]

^{F37}(3)

(4) In this regulation reference to a “contract” includes reference to a framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system and design contest.

Textual Amendments

- F29** Words in reg. 15(1) substituted (1.1.2022) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds etc.) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/378), regs. 1(2), 4(2)(a) (with reg. 6)
- F30** Sum in reg. 15(1)(a) substituted (1.1.2022) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds etc.) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/378), regs. 1(2), 4(2)(b) (with reg. 6)
- F31** Sum in reg. 15(1)(b) substituted (1.1.2022) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds etc.) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/378), regs. 1(2), 4(2)(c) (with reg. 6)
- F32** Sum in reg. 15(1)(c) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), 6(6)(c) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F33** Sum in reg. 15(2)(a)(i) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), 6(6)(d)(i) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F34** Sum in reg. 15(2)(a)(ii) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(6)(d)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F35** Words in reg. 15(2)(b) substituted (30.5.2023) by The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(3)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F36** Reg. 15(2A) inserted (30.5.2023) by The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(3)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F37** Reg. 15(3) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(6)(e)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I15** Reg. 15 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

[^{F38}Review and amendment of certain thresholds] **S**

15A.—(1) Every two years the Scottish Ministers must review the thresholds specified in regulation 15(1)(a) and (b) (“the reviewable thresholds”) to verify whether they correspond with the thresholds established for those purposes in the GPA.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must do so by calculating the sterling value of each of the reviewable thresholds on the basis of the average daily value of sterling in terms of the special drawing rights mentioned in the GPA over a period of 24 months ending with 31 August.

(3) The Scottish Ministers must make that calculation using the applicable conversion rates in the monthly International Financial Statistics published from time to time by the International Monetary Fund.

(4) If the sterling value of a reviewable threshold so calculated differs from the sum for the time being set by regulation 15(1) in respect of that threshold, the Scottish Ministers must make regulations amending regulation 15(1) so as to substitute for that sum the sum equal to that value.

(5) Such regulations—

- (a) must be made and laid before the Scottish Parliament before 1 November following the end of the 24 month period covered by the review, and
- (b) must provide for the substitution to come into force on the following 1 January.

(6) The first review under this regulation must relate to the 24 month period ending with 31 August 2021.]

Textual Amendments

- F38** Reg. 15A inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(7)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

[^{F39}Estimating value] **S**

16.—(1) A utility must

[^{F40}(a)] calculate [^{F41}in accordance with the following paragraphs] the estimated value of a contract by reference to the total amount payable under it (regardless of the form of such payment), [^{F42}inclusive of VAT, where appropriate][^{F43}; or

(b) if it is not possible to calculate the estimated value of a contract, take its estimated value to be equal to the relevant threshold mentioned in regulation 15]

(2) The total amount payable includes the amount payable as a result of the exercise of any form of option and any renewal of the contract as explicitly set out in the procurement documents.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Where a utility provides for prizes or payments to candidates or tenderers it must take them into account when calculating the estimated value.
- (4) Where a utility is comprised of separate operational units the utility—
 - (a) may calculate the estimated value by reference to each such unit or certain category thereof where that unit or certain category thereof is independently responsible for its procurement; and
 - (b) must calculate the estimated value by reference to the total for all the operational units which are not so responsible.
- (5) A utility must not choose a method to be used to calculate the estimated value of a contract with the intention of excluding the contract from the application of these Regulations.
- (6) A utility must not sub-divide a contract with the effect of excluding the contract from the application of these Regulations unless such sub-division is justified by objective reasons.
- (7) The estimated value must be the value estimated at the moment at which the procurement is commenced.
- (8) In the case of a framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system the estimated value shall be the total estimated value of all of the contracts envisaged pursuant to and for the total term of the agreement or system.
- (9) In the case of an innovation partnership the estimated value shall be the total estimated value of the research and development activities to take place during all stages of the partnership together with the estimated value of works, supplies or services to be developed and delivered by the partner.
- (10) In the case of a works contract the estimated value shall include the total estimated value of any supplies and services that are necessary for executing the works and are to be provided by the utility to the contractor.
- (11) In the case of a works or service contract to be awarded in the form of separate lots, the estimated value shall be the total estimated value of all such lots.
- (12) In the case of a contract for supplies which may be awarded in the form of separate lots the estimated value shall be the total estimated value of all such lots and these Regulations apply to each lot accordingly where the aggregate value of the lots is equal to or greater than the relevant threshold referred to in regulation 15 (thresholds).
- (13) In the case of supply or service contracts which are regular in nature or which are intended to be renewed in a given period, the estimated value shall be calculated by reference to—
 - (a) the total actual value of contracts of the same type awarded during the period of 12 months or the financial year preceding the proposed award of a further contract but with adjustment of such value, where possible, to take account of the changes in quantity or value which the utility considers likely to occur during the period of 12 months following the award of the contract; or
 - (b) the total estimated value of the successive contracts awarded during the 12 months following the first delivery, or during the financial year.
- (14) In the case of a supply contract relating to the leasing, rental, hire or hire purchase of products the estimated value shall be—
 - (a) in the case of a fixed term contract for a period of less than or equal to 12 months, the total estimated value of the contract;
 - (b) in the case of a fixed term contract for a period of more than 12 months, the total value including the estimated residual value; and
 - (c) in the case of a contract without a fixed term or the term of which cannot be defined, the monthly value multiplied by 48.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(15) In the case of a service contract for a service of a kind mentioned herein, the estimated value shall be calculated by reference to—

- (a) for insurance services, the premium payable and any other form of remuneration;
- (b) for banking and other financial services, the fees, commissions payable, interest and any other form of remuneration; and
- (c) for design contracts, the fees, commissions payable and any other form of remuneration.

(16) In the case of a service contract which does not indicate a total price, the estimated value must be calculated by reference to—

- (a) in the case of a contract for a fixed term of less than or equal to 48 months, the total value of the contract for its full term; and
- (b) in the case of a contract for a term of more than 48 months or a contract without a fixed term, the monthly value multiplied by 48.

Textual Amendments

- F39** Reg. 16 heading substituted (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(4)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F40** Words in reg. 16(1) renumbered as reg. 16(1)(a) (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(4)(a)(i)** (with reg. 3)
- F41** Words in reg. 16(1)(a) inserted (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(4)(a)(ii)** (with reg. 3)
- F42** Words in reg. 16(1) substituted (1.1.2022) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Thresholds etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(S.S.I. 2021/378\)](#), regs. 1(2), **4(3)** (with reg. 6)
- F43** Reg. 16(1)(b) and word inserted (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(4)(a)(iii)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

- I16** Reg. 16 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

SECTION 2

Excluded contracts and design contests; special provisions for procurement involving defence and security aspects

SUB-SECTION 1

Exclusions applicable to all utilities and special exclusions for the water and energy sectors

Exclusion: Contracts awarded for the purpose of resale or lease to third parties S

17.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), these Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract for the purpose of resale or lease to third parties, provided that the utility enjoys no special or exclusive right to sell or lease the subject of such contracts and other entities are free to sell or lease the subject of such contracts under the same conditions as the utility.

^{F44}(2)

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply to procurement carried out by a central purchasing body in order to perform a centralised purchasing activity.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F44 Reg. 17(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(8)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I17 Reg. 17 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Contracts and design contests awarded or organised for purposes other than the pursuit of a covered activity or for the pursuit of such an activity ^{F45}outside the United Kingdom] **S**

18.—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or the organisation of a design contest by a utility—

- (a) for purposes other than the pursuit of its activities as described in regulations 8 to 14; or
- (b) for the pursuit of such activities ^{F46}outside the United Kingdom], in conditions not involving the physical use of a network or geographical area within the ^{F47}United Kingdom].

^{F48}(2)

Textual Amendments

- F45** Words in [reg. 18 heading](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(9)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F46** Words in [reg. 18\(1\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(9)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F47** Words in [reg. 18\(1\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(9)(b)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F48** Reg. 18(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(9)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I18 Reg. 18 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Contracts awarded and design contests organised pursuant to international rules **S**

19.—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or the organisation of a design contest which the utility is obliged to award or organise in accordance with a procurement which is established by—

- (a) an international agreement or any other legal instrument creating international law obligations, concluded in conformity with the ^{F49}Retained] Treaties, between the United Kingdom and one or more ^{F50}other] country or any part thereof and covering works, supplies or services intended for the joint implementation or exploitation of a project by its signatories; or
- (b) an international organisation.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or the organisation of a design contest which the utility undertakes or organises in accordance with procurement rules

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

provided by an international organisation or international financing institution where the contracts or design contests concerned are fully financed by that organisation or institution or are co-financed for the most part by that organisation or institution.

(3) This regulation does not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or the organisation of a design contest involving defence or security aspects which are awarded or organised pursuant to international rules.

Textual Amendments

F49 Word in reg. 19(1)(a) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(10)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F50 Word in reg. 19(1)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(10)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I19 Reg. 19 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Specific exclusions for service contracts **S**

20.—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a service contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system—

- (a) for the acquisition or rental, by whatever financial means, of land, existing buildings or other immovable property or of any estate, right, servitude or other interest in or over such land, buildings or property;
- (b) to an audio-visual or radio media service provider, for broadcasting time or programme provision;
- (c) for arbitration or conciliation services;
- (d) for any of the following legal services—
 - (i) legal representation of a client by a lawyer ^{F51}... in—
 - (aa) arbitration or conciliation proceedings held in [^{F52}the United Kingdom, another] country or before an international arbitration or conciliation instance; or
 - (bb) judicial proceedings before the courts, tribunals or public authorities of [^{F53}the United Kingdom or another] country or before international courts, tribunals or institutions;
 - (ii) legal advice given by a lawyer ^{F54}...—
 - (aa) in preparation of any proceedings referred to in paragraph (i); or
 - (bb) where there is a tangible indication and high probability that the matter to which the advice relates will become the subject of such proceedings;
 - (iii) document certification or authentication services which must be provided by a notary public;
 - (iv) legal services provided by trustees or appointed guardians or other legal services the providers of which are designated by a court or tribunal ^{F55}... or are designated by law to carry out specific tasks under the supervision of such tribunals or courts;
 - (v) other legal services which ^{F56}... are connected, even occasionally, with the exercise of official authority;

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (e) for financial services in connection with the issue, sale, purchase or transfer of securities or other financial instruments within the meaning of [Directive 2004/39/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments amending Council Directives [85/611/EEC](#) and [93/6/EEC](#) and [Directive 2000/12/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council [Directive 93/22/EEC](#)(**16**) as amended from time to time;
 - (f) for operations conducted with the European Financial Stability Facility or the European Stability Mechanism;
 - (g) for loans, whether or not in connection with the issue, sale, purchase or transfer of securities or other financial instruments;
 - (h) which is an employment contract;
 - (i) for civil defence, civil protection or danger prevention services that are provided by non-profit organisations or associations and which are specified under CPV Codes 75250000-3, 75251000-0, 75251100-1, 75251110-4, 75251120-7, 75252000-7, 75222000-8, 98113100-9 and 85143000-3 except patient transport ambulance services; or
 - (j) for public passenger transport services by rail or metro.
- (2) In this regulation—
- (a) “Audio-visual Media Services Directive” means [Directive 2010/13/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member States concerning the provision of audio-visual media services(**17**) as amended from time to time;
 - [^{F57}(b) “lawyer” means a person practising as an advocate, barrister or solicitor in any part of the United Kingdom or in Gibraltar;]
 - (c) “media service provider” has the meaning given by Article 1(1)(d) of the Audio-visual Media Services Directive; and
 - (d) “programme” has the meaning given by Article 1(1)(b) of the Audio-visual Media Services Directive but also includes radio programmes and radio programme materials, and “programme material” is to be construed accordingly.

Textual Amendments

- F51** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(i\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(i\)\(aa\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F52** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(i\)\(aa\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(i\)\(bb\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F53** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(i\)\(bb\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(i\)\(cc\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F54** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F55** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(iv\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

(16) OJ L 145, 30.4.2004, p.1.

(17) OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, p.1.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F56** Words in [reg. 20\(1\)\(d\)\(v\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(11\)\(a\)\(iv\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F57** [Reg. 20\(2\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(11\)\(b\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I20** [Reg. 20](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Service contracts awarded on the basis of an exclusive right **S**

21. These Regulations do not apply to procurement for a service contract to be awarded to a contracting authority or to an association of contracting authorities on the basis of an exclusive right which such authority or association of authorities enjoy pursuant to a law, regulation or published administrative provision which is compatible with [^{F58}anything which is retained EU law by virtue of section 4 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 because of the effect which the TFEU had immediately before IP completion day in giving rise to any of the powers, rights etc. mentioned in that section].

Textual Amendments

- F58** Words in [reg. 21](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(12\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I21** [Reg. 21](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Contracts awarded by certain utilities for the purchase of water and for the supply of energy or of fuels for the production of energy **S**

- 22.** These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract—
- (a) for the purchase of water by a utility engaged in one or both of the activities relating to drinking water referred to in regulation 10(1) (water);
 - (b) by a utility which is active in the energy sector by engaging in an activity referred to in regulation 8(1) (gas and heat), 9(1) (electricity) or 14 (extraction of oil and gas and exploration for, or extraction of, coal or other solid fuel) for the supply of—
 - (i) energy; or
 - (ii) fuels for the production of energy.

Commencement Information

- I22** [Reg. 22](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

SUB-SECTION 2

Procurement involving defence and security aspects

Defence and security **S**

23.—(1) These Regulations apply to procurement for the award of contracts and to design contests organised in the fields of defence and security, with the exception of procurement or design contests—

- (a) to which the Defence and Security Regulations apply; or
- (b) to which those Regulations do not apply pursuant to regulations 7 or 9 of those Regulations.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of contracts or design contests, not otherwise exempt by virtue of paragraph (1), to the extent that—

- (a) the protection of the essential security interests of the United Kingdom ^{F59}... cannot be guaranteed by less intrusive measures; or
- (b) the application of these Regulations would oblige the United Kingdom to supply information the disclosure of which it considers contrary to the essential interests of its security.

(3) These Regulations do not apply where—

- (a) the procurement and performance of the contract or design contest are classified as secret or must be accompanied by special security measures in accordance with the laws, regulations or administrative provisions in force in any part of the United Kingdom; and
- (b) the United Kingdom has determined that the protection of the essential interests concerned cannot be guaranteed by less intrusive measures.

(4) In this regulation reference to “less intrusive measures” includes, but is not limited to, imposing requirements aimed at protecting the confidential nature of information which the utility makes available in a contract award procedure as provided for in these Regulations.

Textual Amendments

F59 Words in [reg. 23\(2\)\(a\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(13)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I23 [Reg. 23](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Mixed procurement covering the same activity and involving defence and security aspects **S**

24.—(1) This regulation applies where a procurement has as its subject different types of procurement all covering the same activity, any part of which is covered by [^{F60}regulation 3(2)] or the Defence and Security Regulations.

(2) Where different parts of a given contract are objectively separable, a utility may decide to undertake procurement for the award of—

- (a) separate contracts for the separate parts; or
- (b) a single contract.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(3) Any decision to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract must not be made for the purpose of excluding the procurement from the application of these Regulations or the Defence and Security Regulations.

(4) Where a utility decides to undertake procurement for the award of separate contracts for separate parts the applicable law for the procurement of each separate part is to be determined by the characteristics of such part.

(5) Where a utility decides, in accordance with paragraph (6), to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract and—

(a) part of the contract is covered by [F61regulation 3(2)], the contract may be awarded without applying these Regulations; or

(b) part of the contract is covered by the Defence and Security Regulations, the procurement may be undertaken in accordance with those Regulations, in which event these Regulations will not apply to such procurement.

(6) A utility may only decide to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract of a kind referred to in paragraph (5) where—

(a) different parts of such a contract are not objectively separable; or

(b) such decision is justified by objective reasons.

(7) Paragraph (5)(b) is without prejudice to the thresholds and exclusions provided for by the Defence and Security Regulations.

(8) Paragraph (5)(a) applies to a mixed contract to which both paragraph (5)(a) and (5)(b) could otherwise apply.

Textual Amendments

F60 Words in reg. 24(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), 6(14) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F61 Words in reg. 24(5)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), 6(14) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I24 Reg. 24 in force at 18.4.2016, see reg. 1(2)

Procurement covering several activities and involving defence or security aspects **S**

25.—(1) This regulation applies where a procurement has as its subject a contract covering more than one activity, where one or more of those activities are covered by [F62regulation 3(2)] or the Defence and Security Regulations.

(2) A utility may decide to undertake procurement for the award of—

(a) separate contracts for the separate activities; or

(b) a single contract.

(3) Any decision to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract must not be made for the purpose of excluding the procurement from the application of these Regulations or the Defence and Security Regulations.

(4) Where a utility decides to undertake procurement for the award of separate contracts for separate activities the applicable law for the procurement of each separate activity will be determined by the characteristics of such activity.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(5) Where a utility decides, in accordance with paragraph (6), to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract and—

- (a) part of the contract is intended to cover an activity which is covered by [^{F63}regulation 3(2)], the contract may be awarded without applying these Regulations; or
- (b) part of the contract is intended to cover an activity which is covered by the Defence and Security Regulations, the procurement may be undertaken in accordance with those Regulations, in which event these Regulations do not apply to such procurement.

(6) A utility may only decide to undertake a procurement for the award of a single contract of a kind referred to in paragraph (5) where such decision is justified by objective reasons.

(7) Paragraph (5)(b) is without prejudice to the thresholds and exclusions provided for by the Defence and Security Regulations.

(8) Paragraph (5)(a) applies to a mixed contract to which both paragraph (5)(a) and (5)(b) could otherwise apply.

Textual Amendments

F62 Words in [reg. 25\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(15)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F63 Words in [reg. 25\(5\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(15)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I25 [Reg. 25](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Contracts and design contests involving defence and security aspects which are awarded or organised pursuant to international rules **S**

26.—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or to a design contest involving defence or security aspects which the utility is obliged to award or organise in accordance with a procurement which is established by—

- (a) an international agreement or arrangement, concluded in conformity with the [^{F64}Retained] Treaties, between the United Kingdom and one or more [^{F65}other] country or part thereof and covering works, supplies or services intended for the joint implementation or exploitation of a project by their signatories;
- (b) an international agreement or arrangement relating to the stationing of troops and concerning the undertakings of the United Kingdom or [^{F66}another] country; or
- (c) an international organisation.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or to the organisation of a design contest involving defence or security aspects which the utility carries out in accordance with procurement rules provided by an international organisation or international financing institution where the contract or design contest concerned is fully financed by that organisation or institution or is co-financed for the most part by such organisation or institution.

Textual Amendments

F64 Word in [reg. 26\(1\)\(a\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(16)(a)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F65** Word in reg. 26(1)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(16)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F66** Word in reg. 26(1)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(16)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I26** Reg. 26 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

SUB-SECTION 3

Special relations (cooperation, affiliated undertakings and joint ventures)

Exclusion: contracts between contracting authorities **S**

- 27.**—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract—
- (a) by a contracting authority to a controlled person;
 - (b) by a controlled person to a contracting authority which controls that person; or
 - (c) by a controlled person to another controlled person where both such persons are controlled by the same contracting authority.
- (2) For the purpose of this regulation, a person is a “controlled person” where—
- (a) the contracting authority exercises over that person control similar to that which it exercises over its own departments;
 - (b) the person carries out more than 80% of its activities in the performance of tasks entrusted to it by the authority or by other persons controlled by that authority; and
 - (c) no other person has direct private capital participation in the person with the exception of non-controlling and non-blocking forms of private capital participation required by any enactment, in conformity with the [^{F67}Retained] Treaties, which do not exert a decisive influence on the person being awarded the contract.
- (3) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(a) an authority shall be deemed to exercise control over a person similar to the control that it exercises over its own departments where—
- (a) it exercises a decisive influence over the strategic objectives and significant decisions of the person; or
 - (b) such control is exercised by another person which is itself controlled in the same way by the contracting authority.
- (4) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract by a contracting authority to a person which is jointly controlled.
- (5) For the purpose of paragraph (4) a person is jointly controlled where—
- (a) the contracting authority, jointly with other contracting authorities, exercises over that person control similar to that which the authorities exercise over their own departments;
 - (b) the person carries out more than 80% of its activities in the performance of tasks entrusted to it by the contracting authorities or by other persons controlled by those authorities; and
 - (c) no other person has direct private capital participation in the person with the exception of non-controlling and non-blocking forms of private capital participation required by any enactment, in conformity with the [^{F68}Retained] Treaties, which do not exert a decisive influence on the person being awarded the contract.
- (6) For the purpose of paragraph (5)(a) contracting authorities shall be deemed to exercise control over a person similar to the control that they exercise over their own departments where—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the decision making bodies of the person are composed of representatives of all participating contracting authorities;
 - (b) those contracting authorities jointly exercise a decisive influence over the strategic objectives and significant decisions of the person; and
 - (c) the person does not pursue any interests which are contrary to those of the contracting authorities.
- (7) For the purpose of paragraph (6)(a) individual representatives may represent several or all of the contracting authorities.
- (8) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract exclusively between two or more contracting authorities where—
- (a) the contract is for the purpose of establishing or implementing co-operation between those contracting authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;
 - (b) the implementation of that co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and
 - (c) the contracting authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned by the co-operation.
- (9) The percentage of activities referred to in paragraphs (2)(b), (5)(b) and (8)(c), shall be determined by reference to—
- (a) the average turnover of the person or, as the case may be, contracting authority for the period of 3 years preceding the date of the proposed contract award; or
 - (b) an appropriate alternative activity-based measure such as costs incurred by the relevant person or contracting authority with respect to works, supplies and services for such 3 year period.
- (10) Where paragraph (11) applies, an alternative credible measurement of activity shall be used and for this purpose use of business projections shall be treated as a credible measure.
- (11) This paragraph applies where the turnover or an appropriate activity-based measure is not available for the preceding 3 years or is no longer relevant because of—
- (a) the date on which the person or contracting authority was created or commenced activities; or
 - (b) a reorganisation of its activities.

Textual Amendments

- F67** Word in [reg. 27\(2\)\(c\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(17\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F68** Word in [reg. 27\(5\)\(c\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(17\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))

Commencement Information

- I27** [Reg. 27](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: contracts awarded to an affiliated undertaking **S**

28.—(1) Provided that the conditions in paragraphs (2) to (4) are met, these Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract—

- (a) by a utility to an affiliated undertaking; or

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) by a joint venture, formed exclusively by a number of utilities for the purpose of carrying out activities described in regulations 8 to 14, to an affiliated undertaking of one of its members.
- (2) The conditions are that:—
- (a) in respect of service contracts, at least 80% of the average total turnover of the affiliated undertaking over the preceding 3 years, taking into account all services provided by that undertaking, derives from the provision of services to the utility or one or more of the utility’s affiliated undertakings;
- (b) in respect of supply contracts, at least 80% of the average total turnover of the affiliated undertaking over the preceding 3 years, taking into account all supplies provided by that undertaking, derives from the provision of supplies to the utility or one or more of the utility’s affiliated undertakings;
- (c) in respect of works contracts, at least 80% of the average total turnover of the affiliated undertaking over the preceding 3 years, taking into account all works provided by that undertaking, derives from the provision of works to the utility or one or more of the utility’s affiliated undertakings.
- (3) Where the turnover referred to in paragraph (2) is not available for the preceding 3 years because of the date on which an affiliated undertaking was created or commenced activities an alternative credible measurement of turnover shall be used for paragraph (2) and for this purpose use of business projections shall be treated as a credible measure.
- (4) Where more than one affiliated undertaking of a utility form an economic group and provide the same or similar works, supplies or services, the percentages referred to in paragraph (2) shall be calculated taking into account the total turnover deriving respectively from the provision of works, supplies or services by those affiliated undertakings.
- (5) In this regulation, “affiliated undertaking” means—
- (a) [^{F69}any undertaking the annual accounts of which are consolidated with those of the utility in accordance with the requirements of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006]^{F70}; or
- (b) in the case of an undertaking which is not subject to that [^{F71}Part], any undertaking that—
- (i) may be, directly or indirectly, subject to a dominant influence by the utility;
- (ii) may exercise a dominant influence over the utility; or
- (iii) in common with the utility, is subject to the dominant influence of another undertaking by virtue of ownership, financial participation or the rules which govern it.
- (6) For the purposes of paragraph (5)(b), a dominant influence has the same meaning as in regulation 4(3) (utilities).
- (7) This regulation applies despite the provisions of regulation 27 (exclusions: contracts between contracting authorities).

Textual Amendments

F69 Reg. 28(5)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(18)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F70 2006 c.46.

F71 Word in reg. 28(5)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(18)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I28 [Reg. 28](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Exclusion: Contracts awarded to a joint venture or to a utility forming part of a joint venture **S**

29.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), these Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract—

- (a) by a joint venture, formed exclusively by a number of utilities for the purpose of carrying out activities within the meaning of regulations 8 to 14, to one of those utilities; or
- (b) by a utility to such a joint venture of which it forms part.

(2) The joint venture must have been set up in order to carry out the activity concerned over a period of at least 3 years and the instrument setting up the joint venture must stipulate that the utilities which form it will be part of the joint venture for at least the same period.

(3) This regulation applies despite the provisions of regulation 27 (exclusions: contracts between contracting authorities).

Commencement Information

I29 [Reg. 29](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Notification of information **S**

^{F72}**30.**

Textual Amendments

F72 [Reg. 30](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(19\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

SUB-SECTION 4

Specific situations

Research and development services **S**

31. These Regulations only apply to procurement for the award of service contracts for research and development services which are covered by CPV Codes 73000000-2 to 73120000-9, 73300000-5, 73420000-2 and 73430000-5 provided that—

- (a) the benefits accrue exclusively to the utility for use in the conduct of its own affairs; and
- (b) the service provided is wholly remunerated by the utility.

Commencement Information

I30 [Reg. 31](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

SUB-SECTION 5

Activities directly exposed to competition and related procedural provisions

Activities directly exposed to competition **S**

32.—(1) These Regulations do not apply to procurement for the award of a contract or a design contest intended to enable an activity mentioned in regulations 8 to 14 to be carried out where that activity is directly exposed to competition on markets to which access is not restricted.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the activity is directly exposed to competition on markets to which access is not restricted only if—

(a) the activity is covered by the following Commission decisions—

- (i) Commission Decision 2006/211/EC establishing that Article 30(1) of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors applies to electricity generation in England, Scotland and Wales (notified under document number C(2006) 690)(18);
- (ii) Commission Decision 2007/141/EC establishing that Article 30(1) of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors applies to the supply of electricity and gas in England, Scotland and Wales (notified under document number C(2007) 559)(19); and
- (iii) Commission Decision 2010/192/EU exempting exploration for and exploitation of oil and gas in England, Scotland and Wales from the application of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors (notified under document C(2010) 1920)(20);^{F73}...

^{F73}(b)

(3) The activity referred to in paragraph (1) may form a part of a larger sector or be exercised only in certain parts of the United Kingdom.

<p>Textual Amendments</p> <p>F73 Reg. 32(2)(b) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), 6(20) (with sch. paras. 1-5)</p> <hr/> <p>Commencement Information</p> <p>I31 Reg. 32 in force at 18.4.2016, see reg. 1(2)</p>

Procedure for establishing whether regulation 32(2)(b) is applicable **S**

^{F74}33.

(18) OJ L 76, 15.3.2006, p.6.
(19) OJ L 62, 1.3.2007, p.23.
(20) OJ L 84, 31.3.2010, p.52.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F74 Reg. 33 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(21)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

CHAPTER 4 **S**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Principles of procurement **S**

34.—(1) A utility must, in carrying out any procurement or design contest which is subject to the application of these Regulations—

- (a) treat economic operators equally and without discrimination; and
- (b) act in a transparent and proportionate manner.

(2) A utility must not design a procurement or design contest with the intention of excluding it from the application of these Regulations or of artificially narrowing competition.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality thereof, competition shall be deemed to be artificially narrowed for the purpose of paragraph (2) where the design of the procurement or design contest is made with the intention of unduly favouring or disadvantaging any particular economic operator.

(4) A utility must include in each contract or framework agreement such conditions relating to the performance of the contract or framework as meet the requirements mentioned in paragraph (5) and are reasonably necessary to ensure that the economic operator complies with environmental, social and employment law, including any relevant collective agreements ^{F75}....

(5) The requirements referred to in paragraph (4) are that the conditions are—

- (a) linked to the subject matter of the contract or framework within the meaning of regulation 84 (conditions for performance of contracts); and
- (b) indicated in the call for competition or in the procurement documents.

Textual Amendments

F75 Words in [reg. 34\(4\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(22)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I32 Reg. 34 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Economic operators **S**

35.—^{F76}(1)

(2) Where paragraph (3) applies, a utility may require an economic operator to state, in its tender or request to participate, the names and relevant professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the performance of the contract.

(3) This paragraph applies where an economic operator which is a legal person is seeking the award of—

- (a) a works contract;
- (b) a supply contract which includes services or siting and installation operations; or

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(c) a [^{F77}service] contract.

(4) A utility must not require a group of economic operators, including temporary associations, to have a specific legal form in order to be able to submit a tender or a request to participate.

(5) A utility may specify in the procurement documents the method by which a group of economic operators is to meet the requirements for qualification and qualitative selection referred to in regulations 75 to 79.

(6) Any method specified as referred to in paragraph (5) must be justified by objective reasons and must be proportionate.

(7) Any conditions for the performance of a contract by a group of economic operators, which are different from those imposed upon individual participants, must be justified by objective reasons and must be proportionate.

(8) A utility may, if it is necessary for the satisfactory performance of the contract, require a group of economic operators to assume a specific legal form for the purpose of the award of the contract.

(9) In this regulation reference to a “contract” includes reference to a framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system and design contest.

Textual Amendments

F76 Reg. 35(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(23)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F77 Word in reg. 35(3)(c) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(4)**

Commencement Information

I33 Reg. 35 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Reserved contracts **S**

36.—(1) A utility may—

- (a) reserve the right to participate in procurement for the award of a contract or framework agreement to a supported business; or
- (b) provide for such a contract or framework agreement to be performed in the context of a supported employment programme.

(2) Where a utility is following the approach set out in paragraph (1), it must specify that fact in the call for competition and refer to [^{F78}this regulation].

(3) In this regulation—

“supported business” means an economic operator whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons and where at least 30% of the employees of the economic operator are disabled or disadvantaged persons; and

“supported employment programme” means an employment programme operated by an economic operator the main aim of which is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons and where at least 30% of those engaged in the programme are disabled or disadvantaged persons.

Textual Amendments

F78 Words in [reg. 36\(2\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(24)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I34 Reg. 36 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Confidentiality **S**

37.—(1) A utility must not disclose information forwarded to it by an economic operator which the economic operator has designated as confidential, including, but not limited to, technical or trade secrets and the confidential aspects of tenders.

(2) Paragraph (1) is without prejudice to—

- (a) any other provision of these Regulations, including the obligation relating to advertising of awarded contracts and to provision of information to candidates and tenderers set out in regulations 68 (contract award notices) and 73 (informing applicants for qualification, candidates and tenderers);
- (b) the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002⁽²¹⁾;
- (c) the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004⁽²²⁾; and
- (d) any other enactment to which the entity is subject relating to the disclosure of information.

(3) A utility may impose upon an economic operator requirements aimed at protecting the confidential nature of information which the utility makes available throughout the procurement.

Commencement Information

I35 Reg. 37 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Rules applicable to communication **S**

38.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (3), (5) and (8), a utility must ensure that all communication and information exchange, including submission, pursuant to these Regulations is performed using electronic means of communication in accordance with this regulation.

(2) Subject to paragraph (13), the tools and devices to be used for electronic means of communication, and their technical characteristics, must—

- (a) be non-discriminatory;
- (b) be generally available;
- (c) be interoperable with the information and communication technology products in general use; and
- (d) not restrict economic operators' access to the procurement.

(3) A utility is not obliged to require electronic means of communication in the submission process where—

- (a) due to the specialised nature of the procurement, the use of electronic means of communication would require specific tools, devices or file formats that are not generally available or supported by generally available applications;
- (b) the applications supporting file formats that are suitable for the description of the tenders use file formats that cannot be handled by any other open or generally available applications or are under a proprietary licencing scheme and cannot be made available by the utility for downloading or remote use;

⁽²¹⁾ 2002 asp 13.

⁽²²⁾ S.S.I. 2004/520, amended by the Environmental Information (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013, S.S.I. 2013/127.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) the use of electronic means of communication would require specialised office equipment that is not generally available to a utility; or
 - (d) the procurement documents require the submission of physical or scale models which cannot be transmitted using electronic means.
- (4) Where, in accordance with paragraph (3), electronic means of communication is not required, communication must be carried out—
- (a) by post or by other suitable carrier; or
 - (b) by a combination of post or other suitable carrier and, to the extent that electronic means of communication is possible, by such means.
- (5) A utility is not obliged to require electronic means of communication in the submission process to the extent that the use of means of communication other than electronic means is necessary—
- (a) because of a breach of security of the electronic means of communication; or
 - (b) for the protection of information of a particularly sensitive nature which requires such a high level of protection that it cannot properly be ensured by using electronic tools and devices that are either generally available to economic operators or that can be made available to them by suitable alternative means of access in accordance with paragraph (14).
- (6) Where, in accordance with paragraph (3), a utility requires means of communication in the submission process other than electronic means, the utility must state the reason for this in the documentation referred to in regulation 96 (reporting and documentation requirements).
- (7) Where electronic means of communication is not required for a reason referred to in paragraph (5), the utility must state in the documentation referred to in regulation 96 (reporting and documentation requirements) the reasons why use of means of communication other than electronic means has been considered necessary under that paragraph.
- (8) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), oral communication may be used in respect of communications other than those concerning the essential elements of a procurement, provided that the content of the oral communication is documented by the utility.
- (9) For the purposes of paragraph (8) reference to “the essential elements of a procurement” includes the procurement documents, requests for participation, confirmations of interest and tenders.
- (10) A utility must, to a sufficient extent and by appropriate means, document oral communications with tenderers which could have a substantial impact on the content and assessment of the tenders, in particular, by preparing written or audio records or summaries of the main elements of the communication.
- (11) In all communication, exchange and storage of information, a utility must ensure that the integrity of data and the confidentiality of tenders and requests to participate are preserved.
- (12) A utility must examine the content of tenders and requests to participate only after the time limit set for submitting them has expired.
- (13) A utility may, where necessary, require the use of tools and devices which are not generally available, provided that the utility offers suitable alternative means of access.
- (14) A utility shall be deemed to offer suitable alternative means of access where the utility—
- (a) offers unrestricted and full direct access free of charge by electronic means to those tools and devices from the date of publication of the call for competition^{F79} ...;
 - (b) ensures that tenderers having no access to the tools and devices concerned, or no possibility of obtaining them within the relevant time limits (provided that the lack of access is not

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

attributable to the tenderer) may access the procurement through the use of provisional tokens made available free of charge online; or

(c) supports an alternative channel for electronic submission of tenders.

(15) For the purpose of paragraph (14)(a) “date of publication of the call for competition” means the date of publication [^{F80}on the UK e-notification service] after being [^{F81}submitted] in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F82}publication on the UK e-notification service]).

(16) A utility must specify in the call for competition ^{F83}..., referred to in paragraph (14)(a), the internet address at which those tools and devices are accessible.

(17) Tools and devices for the electronic receipt of tenders, requests to participate, applications for qualification and, in design contests, plans and projects, must—

- (a) enable the precise determination of the exact time and date of the receipt of tenders, requests to participate, applications for qualification and the submission of plans and projects;
- (b) to the extent reasonably possible, ensure that, before the time limit referred to in paragraph (12) has expired, no-one can have access to data transmitted to the utility using the tools and devices;
- (c) ensure that only authorised persons may set or change the dates for opening data received;
- (d) ensure that, during the various stages of the qualification procedure, the procurement or the design contest, only authorised persons may have access to data submitted or to part of such data;
- (e) ensure that only authorised persons may give access to data transmitted and only after the time limit referred to in paragraph (12) has expired;
- (f) ensure that data received and opened in accordance with the requirements in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) remains accessible only to persons authorised to acquaint themselves with the data; and
- (g) to the extent reasonably possible, ensure that any infringement, or attempted infringement, of the conditions referred to in sub-paragraphs (b) to (f) is clearly detectable.

(18) In addition to the requirements set out in paragraph (17), a utility must comply with all of the following requirements in relation to tools and devices for the electronic transmission and receipt of tenders and for the electronic receipt of requests to participate—

- (a) information on specifications for the electronic submission of tenders and requests to participate, including encryption and time-stamping, must be available to interested parties;
- (b) a utility must specify the level of security required for the electronic means of communication in the various stages of the specific procurement;
- (c) the level of security specified in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) must be proportionate to the risks attached;
- (d) where paragraph (19) applies, the utility must [^{F84}act in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014^{F85} (and for this purpose the submission of the tender or request is to be treated as the use of an online service to which that Regulation applies)].

(19) This paragraph applies where a utility concludes that the level of risk assessed in accordance with paragraphs (21) and (22) is such that advanced electronic signatures as defined by [^{F86}the eIDAS Regulation](**23**) as amended from time to time, are required.

(23) OJ L 13, 19.1.2000, p.12.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(20) A utility shall assess the certificate referred to in paragraph (18)(d) by taking into account whether the certificate is provided by a certificate services provider which is on a trusted list provided for in the Trusted Lists Commission Decision as amended from time to time.

(21) In deciding the level of security required at each stage of a procurement, and in concluding whether the level of risk is such that advanced electronic signatures are required, a utility must assess the risks having regard to—

- (a) the likelihood of particular risks materialising;
- (b) the potential adverse consequences if those risks materialise;
- (c) the need for consistency as between similar procurements performed by the same utility; and
- (d) the need for proportionality between the expected benefits of any particular security requirements (in terms of eliminating or reducing any of the risks referred to in paragraph (22)) and the costs, burdens and obligations which those requirements may impose upon an economic operator.

(22) A utility must assess all relevant risks, including, in particular, where applicable—

- (a) the risk to the proper functioning and integrity of the specific procurement process, including risks of breaching these Regulations;
- (b) risks to national security;
- (c) the risk of inadvertent or unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, any economic operator's confidential information;
- (d) the risk of inadvertent or unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, information held by the utility including information relating to the specific procurement;
- (e) the risk that use of electronic communications could provide opportunity for malicious attacks on the electronic systems of, or data held by, the utility, any economic operator or any other person, including introduction of malware or denial of service attacks; and
- (f) any other material risk relating to the procurement in question.

(23) Paragraph (24) applies where—

- (a) a competent authority of the United Kingdom located in Scotland; or
- (b) another issuing entity located in Scotland,

signs and issues a document for use in a procurement within the scope of [^{F87}these Regulations].

(24) The competent authority or issuing entity may establish the required advanced signature format [^{F88}in a format other than those referred to in Article 1 of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1506^{F89} laying down specification relating to formats of advanced electronic signatures and advanced seals to be recognised by public sector bodies], and where it does so—

- (a) it must put in place the necessary measures to be able to process that format technically by including the information required for the purpose of processing the signature in the document concerned; and
- (b) the documents must contain, in the electronic signature or in the electronic document carrier, information on existing validation possibilities that [^{F90}comply with the requirements of Article 2(1)(b) of that Decision (or would comply with those requirements if the person seeking to validate the signature were a public sector body for the purpose of that Decision)].

(25) In this regulation—

^{F91} ...

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

“Trusted Lists Commission Decision” means Commission [Decision 2009/767/EC](#) setting out measures facilitating the use of procedures by electronic means through the points of single contact under [Directive 2006/123/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on services in the internal market (notified under document C(2009) 7806)(24).

Textual Amendments

- F79** Words in [reg. 38\(14\)\(a\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(5\)\(a\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))
- F80** Words in [reg. 38\(15\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F81** Word in [reg. 38\(15\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F82** Words in [reg. 38\(15\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F83** Words in [reg. 38\(16\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(5\)\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))
- F84** Words in [reg. 38\(18\)\(d\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(b\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F85** EUR 2014/910 as amended by [S.I. 2019/89](#).
- F86** Words in [reg. 38\(19\)](#) substituted (22.7.2016) by [The Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/696\)](#), [reg. 1, Sch. 3 para. 21\(4\)](#)
- F87** Words in [reg. 38\(23\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(c\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F88** Words in [reg. 38\(24\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(d\)\(i\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F89** EUDN 2015/1506 as amended by [S.I. 2019/89](#).
- F90** Words in [reg. 38\(24\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F91** Words in [reg. 38\(25\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(25\)\(e\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))

Commencement Information

- I36** [Reg. 38\(8\)-\(25\)](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)
- I37** [Reg. 38\(1\)-\(7\)](#) in force at 18.4.2016 for specified purposes, see [reg. 1\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- I38** [Reg. 38\(1\)-\(7\)](#) in force at 18.4.2017 for specified purposes, see [reg. 1\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- I39** [Reg. 38\(1\)-\(7\)](#) in force at 18.10.2018 so far as not already in force, see [reg. 1\(3\)\(c\)](#)

[^{F92}Powers to amend regulation 38 **S**

38A.—(1) The Scottish Ministers may make regulations amending paragraph (3) of regulation 38 by—

- (a) omitting any of the situations described in that paragraph where the Scottish Ministers consider that technological developments render it inappropriate for that situation to continue to be an exception from the obligation to require electronic means of communication, or
- (b) inserting a description of a new situation where the Scottish Ministers consider that it should become a new exception because of technological developments.

(24) OJ L 274, 20.10.2009, p.36, last amended by Commission [Decision 2013/662/EU](#) (OJ L 306, 16.11.2013, p.21).

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(2) Where the Scottish Ministers consider that technological developments render it inappropriate for there to continue to be any exceptions from the obligation to require electronic means of communication, the Scottish Ministers may make regulations omitting paragraph (3) from regulation 38.

(3) Where regulations have been made under paragraph (2) and the Scottish Ministers consider that a new exception should be provided for because of technological developments, the Scottish Ministers may make regulations re-inserting paragraph (3) into regulation 38 in terms which give effect to that new exception (and the powers conferred by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this regulation may subsequently be exercised in relation to paragraph (3) as re-inserted).

(4) The Scottish Ministers may make regulations amending the technical details and characteristics set out in regulation 38(17) if the Scottish Ministers consider it appropriate to do so to take account of technical developments.]

Textual Amendments

F92 Reg. 38A inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(26)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Nomenclatures **S**

39. Any references to nomenclatures in the context of procurement must be made using the CPV.

Commencement Information

I40 Reg. 39 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Conflicts of interest **S**

40.—(1) A utility must take appropriate measures to prevent, identify and remedy conflicts of interest arising in the conduct of a procurement so as to avoid any distortion of competition and to ensure equal treatment of all economic operators.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality thereof, reference to “conflicts of interest” in paragraph (1) includes any situation where relevant staff members have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement.

(3) In paragraph (2)—

“relevant staff member” means staff members of the utility or of a procurement service provider acting on behalf of the utility, who are involved in the conduct of the procurement or may influence the outcome of that procedure; and

“procurement service provider” means a public or private body which offers an ancillary purchasing activity on the market.

Commencement Information

I41 Reg. 40 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

PART 2 **S**

RULES APPLICABLE TO CONTRACTS

CHAPTER 1 **S**

PROCEDURES

Conditions relating to ^{F93}international agreements by which the EU is bound, other than the GPA] **S**

^{F94}41.

Textual Amendments

- F93** Words in [reg. 41](#) heading substituted (11.6.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(3)(a)**
- F94** [Reg. 41](#) omitted (31.12.2021) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(4), **7(2)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 10-15)

^{F95}Conditions relating to the GPA **S**

41A.—(1) Where a utility within the meaning of regulation 4(1)(a) (utilities) is covered by Annex 3 to the United Kingdom’s Appendix 1 to the GPA in respect of a procurement that is covered by Annexes 4 to 7 to that Appendix, the utility must accord to the works, supplies, services and economic operators of any GPA party treatment no less favourable than the treatment accorded to the works, supplies, services and economic operators of the United Kingdom.]

Textual Amendments

- F95** [Reg. 41A](#) inserted (11.6.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(4)**

^{F96}Conditions relating to international agreements by which the United Kingdom is bound, other than the GPA **S**

41B.—(1) Where a relevant international trade agreement applies to a procurement, a utility within the meaning of regulation 4(1)(a) (utilities) must accord to the works, supplies, services and economic operators of the signatories to that agreement treatment no less favourable than the treatment accorded to the works, supplies, services and economic operators of the United Kingdom.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a relevant international trade agreement applies if the procurement is covered by an agreement listed in Schedule 2A (international trade agreements).]

Textual Amendments

- F96** [Reg. 41B](#) inserted (2.7.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(International Trade Agreements\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/787\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(2)**

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Choice of procedures **S**

42.—(1) When undertaking a procurement a utility must apply procedures that conform to these Regulations.

(2) A utility must apply one of the following procedures—

- (a) an open procedure;
- (b) a restricted procedure;
- (c) a negotiated procedure with a prior call for competition;
- (d) a competitive dialogue;
- (e) an innovation partnership;
- (f) a negotiated procedure without a prior call for competition.

(3) The procedures referred to in paragraph (2)(a) to (e) must include publication of a call for competition.

(4) The procedure referred to in paragraph (2)(f) does not require publication of a call for competition but it must only be used in one of the cases set out in regulation 48 (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition).

(5) A call for competition may be made by means of—

- ^{F97}(a)
- (b) a notice on the existence of a qualification system in accordance with regulation 66 (notices on the existence of a qualification system) but only where the contract is to be awarded following a restricted or negotiated procedure, competitive dialogue or innovation partnership; or
- (c) a contract notice in accordance with regulation 67 (contract notices).

^{F98}(6)

(7) Nothing in these Regulations prevents a utility which has commenced a procurement from terminating that procurement at any time.

Textual Amendments

F97 Reg. 42(5)(a) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(6)(a)** (with reg. 3)

F98 Reg. 42(6) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(6)(b)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I42 Reg. 42 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Open Procedure **S**

43.—(1) In an open procedure, a utility must permit any interested economic operator to submit a tender in response to a call for competition within the time period set by the utility in accordance with this regulation.

(2) The tender must be accompanied by the information for qualitative selection that is required by the utility.

(3) Subject to paragraphs (4) to (6), the minimum time period for the receipt of tenders shall be 35 days from the date on which the contract notice is [^{F99}submitted] for publication.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(4) Where a utility has published a periodic indicative notice ^{F100} ..., the minimum time limit for the receipt of tenders may be reduced to 15 days, provided that—

[^{F101}(a) the periodic indicative notice included (in addition to the information required by regulation 65(2)) the information set out in section II of Part A of Annex VI to the Utilities Contracts Directive, read subject to the following modifications—

(i) in paragraph 7, the reference to the third and fourth sub-paragraph of Article 73(1) is to be read as a reference to regulation 71(4) and (5) of these Regulations;

(ii) in paragraph 21, the reference to Article 82 is to be read as a reference to regulation 80 of these Regulations; and]

(b) the periodic indicative notice was [^{F102}submitted] for publication between 35 days and 12 months before the date on which the contract notice was [^{F102}submitted] for publication.

(5) Where a state of urgency duly substantiated by a utility renders it impracticable to apply the minimum time limit set out in paragraph (3), the utility may fix a time limit which must not be less than 15 days from the date on which the contract notice was [^{F103}submitted] for publication.

(6) A utility may reduce the minimum time period referred to in paragraph (3) by a period of up to 5 days where it accepts that tenders may be submitted by electronic means in accordance with regulation 38 (rules applicable to communication).

Textual Amendments

F99 Word in reg. 43(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(28)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F100 Words in reg. 43(4) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(7)(a)** (with reg. 3)

F101 Reg. 43(4)(a) substituted (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(7)(b)** (with reg. 3)

F102 Word in reg. 43(4)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(28)(b)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F103 Word in reg. 43(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(28)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I43 Reg. 43 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Restricted Procedure **S**

44.—(1) In a restricted procedure, a utility must permit any economic operator to submit a request to participate in response to a call for competition within the time period set by the utility in accordance with this regulation.

(2) A request by an economic operator referred to in paragraph (1) must be accompanied by the information for qualitative selection that is requested by the utility.

(3) The minimum time period for receipt of requests to participate, other than in exceptional circumstances, shall be 30 days from the date on which—

(a) the contract notice was [^{F104}submitted] for publication; ^{F105} ...

^{F105}(b)

and shall, in any event, not be less than 15 days from such date.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(4) Only those economic operators invited to do so by the utility following its assessment of the information provided may submit a tender.

(5) A utility may limit the number of suitable candidates to be invited to participate in the procedure in accordance with regulation 76(2) (criteria for qualitative selection).

(6) The minimum time limit for the receipt of tenders may be set by agreement between the utility and the economic operators invited to tender, provided that all such economic operators have the same time to prepare and submit their tenders.

(7) If there is no agreement made further to paragraph (6), the minimum time period for the receipt of tenders shall be 10 days from the date on which the invitation to tender is sent.

Textual Amendments

F104 Word in reg. 44(3)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(29)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F105 Reg. 44(3)(b) and word omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(8)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I44 Reg. 44 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Negotiated procedure with prior call for competition **S**

45.—(1) In a negotiated procedure with a prior call for competition, a utility must permit any economic operator to submit a request to participate in response to a call for competition within the time period set by the utility in accordance with this regulation.

(2) A request by an economic operator referred to in paragraph (1) must be accompanied by the information for qualitative selection that is requested by the utility.

(3) The minimum time period for receipt of requests to participate, other than in exceptional circumstances, shall be 30 days from the date on which—

(a) the contract notice was [^{F106}submitted] for publication; ^{F107} ...

^{F107}(b)

and shall, in any event, not be less than 15 days from such date.

(4) Only those economic operators invited to do so by the utility following its assessment of the information provided may participate in the negotiations.

(5) A utility may limit the number of suitable candidates to be invited to participate in the procedure in accordance with regulation 76(2) (criteria for qualitative selection).

(6) The minimum time limit for the receipt of tenders may be set by agreement between the utility and the economic operators invited to tender, provided that all such economic operators have the same time to prepare and submit their tenders.

(7) If there is no agreement made further to paragraph (6), the minimum time period for the receipt of tenders shall be 10 days from the date on which the invitation to tender is sent.

Textual Amendments

F106 Word in reg. 45(3)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(30)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F107 Reg. 45(3)(b) and word omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(9)** (with reg. 3)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I45 Reg. 45 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Competitive Dialogue **S**

46.—(1) In a competitive dialogue, a utility must permit any economic operator to submit a request to participate in response to a call for competition in accordance with regulation 42(5)(b) or (c) (choice of procedures) within the time period set by the utility in accordance with this regulation.

(2) A request by an economic operator referred to in paragraph (1) must be accompanied by the information for qualitative selection that is requested by the utility.

(3) The minimum time period for receipt of a request to participate, other than in exceptional circumstances, shall be 30 days from the date on which—

(a) the contract notice was [^{F108}submitted] for publication; ^{F109}...

^{F109}(b)

and shall, in any event, not be less than 15 days from such date.

(4) Only those economic operators invited to do so by the utility following its assessment of the information provided may participate in the dialogue.

(5) A utility may limit the number of suitable candidates to be invited to participate in the procedure in accordance with regulation 76(2) (criteria for qualitative selection).

(6) The contract must be awarded on the sole basis of the best price-quality ratio in accordance with regulation 80 (contract award criteria).

(7) A utility must in the call for competition, in a descriptive document or in both—

- (a) set out and define its needs and requirements;
- (b) set out and define the chosen award criteria; and
- (c) set out an indicative timeframe.

(8) A utility—

- (a) must open, with the participants selected in accordance with the relevant provisions of regulations 74 to 79, a dialogue with the aim of identifying and defining the means best suited to satisfying the utility’s needs; and
- (b) may discuss all aspects of the procurement with such participants during this dialogue.

(9) During the dialogue, a utility—

- (a) must ensure equal treatment of all participants; and
- (b) must not provide information in a discriminatory manner which may give any participant an advantage over others.

(10) In accordance with regulation 37 (confidentiality), a utility must not reveal to the other participants solutions proposed or other confidential information communicated by a candidate or tenderer participating in the dialogue without the candidate or tenderer’s agreement.

(11) Any agreement referred to in paragraph (10) shall not take the form of a general waiver but must be given with reference to the intended communication of specific information.

(12) A utility may conduct a competitive dialogue in successive stages in order to reduce the number of solutions to be discussed during the dialogue stage only by applying the award criteria specified in—

- (a) the call for competition; or
- (b) the descriptive document.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(13) The utility must indicate, in the contract notice or the descriptive document, whether it will use the option described in paragraph (12).

(14) The utility shall continue the dialogue until it can identify the solution or solutions which are capable of meeting its needs.

(15) When the utility has declared that the dialogue is concluded and informed the remaining participants, the utility must invite each remaining participant to submit their final tender on the basis of the solution or solutions presented and specified during the dialogue.

(16) The final tenders—

- (a) shall contain all the elements required and necessary for the performance of the project; and
- (b) may, subject to paragraph (17), be clarified, specified and optimised at the request of the utility.

(17) Any clarification, specification, optimisation or additional information provided pursuant to a request referred to in paragraph (16)(b) must not involve changes to the essential aspects of the tender or the procurement, including the needs and requirements set out in the call for competition or in the descriptive document, where such changes are likely to distort competition or cause discrimination.

(18) A utility must assess the tenders received on the basis of the award criteria laid down in the call for competition or in the descriptive document.

(19) At the request of the utility, and subject to paragraph (20), negotiations with the tenderer identified as having submitted the tender presenting the best price-quality ratio in accordance with regulation 80 (contract award criteria) may be carried out to confirm financial commitments or other terms contained in the tender in order to finalise the terms of the contract.

(20) Any negotiation and finalisation of the terms of the contract referred to in paragraph (19) must not involve changes to the essential aspects of the tender or the procurement, including the needs and requirements set out in the call for competition or in the descriptive document, where such changes are likely to distort competition or cause discrimination.

(21) A utility may specify prizes or payments to the participants in the dialogue.

Textual Amendments

F108 Word in [reg. 46\(3\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(31)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F109 [Reg. 46\(3\)\(b\)](#) and word omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(10)** (with [reg. 3](#))

Commencement Information

I46 [Reg. 46](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Innovation Partnership **S**

47.—(1) A utility may establish an innovation partnership with one partner or with several partners conducting separate research and development activities.

(2) The innovation partnership must aim at the development of innovative works, products or services and the subsequent purchase of the resulting works, supplies or services provided that they correspond to the performance levels and maximum costs agreed between the utility and the partners.

(3) The estimated value of works, supplies or services must not be disproportionate in relation to the investment required for their development.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(4) The innovation partnership must be structured in successive phases following the sequence of steps in the research and innovation process, which may include the manufacturing of the products, the provision of the services or the completion of the works.

(5) The innovation partnership must set intermediate targets to be attained by the partners and provide for payment of the remuneration in appropriate instalments.

(6) Based on those targets, the utility may decide after each phase to—

- (a) terminate the innovation partnership; or
- (b) in the case of an innovation partnership with several partners, reduce the number of partners by terminating individual contracts,

provided that the utility has indicated in the procurement documents those possibilities and the conditions for their use.

(7) In the procurement of an innovation partnership, a utility must permit any economic operator to submit a request to participate in response to a call for competition in accordance with regulation 42(5)(b) or (c) (choice of procedures) within the time period set by the utility in accordance with this regulation.

(8) A request by an economic operator referred to in paragraph (7) must be accompanied by the information for qualitative selection that is requested by the utility.

(9) In the procurement documents, the utility must—

- (a) identify the subject matter of the procurement by providing the description of the utility's need for innovative works, products or services that cannot be met by purchasing works, products or services already available on the market;
- (b) indicate which elements of this description define the minimum requirements to be met by all tenders;
- (c) specify the award criteria; and
- (d) define the arrangements applicable to intellectual property rights.

(10) The information provided by the utility in accordance with paragraph (9) must be sufficiently precise to enable economic operators to identify the nature and scope of the required solution and decide whether to request to participate in the procedure.

(11) The minimum time period for the receipt of requests to participate—

- (a) other than in exceptional circumstances, shall be 30 days from the date on which the contract notice is [F110 submitted] for publication; and
- (b) shall, in any event, not be less than 15 days from that date.

(12) A utility may limit the number of suitable candidates to be invited to participate in the procedure in accordance with regulation 76(2) (criteria for qualitative selection).

(13) In selecting candidates, a utility must, in particular, apply criteria concerning the candidates' capacity in the field of research and development and of developing and implementing innovative solutions.

(14) Only those economic operators invited to do so by the utility following its assessment of the requested information may participate in the procedure and submit research and innovation projects aimed at meeting the needs identified by the utility that cannot be met by existing solutions.

(15) A utility must negotiate with tenderers the initial and all subsequent tenders submitted by them, except for the final tender, to improve their content.

(16) A utility must not negotiate the minimum requirements or the award criteria referred to in paragraph (9).

(17) During the negotiations, a utility—

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) must ensure equal treatment of all tenderers;
- (b) must not provide information in a discriminatory manner which may give some tenderers an advantage over others;
- (c) must, in writing, inform all tenderers whose tenders have not been eliminated of any changes to the technical specifications or other procurement documents; and
- (d) must provide sufficient time following any such changes for all tenderers referred to in paragraph (c) to modify and re-submit amended tenders as appropriate.

(18) In accordance with regulation 37 (confidentiality), a utility must not reveal to the other participants confidential information communicated by a candidate or tenderer participating in the negotiations without the candidate or tenderer's agreement.

(19) Any agreement referred to in paragraph (18) must not take the form of a general waiver but must be given with reference to the intended communication of specific information.

(20) A utility may conduct negotiations during innovation partnership procedures in successive stages in order to reduce the number of tenders to be negotiated only by applying the award criteria specified in the contract notice ^{F111}... or another procurement document.

(21) The utility must indicate in the contract notice or in another procurement document whether it will use the option described in paragraph (20).

(22) The contracts must be awarded on the sole basis of the best price-quality ratio in accordance with regulation 80 (contract award criteria).

(23) The utility must ensure that the structure of the partnership and, in particular, the duration and value of the different phases reflect the degree of innovation of the proposed solution and the sequence of the research and innovation activities required for the development of an innovative solution not yet available on the market.

(24) In the case of an innovation partnership with several partners, the utility must not, in accordance with regulation 37 (confidentiality), reveal to the other partners solutions proposed or other confidential information communicated by a partner in the framework of the partnership without that partner's agreement.

(25) Any agreement referred to in paragraph (24) must not take the form of a general waiver but must be given with reference to the intended communication of specific information.

Textual Amendments

F110 Word in reg. 47(11)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(32)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F111 Words in reg. 47(20) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(11)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I47 [Reg. 47](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition **S**

48.—(1) A utility may award a contract following a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a call for competition in any of the following cases—

- (a) where no tenders, no suitable tenders, no requests to participate or no suitable requests to participate have been submitted in response to a procedure with a call for competition, provided that the initial conditions of the contract are not substantially altered;
- (b) where the contract is—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development; and
 - (ii) not for the purpose of securing a profit or of recovering research and development costs,
- insofar as the award of such contract does not prejudice the competitive award of subsequent contracts which do seek the ends referred to in paragraph (ii); or
- (c) where the works, supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator for any of the following reasons—
 - (i) the aim of the procurement is the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance;
 - (ii) competition is absent for technical reasons;
 - (iii) the protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights, but only, in the case of paragraphs (ii) and (iii), where no reasonable alternative or substitute exists and the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement;
 - (d) where (but only if it is strictly necessary) for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the utility, the time limits for open procedure, restricted procedure or negotiated procedure with prior call for competition cannot be complied with.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a)—
- (a) a tender shall be considered not to be suitable where it is irrelevant to the contract, being manifestly incapable, without substantial changes, of meeting the utility's needs and requirements as specified in the procurement documents; and
 - (b) a request to participate shall be considered not to be suitable where the economic operator concerned—
 - (i) has been or would be excluded under regulation 76(1) (criteria for qualitative selection) or 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations); or
 - (ii) does not meet the selection criteria.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(d), the circumstances invoked to justify extreme urgency must not, in any event, be attributable to the utility.

Specific rules based on type of contract

- (4) A utility may award a contract following a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a call for competition—
- (a) in the case of supply contracts, where the products involved are for additional deliveries by the original supplier which are intended either as—
 - (i) a partial replacement of supplies or installations; or
 - (ii) the extension of existing supplies or installations,
 where a change of supplier would require the utility to acquire supplies having different technical characteristics which would result in incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance;
 - (b) for supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market;
 - (c) for purchases of supplies or services on particularly advantageous conditions, from either a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities or the liquidator in an insolvency procedure, an arrangement with creditors or a similar procedure under national laws or regulations;

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (d) for bargain purchases, where it is possible to procure supplies by taking advantage of a particularly advantageous opportunity available for a very short time at a price considerably lower than normal market prices;
 - (e) for new works, services or both, consisting of the repetition of similar works or services entrusted to the contractor to which the utility awarded an original contract, provided that such works or services are in conformity with a basic project for which the original contract was awarded pursuant to a procedure in accordance with regulation 42(1) (choice of procedures);
 - (f) for a service contract which follows a design contest organised in accordance with these Regulations and which is to be awarded, under the rules provided for in the design contest, to the winner or to one of the winners of the design contest.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (4)(e)—
- (a) the basic project must have indicated the extent of possible additional works or services and the conditions under which they would be awarded;
 - (b) the possible use of this procedure must have been disclosed in the procurement documents; and
 - (c) the total estimated cost of these subsequent works or services must have been taken into consideration by the utility when applying regulations 15 (thresholds) and 16 (methods for calculating the estimated value) in relation to the original contract.
- (6) For the purposes of paragraph (4)(f), where there is more than one winner of the design contest all of the winners must be invited to participate in the negotiation.

Commencement Information

I48 Reg. 48 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

CHAPTER 2 **S**

TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR
ELECTRONIC AND AGGREGATED PROCUREMENT

Framework Agreements **S**

49.—(1) A utility may conclude a framework agreement, provided that the utility applies the procedures provided for in these Regulations.

(2) The term of a framework agreement must not exceed 8 years, save in exceptional cases duly justified, in particular by the subject of the framework agreement.

(3) A contract based on a framework agreement must be awarded on the basis of objective rules and criteria.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), the objective rules and criteria must—

- (a) be set out in the procurement documents for the framework agreement; and
- (b) ensure equal treatment of the economic operators who are party to the framework agreement.

(5) The award of a contract referred to in paragraph (3) may include reopening the competition among those economic operators party to the framework agreement as concluded and, if so, a utility must—

- (a) set a time limit which is sufficiently long to allow tenders for each specific contract to be submitted; and

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) award each contract to the tenderer that has submitted the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in the specifications of the framework agreement.
- (6) A utility must not use a framework agreement improperly or in such a way as to prevent, restrict or distort competition.

Commencement Information
I49 Reg. 49 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Dynamic Purchasing Systems **S**

50.—(1) A utility may use a dynamic purchasing system for commonly used purchases the characteristics of which, as generally available on the market, meet the utility’s requirements.

- (2) The dynamic purchasing system must—
 - (a) be operated as a completely electronic process; and
 - (b) be open, throughout the period of validity of the system, to any economic operator that satisfies the selection criteria.

(3) The dynamic purchasing system may be divided into categories of works, supplies or services that are objectively defined on the basis of characteristics of the procurement to be undertaken under the category concerned.

- (4) The characteristics referred to in paragraph (3) may include reference to either or both of—
 - (a) the maximum allowable size of the subsequent specific contracts; and
 - (b) a specific geographic area in which subsequent specific contracts will be performed.

(5) In order to procure under a dynamic purchasing system, a utility must follow the restricted procedure, and accordingly the provisions of regulation 44 (restricted procedure) apply, subject to the provisions of this regulation.

(6) Where a utility has divided the system into categories of works, supplies or services in accordance with paragraph (3), the utility must specify the applicable selection criteria for each category.

(7) A utility must admit to a dynamic purchasing system all of the candidates satisfying the selection criteria and must not limit the number of candidates to be admitted whether under regulation 76(2) (criteria for qualitative selection) or otherwise.

- (8) The minimum time period for receipt of requests to participate—
 - (a) other than in exceptional circumstances, shall be 30 days from the date on which—
 - (i) the contract notice is [^{F112}submitted] for publication; ^{F113} ...
 - ^{F113}(ii)
 - (b) shall, in any event, be 15 days from such date.

(9) No further time limits for receipt of requests to participate shall apply once the invitation to tender for the first specific procurement under the dynamic purchasing system has been sent.

(10) The minimum time period for receipt of tenders shall be 10 days from the date on which the invitation to tender is sent.

(11) A utility must, throughout the period of validity of the dynamic purchasing system, give any economic operator the possibility of requesting to participate in the system under the conditions referred to in paragraphs (5) to (10).

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(12) A utility must finalise evaluation of such requests in accordance with the selection criteria within 10 working days following their receipt.

(13) The deadline referred to in paragraph (12) may be extended to a maximum of 15 working days in individual cases where justified, in particular because of the need to examine additional documentation or otherwise to verify whether the selection criteria are met.

(14) Despite paragraphs (12) and (13), as long as the invitation to tender for the first specific procurement under the dynamic purchasing system has not been sent, a utility may extend the evaluation period provided that no invitation to tender is issued during the extended evaluation period.

(15) Where a utility intends to extend the evaluation period in accordance with paragraph (14), the utility must indicate in the procurement documents the length of the extended period that the utility intends to apply.

(16) A utility must inform the economic operator concerned at the earliest possible opportunity of whether or not it has been admitted to the dynamic purchasing system.

(17) A utility must invite all admitted participants to submit a tender for each specific procurement under the dynamic purchasing system, in accordance with regulation 72 (invitations to candidates).

(18) Where the dynamic purchasing system has been divided into categories of works, supplies or services pursuant to paragraph (3), a utility must invite every relevant participant to submit a tender.

(19) In paragraph (18), “relevant participants” means economic operators which have been admitted to the dynamic purchasing system in relation to the category corresponding to the specific procurement concerned.

(20) For the purposes of awarding contracts under a dynamic purchasing system, a utility must—

- (a) publish a call for competition which—
 - (i) makes it clear that a dynamic purchasing system is involved; and
 - (ii) indicates the period of validity of the dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) indicate in the procurement documents at least the nature and estimated quantity of the purchases envisaged, as well as all the necessary information concerning the dynamic purchasing system, including how the system operates, the electronic equipment used and the technical connection arrangements and specifications;
- (c) indicate in the procurement documents any division into categories of works, supplies or services and the characteristics defining them; and
- (d) throughout the period of validity of the system, offer unrestricted and full direct access to the procurement documents in accordance with regulation 71 (electronic availability of procurement documents).

(21) A utility must award the contract to the tenderer that submitted the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in—

- (a) the contract notice for the dynamic purchasing system;
- ^{F114}(b)
- (c) where a notice on the existence of a qualification system is used as a means of calling for competition, in the invitation to tender.

(22) For the purposes of paragraph (21), those criteria, where appropriate, may be formulated more precisely in the invitation to tender.

(23) A utility which, in accordance with regulation 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations), applies exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations may, at any time throughout the period of validity of the dynamic purchasing system, require admitted participants

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

to submit a renewed [F115SPD] as provided for in regulation 60(1) of those Regulations within 5 working days from the date on which that request is transmitted.

(24) Regulation 60(7) to (10) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations applies throughout the period of validity of the dynamic purchasing system.

[F116(25) Where the period of validity is changed without terminating the dynamic purchasing system, the utility must submit for publication on the UK e-notification service a notice of the kind used initially for the call for competition for the dynamic purchasing system.

(25A) Where a dynamic purchasing system is terminated before the end of the period of validity that had most recently been indicated under paragraph (20)(a)(ii) or (25), the utility must submit for publication on the UK e-notification service a contract award notice under regulation 68.]

(26) No charges may be made to any economic operators which are interested in or are a party to the dynamic purchasing system.

(27) All communications in the context of a dynamic purchasing system must only be made by electronic means in accordance with regulation 38(1) to (7) and (11) to (20) (rules applicable to communication).

Textual Amendments

- F112 Word in reg. 50(8)(a)(i) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(33)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F113 Reg. 50(8)(a)(ii) and word omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(12)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F114 Reg. 50(21)(b) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(12)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F115 Word in reg. 50(23) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(33)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F116 Reg. 50(25)(25A) substituted for reg. 50(25) (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(33)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I50 [Reg. 50](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Electronic Auctions S

51.—(1) A utility may use electronic auctions, in which economic operators present one or both of the following—

- (a) new prices, revised downwards;
- (b) new values concerning certain elements of tenders.

(2) A utility must structure the electronic auction as a repetitive electronic process, which occurs after an initial full evaluation of the tenders, enabling them to be ranked using automatic evaluation methods.

(3) Electronic auctions must not be used for works or service contracts which have as their subject-matter intellectual activities (such as the design of works) which cannot be ranked using automatic evaluation methods.

(4) A utility which decides to hold an electronic auction must state that fact in the—

- (a) contract notice;

[F117(b)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) where a notice on the existence of a qualification system is used as a means of calling for competition, in the invitation to tender.
- (5) In open or restricted procedures or negotiated procedures with a prior call for competition, when the content of the procurement documents, in particular the technical specifications, can be established with precision, a utility may—
 - (a) decide that the award of a contract shall be preceded by an electronic auction;
 - (b) hold an electronic auction—
 - (i) on the reopening of competition among the parties to a framework agreement as provided for in regulation 49(5) (framework agreements); or
 - (ii) on the opening for competition of contracts to be awarded under a dynamic purchasing system.
- (6) The electronic auction must be based—
 - (a) on prices only where the contract is awarded on the basis of price only; and
 - (b) on prices, on the new values of the features of the tenders indicated in the procurement documents or on both, where the contract is awarded on the basis of the best price-quality ratio or to the tender with the lowest cost using a cost effectiveness approach.
- (7) Where a utility has decided to hold an electronic auction, the procurement documents must include at least the following—
 - (a) the features, the values for which will be the subject of electronic auction, provided that such features are quantifiable and can be expressed in figures or percentages;
 - (b) any limits on the values which may be submitted, as they result from the specifications relating to the subject of the contract;
 - (c) the information which will be made available to tenderers in the course of the electronic auction and, where appropriate, when it will be made available to them;
 - (d) relevant information concerning the electronic auction process;
 - (e) the conditions under which the tenderers will be able to bid and, in particular, the minimum differences which will, where appropriate, be required when bidding; and
 - (f) the relevant information concerning the electronic equipment used and the arrangements and technical specifications for connection.
- (8) Before proceeding with an electronic auction, a utility must make a full initial evaluation of the tenders in accordance with the award criteria and the weighting fixed for them.
- (9) A tender must be considered admissible where—
 - (a) it has been submitted by a tenderer who has not been excluded pursuant to regulation 76(1) (criteria for qualitative selection) or 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations) and who meets the selection criteria; and
 - (b) it is in conformity with the technical specifications without being irregular, unacceptable or unsuitable.
- (10) A tender must be considered to be irregular for the purposes of paragraph (9)(b) where—
 - (a) it does not comply with the procurement documents;
 - (b) it was received late;
 - (c) there is evidence of collusion or corruption; or
 - (d) it has been found by the utility to be abnormally low.
- (11) A tender must be considered to be unacceptable for the purposes of paragraph (9)(b) where—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) it was submitted by a tenderer which does not have the required qualifications; or
 - (b) the price tendered exceeds the utility's budget as determined and documented prior to the commencement of the procurement.
- (12) A tender must be considered unsuitable for the purpose of paragraph (9)(b) where it is irrelevant to the contract, being manifestly incapable, without substantial changes, of meeting the utility's needs and requirements as specified in the procurement documents.
- (13) All tenderers that have submitted admissible tenders must be invited simultaneously, by electronic means, to participate in the electronic auction using, as of the date and time specified in the invitation, the technical connection arrangements referred to in accordance with the instructions set out in the invitation.
- (14) The electronic auction may take place in a number of successive phases.
- (15) The electronic auction must not start sooner than 2 working days after the date on which invitations are sent out.
- (16) The invitation must be accompanied by the outcome of a full evaluation of the relevant tender, carried out in accordance with the weighting provided for in regulation 80(9) to (11) (contract award criteria).
- (17) The invitation must also state the mathematical formula to be used in the electronic auction to determine the automatic re-rankings on the basis of the new prices or new values submitted, or both.
- (18) The formula referred to in paragraph (17) must incorporate the weighting of all the criteria established to determine the most economically advantageous tender, as indicated in the notice used as a means of calling for competition or in other procurement documents.
- (19) For the purpose of paragraph (18), any ranges of weightings must be reduced beforehand to a specified value.
- (20) Where variants are authorised in accordance with regulation 62 (variants) a separate formula must be provided for each variant.
- (21) Throughout each phase of an electronic auction the utility must instantaneously communicate to all tenderers at least sufficient information to enable the tenderers to ascertain their relative rankings at any moment.
- (22) A utility may, where this has been previously indicated, communicate information concerning other prices or values submitted.
- (23) A utility may also, at any time, announce the number of participants in the current phase of the auction.
- (24) In no case, however, may a utility disclose the identities of the tenderers during any phase of an electronic auction.
- (25) A utility must close an electronic auction—
- (a) at the previously indicated date and time;
 - (b) when the utility receives no more new prices or new values which meet the requirements concerning minimum differences specified in accordance with paragraph (7)(e), provided that the utility has previously stated the time which they will allow to elapse after receiving the last submission before they close the electronic auction;
 - (c) when all of the previously indicated number of phases in the auction have been completed.
- (26) Where the utility intends to close an electronic auction in accordance with paragraph (25) (c), whether or not in combination with any arrangements laid down in paragraph (25)(b), the utility must indicate in the invitation to participate in the auction the timetable for each phase of the auction.
- (27) After closing an electronic auction, a utility shall award the contract in accordance with regulation 80 (contract award criteria) on the basis of the results of the electronic auction.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F117 Reg. 51(4)(b) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(13)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I51 Reg. 51 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Electronic catalogues **S**

52.—(1) Where the use of electronic means of communication is required, a utility may require tenders to be presented in the format of an electronic catalogue or to include an electronic catalogue.

(2) Tenders presented in the form of an electronic catalogue may be accompanied by other documents, completing the tender.

(3) Electronic catalogues must be established by the candidates or tenderers with a view to participating in a given procurement in accordance with the technical specifications and format established by the utility.

(4) Electronic catalogues must also comply with the requirements for electronic communication tools set out in regulation 38 (rules applicable to communication) as well as with any additional requirements set by the utility in accordance with that regulation.

(5) Where the presentation of tenders in the form of electronic catalogues is accepted or required, a utility must—

(a) state that to be the case in—

(i) the contract notice;

^{F118}(ii)

(iii) where the means of calling for competition is a notice on the existence of a qualification system, the invitation to tender or negotiate; and

(b) indicate in the procurement documents all the necessary information pursuant to regulation 38(16) to (25) (rules applicable to communication) concerning the format, the electronic equipment used and the technical connection arrangements and specifications for the catalogue.

(6) Where a framework agreement has been concluded with more than one economic operator following the submission of tenders in the form of electronic catalogues, a utility may provide that the reopening of competition for a specific contract is to take place on the basis of updated catalogues.

(7) Where a utility requires updated catalogues in accordance with paragraph (6), the utility must—

(a) invite tenderers to resubmit their electronic catalogues, adapted to the requirements of the contract in question; or

(b) notify tenderers that the utility intends to collect from the electronic catalogues which have already been submitted the information needed to constitute tenders adapted to the requirements of the contract in question, provided that the use of that method has been indicated in the procurement documents for the framework agreement.

(8) Where a utility reopens competition for a specific contract in accordance with paragraph (7) (b), the utility must—

(a) notify tenderers of the date and time at which the utility intends to collect the information needed to constitute tenders adapted to the requirements of the specific contract in question; and

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(b) allow tenderers to refuse such collection of information.

(9) A utility must allow an adequate period of time between the notification referred to in paragraph (8)(a) and the collection of information.

(10) Before awarding the contract, a utility must present the collected information to the tenderer concerned and give the tenderer the opportunity to contest or confirm that the tender thus constituted does not contain any material errors.

(11) A utility may award a contract based on a dynamic purchasing system by requiring that offers for a specific contract are to be presented in the format of an electronic catalogue.

(12) A utility may also award a contract based on a dynamic purchasing system in accordance with paragraphs (7)(b) and (8) to (10) provided that the request for participation in the dynamic purchasing system is accompanied by an electronic catalogue in accordance with the technical specifications and format established by the utility.

(13) For the purpose of paragraph (12), the catalogue must be completed subsequently by the candidates, when they are informed of the utility's intention to constitute tenders by means of the procedure set out in paragraph (7)(b).

Textual Amendments

F118 Reg. 52(5)(a)(ii) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(14)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I52 Reg. 52 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Centralised purchasing activities and central purchasing bodies **S**

53.—(1) A utility may acquire supplies and services from a central purchasing body offering the centralised purchasing activity referred to in regulation 2(1).

(2) A utility may acquire works, supplies and services, or any one or more of them, by using—

- (a) a contract awarded to the utility by a central purchasing body;
- (b) a dynamic purchasing system operated by a central purchasing body; or
- (c) a framework agreement concluded by a central purchasing body offering the centralised purchasing activity.

(3) Where a dynamic purchasing system which is operated by a central purchasing body may be used by another utility, this must be mentioned in the call for competition setting up that dynamic purchasing system.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a utility makes an acquisition in accordance with paragraphs (1) or (2), the utility fulfils its obligations under these Regulations in relation to such acquisition.

(5) A utility referred to in paragraph (4) is responsible for fulfilling the obligations imposed by these Regulations in respect of any part of the procedure that the utility conducts itself, such as—

- (a) awarding a contract under a dynamic purchasing system which is operated by a central purchasing body;
- (b) conducting a reopening of competition under a framework agreement that has been concluded by a central purchasing body.

(6) A procurement conducted by a central purchasing body must be performed using electronic means of communication, in accordance with the requirements set out in regulation 38 (rules applicable to communication).

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(7) A utility may, without applying the procedures provided for in these Regulations, award a service contract for the provision of centralised purchasing activities to a central purchasing body.

(8) A service contract referred to in paragraph (7) may also include the provision of an ancillary purchasing activity.

(9) Procurement carried out by a central purchasing body in order to perform a centralised purchasing activity shall be deemed to be procurement for the pursuit of an activity referred to in regulations 8 to 14.

Commencement Information

I53 Reg. 53(1)-(5), (7)-(9) in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

I54 Reg. 53(6) in force at 18.4.2017, see **reg. 1(4)**

Occasional joint procurement **S**

54.—(1) Two or more utilities may agree to perform a certain specific procurement jointly.

(2) A utility shall be jointly responsible for fulfilling their obligations under these Regulations where—

- (a) the conduct of a procurement in its entirety is carried out jointly in the name of and on behalf of all the utilities concerned; or
- (b) one utility manages the procedure, acting on its own behalf and on behalf of the other utilities concerned.

(3) Where the conduct of a procurement is not in its entirety carried out in the name of and on behalf of the utilities concerned—

- (a) the utilities shall be jointly responsible only for those parts carried out jointly; and
- (b) each utility shall have sole responsibility for fulfilling its obligations under these Regulations in respect of the parts it conducts in its own name and on its own behalf.

Commencement Information

I55 Reg. 54 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Procurement involving utilities from different member States **S**

^{F119}**55.**

Textual Amendments

F119 Reg. 55 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of *The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468)*, regs. 1(2), **6(34)** (with sch. paras. 1-6)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

CHAPTER 3 **S**

CONDUCT OF THE PROCEDURE

SECTION 1

Preparation

Preliminary market consultation **S**

56.—(1) Before commencing a procurement, a utility may conduct a market consultation with a view to preparing the procurement and informing economic operators of the utility's procurement plans and requirements.

(2) For this purpose, a utility may act as it considers appropriate, including seeking or accepting advice from independent experts or authorities or from market participants.

(3) Such advice may be used in the planning and conduct of the procurement, provided that it does not have the effect of distorting competition and does not result in a violation of the principles of non-discrimination and transparency.

Commencement Information

I56 Reg. 56 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Prior involvement of candidates or tenderers **S**

57.—(1) A utility must take appropriate measures to ensure that competition is not distorted by the participation of a candidate or tenderer where that candidate or tenderer, or an undertaking related to that candidate or tenderer—

- (a) has advised the utility, whether in the context of regulation 56 (preliminary market consultation) or not; or
- (b) has otherwise been involved in the preparation of the procurement.

(2) Such measures must include—

- (a) the communication to the other candidates and tenderers of relevant information exchanged in the context of or resulting from the involvement of the candidate or tenderer in the preparation of the procurement; and
- (b) the fixing of adequate time limits for the receipt of tenders.

(3) A candidate or tenderer in a situation referred to in paragraph (1) may only be excluded from the procedure for the purposes of paragraph (1) where there are no other means to ensure compliance with the duty referred to in regulation 34(1) (principles of procurement).

(4) Prior to any such exclusion, a candidate or tenderer must be given the opportunity to prove that their involvement in preparing the procurement is not capable of distorting competition.

(5) The measures taken must be documented in the report referred to in regulation 96 (reporting and documentation requirements).

Commencement Information

I57 Reg. 57 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Technical specifications **S**

- 58.—(1) The technical specifications must—
- (a) be set out in the procurement documents; and
 - (b) lay down the characteristics required of any works, supply or service.
- (2) In the case of a works contract, technical specifications define any characteristics required of a material, product or supply so that it fulfils the use for which it is intended by the utility.
- (3) The characteristics referred to in paragraph (2) may include—
- (a) levels of environmental and climate performance;
 - (b) design for all requirements (including accessibility for disabled persons) and conformity assessment;
 - (c) performance, safety or dimensions, including the procedures concerning quality assurance;
 - (d) terminology;
 - (e) symbols;
 - (f) testing and test methods;
 - (g) packaging, marking and labelling;
 - (h) user instructions;
 - (i) production processes and methods at any stage of the life cycle of the works;
 - (j) rules relating to design and costing and the test, inspection and acceptance conditions for works; and
 - (k) methods or techniques of construction and all other technical conditions which the utility is in a position to prescribe, under general or specific regulations, in relation to the finished works and to the materials or parts which they involve.
- (4) In the case of a supply or service contract, the required characteristics may include—
- (a) quality levels;
 - (b) environmental and climate performance levels;
 - (c) design for all requirements (including accessibility for disabled persons) and conformity assessment;
 - (d) performance, use of the product, safety or dimensions, including requirements relevant to the product as regards the name under which the product is sold;
 - (e) terminology;
 - (f) symbols;
 - (g) testing and test methods;
 - (h) packaging, marking and labelling;
 - (i) user instructions;
 - (j) production processes and methods at any stage of the life cycle of the supply or service; and
 - (k) conformity assessment procedures.
- (5) In the case of any contract, the required characteristics may also refer to—
- (a) the specific process or method of production or provision of the requested works, supplies or services;
 - (b) a specific process for another stage of its life cycle,

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

even where such factors do not form part of the contract's material substance provided that they are linked to the subject-matter of the contract and proportionate to its value and its objectives.

(6) The technical specifications may also specify whether the transfer of intellectual property rights will be required.

(7) Where the subject of the procurement is intended for use by natural persons, whether the general public or staff of the utility, the technical specifications must, except in duly justified cases, be drawn up so as to take into account accessibility criteria for persons with disabilities or design for all users.

(8) Where mandatory accessibility requirements are [^{F120}imposed by retained EU law], technical specifications must, as far as accessibility criteria for persons with disabilities or design for all users are concerned, be defined by reference thereto.

(9) Technical specifications must afford equal access of economic operators to the procurement and must not have the effect of creating unjustified obstacles to the opening up of procurement to competition.

(10) Without prejudice to mandatory national technical rules, to the extent that they are compatible with [^{F121}retained] EU law, the technical specifications must be formulated—

- (a) in terms of performance or functional requirements, including environmental characteristics, provided that the parameters are sufficiently precise to allow tenderers to determine the subject-matter of the contract and to allow the utility to award the contract;
- (b) by reference to any of the following technical specifications in the following order of precedence—
 - (i) national standards transposing European standards;
 - (ii) European Technical Assessments;
 - (iii) common technical specifications;
 - (iv) international standards;
 - (v) other technical reference systems established by the European standardisation bodies; or
 - (vi) when none of the above exist, national standards, national technical approvals or national technical specifications relating to the design, calculation and execution of the works and use of the supplies,
 but each reference must be accompanied by the words 'or equivalent';
- (c) in terms of performance or functional requirements as referred to in sub-paragraph (a), with reference to the technical specifications referred to in sub-paragraph (b) as a means of presuming conformity with such performance or functional requirements; or
- (d) by reference to the technical specifications referred to in sub-paragraph (b) for certain characteristics and by reference to the performance or functional requirements referred to in sub-paragraph (a) for other characteristics.

(11) Subject to paragraph (12), technical specifications must not, with the effect of favouring or eliminating certain undertakings or certain products, refer to—

- (a) a specific make or source;
- (b) a particular process which characterises the products or services provided by a specific economic operator; or
- (c) trade marks, patents, types, or a specific origin or production.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(12) Reference of a kind referred to in paragraph (11) is permitted in any of the following circumstances—

- (a) where justified by the subject-matter of the contract;
- (b) on an exceptional basis, where a sufficiently precise and intelligible description of the subject-matter of the contract pursuant to paragraph (10) is not possible, in which case the reference must be accompanied by the words “or equivalent”.

(13) Where a utility formulates technical specifications in terms of performance or functional requirements in accordance with paragraph (10)(a), it must not reject a tender for works, supplies or services which complies with a technical specification of a kind mentioned in paragraph (10)(b) (i) to (v), where those specifications address the performance or functional requirements which it has laid down.

(14) Where a utility formulates technical specifications in accordance with paragraph (10)(b), it must not reject a tender on the grounds that the works, supplies or services tendered for do not comply with the technical specifications to which it has referred, where the tenderer proves in its tender by any appropriate means, including the means of proof referred to in regulation 60 (test reports, certificates and other means of proof), that the solution proposed satisfies in an equivalent manner the requirements defined by the technical specifications.

(15) In its tender, the tenderer must prove by any appropriate means, including those referred to in regulation 60 (test reports, certificates and other means of proof), that the works, supply or service in compliance with the standard meets the performance or functional requirements of the utility.

Textual Amendments

F120 Words in reg. 58(8) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(35)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F121 Word in reg. 58(10) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(35)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I58 [Reg. 58](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Labels **S**

59.—(1) Where a utility intends to purchase works, supplies or services with specific environmental, social or other characteristics the utility may, in the technical specifications, the award criteria or the contract performance conditions, require a specific label as means of proof that the works, supplies or services correspond to the required characteristics, provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled—

- (a) the label requirements only concern criteria which are linked to the subject-matter of the contract and are appropriate to define characteristics of the works, supplies or services;
- (b) the label requirements are based on objectively verifiable and non-discriminatory criteria;
- (c) the label is established in an open and transparent procedure in which all relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, consumers, social partners, manufacturers, distributors and non-governmental organisations, may participate;
- (d) the label is accessible to all interested parties; and
- (e) the label requirements are set by a third party over whom the economic operator applying for the label cannot exercise a decisive influence.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(2) Where a utility does not require the works, supplies or services to meet all of the label requirements, the utility must indicate which label requirements are required.

(3) A utility requiring a specific label must accept all labels that confirm that the works, supplies or services meet equivalent label requirements.

(4) Where an economic operator had demonstrably no possibility of obtaining the specific label indicated by the utility, or an equivalent label, within the relevant time limits for reasons that are not attributable to that economic operator, the utility must accept other appropriate means of proof, which may include a technical dossier from the manufacturer, provided that the economic operator concerned proves that the works, supplies or services to be provided by it fulfil the requirements of the specific label or the specific requirements indicated by the utility.

(5) Where a label fulfils the conditions mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) to (e) but also sets out requirements not linked to the subject-matter of the contract, a utility must not require the label but may define the technical specification by reference to those of the detailed specifications of that label or, parts of it where necessary, that are linked to the subject-matter of the contract and are appropriate to define characteristics of that subject-matter.

Commencement Information

I59 [Reg. 59](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Test reports, certificates and other means of proof **S**

60.—(1) A utility may require an economic operator to provide a test report from a conformity assessment body or a certificate issued by such a body as means of proof of conformity with requirements or criteria set out in the technical specifications, the award criteria or the contract performance conditions.

(2) Where a utility requires the submission of certificates drawn up by a specific conformity assessment body, certificates from other equivalent conformity assessment bodies must also be accepted by the utility.

(3) In paragraphs (1) and (2), “conformity assessment body” means a body that performs conformity assessment activities including calibration, testing, certification and inspection accredited in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93(25).

(4) Where the economic operator concerned has no access to the certificates or test reports referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2), or no possibility of obtaining them within the relevant time limits, a utility must accept appropriate means of proof other than those referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2), such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer, provided that—

- (a) the lack of access is not attributable to the economic operator concerned; and
- (b) the means of proof provided by the economic operator concerned proves that the works, supplies or services provided by it meet the requirements or criteria set out in the technical specifications, the award criteria or the contract performance conditions.

Commencement Information

I60 [Reg. 60](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Communication of technical specifications **S**

61.—(1) On request from an economic operator interested in obtaining a contract, a utility must make available—

- (a) the technical specifications regularly referred to in their works, supplies or [^{F122}service] contracts; ^{F123}...

^{F123}(b)

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the technical specifications referred to in paragraph (1) must be made available by electronic means of communication through unrestricted and full direct access free of charge.

(3) Technical specifications must be transmitted by means other than electronic means where unrestricted and full direct access free of charge by electronic means to certain procurement documents cannot be offered—

- (a) for one of the reasons set out in regulations 38(3) or (5) (rules applicable to communication); or
- (b) because the utility intends to apply regulation 37(3) (confidentiality).

(4) Where the technical specifications are based on documents available by electronic means through unrestricted and full direct access free of charge to interested economic operators, the inclusion of a reference to those documents must be sufficient.

Textual Amendments

F122 Word in reg. 61(1)(a) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(5)**

F123 Reg. 61(1)(b) and word omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(15)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I61 [Reg. 61](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Variants **S**

62.—(1) A utility may authorise or require tenderers to submit variants which meet the minimum requirements laid down by the utility.

(2) A utility must indicate in the procurement documents whether or not they authorise or require variants.

(3) A utility authorising or requiring variants must state in the procurement documents the minimum requirements to be met by the variants and any specific requirements for their presentation, in particular whether variants may be submitted only where the economic operator also submits a tender which is not a variant.

(4) A utility must not take into consideration a variant which—

- (a) has not been authorised or required;
- (b) is not linked to the subject matter of the contract; or
- (c) does not meet the minimum requirements laid down by the utility.

(5) A utility must ensure that the award criteria can be applied to variants meeting those minimum requirements as well as to tenders which are not variants.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(6) In a procedure for awarding a supply contract or service contract, a utility that has authorised or required variants must not reject a variant on the sole ground that it would, where successful, lead to either a service contract rather than a supply contract or a supply contract rather than a service contract.

Commencement Information

I62 Reg. 62 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Division of contracts into lots **S**

63.—(1) A utility may decide to award a contract in the form of separate lots and may determine the size and subject-matter of such lots.

(2) Where a utility decides to award a contract in the form of separate lots it must indicate in the contract notice ^{F124}... or, where the means of a call for competition is a notice on the existence of a qualification system, in the invitation to tender or negotiate, whether tenders may be submitted for one, for several or for all of the lots.

(3) A utility may, even where tenders may be submitted for several or all lots, limit the number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer, provided that the maximum number of lots per tenderer is stated in the contract notice or in the invitation ^{F125}... to tender or to negotiate.

(4) A utility must indicate in the procurement documents the objective and non-discriminatory criteria or rules it intends to apply for determining which lots will be awarded where the application of the award criteria would result in one tenderer being awarded more lots than the maximum number.

(5) Where more than one lot may be awarded to the same tenderer, a utility may award contracts combining several or all lots where the utility has—

- (a) specified in the contract notice or in the invitation ^{F126}... to tender or to negotiate that it reserves the possibility of doing so; and
- (b) indicated the lots or groups of lots that may be combined.

Textual Amendments

F124 Words in [reg. 63\(2\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(16\)\(a\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

F125 Words in [reg. 63\(3\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(16\)\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

F126 Words in [reg. 63\(5\)\(a\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(16\)\(c\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

Commencement Information

I63 Reg. 63 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Setting time limits **S**

64.—(1) When fixing the time limits for the receipt of tenders and requests to participate, a utility must take account of the complexity of the contract and the time required for drawing up tenders, without prejudice to the minimum time limits set out in regulations 43 to 47.

(2) Where tenders can be made only after a visit to the site or after on-the-spot inspection of the documents supporting the procurement documents, the time limits for the receipt of tenders, which

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

shall be longer than the minimum time limits set out in regulations 43 to 47, must be fixed so that all economic operators concerned may be aware of all the information needed to produce tenders.

(3) A utility must extend the time limits for the receipt of tenders, so that all economic operators concerned may be aware of all the information needed to produce tenders, where—

- (a) for whatever reason, additional information, although requested by the economic operator in good time, is not supplied at the latest 6 days before the time limit fixed for the receipt of tenders; or
- (b) significant changes are made to the procurement documents.

(4) In the case of an accelerated open procedure, the period mentioned in paragraph (3)(a) shall be 4 days.

(5) The length of the extension given pursuant to paragraph (3) must be proportionate to the importance of the information or change.

(6) A utility is not required to extend the time limit where—

- (a) additional information has not been requested in good time; or
- (b) the additional information requested is of insignificant importance with a view to preparing responsive tenders.

Commencement Information
I64 Reg. 64 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

SECTION 2

Publication and transparency

Periodic indicative notices S

65.—(1) A utility may make known its intentions of a planned procurement through the publication of a periodic indicative notice.

(2) A periodic indicative notice must contain the information set out in section I of Part A of Annex VI to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F127}, but as if both references to “dispatch of the notice” in paragraph 4 were references to the submission of the notice to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations].

(3) A utility wishing to publish a periodic indicative notice must—

- (a) [^{F128}submit] it for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F129}publication on the UK e-notification service]); or
- (b) publish it on the utility’s buyer profile in accordance with regulation 70 (publication at national level).

(4) Where the utility intends to publish the periodic indicative notice on its buyer profile, the utility must [^{F130}submit] for publication, in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F131}publication on the UK e-notification service]), a notice of the publication on its buyer profile.

(5) The notice of publication referred to in paragraph (4) must contain the information set out in Part B of Annex VI to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F132}, but as if “date of dispatch” in paragraph 5 were a reference to the date on which the notice is submitted to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations].

^{F133}(6)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

^{F134}(7)

(8) [^{F135}The] period covered by a periodic indicative notice must be a maximum of 12 months from the date on which the notice is sent for publication.

^{F136}(9)

Textual Amendments

- F127** Words in reg. 65(2) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F128** Word in reg. 65(3)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F129** Words in reg. 65(3)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(b)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F130** Word in reg. 65(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(c)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F131** Words in reg. 65(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(c)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F132** Words in reg. 65(5) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(36)(d)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F133** Reg. 65(6) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(17)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F134** Reg. 65(7) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(17)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F135** Word in reg. 65(8) substituted (30.5.2023) by The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(17)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F136** Reg. 65(9) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(17)(c)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I65 Reg. 65 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Notices on the existence of a qualification system **S**

66.—(1) This regulation applies where a utility chooses to set up a qualification system in accordance with regulation 75 (qualification systems).

(2) The qualification system must be the subject of a notice ^{F137}..., indicating the purpose of the qualification system and how to have access to the rules concerning its operation.

[^{F138}(2A) Such a notice must include the information set out in Annex X to the Utilities Contracts Directive, but as if, in paragraph 10, “Article 82” were a reference to regulation 80 of these Regulations.]

(3) The utility must—

- (a) indicate the period of validity of the qualification system in the notice on the existence of the system; and
- (b) [^{F139}give notice] of any change in the period of validity.

(4) The notification in paragraph (3)(b) must be made by [^{F140}submitting to the UK e-notification service]—

- (a) where the period of validity is changed without terminating the system, [^{F141}a notice] on the existence of qualification systems; and

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) where the system is terminated, a contract award notice referred to in regulation 68 (contract award notices).

Textual Amendments

- F137** Words in [reg. 66\(2\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(37)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F138** [Reg. 66\(2A\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(37)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F139** Words in [reg. 66\(3\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(37)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F140** Words in [reg. 66\(4\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(37)(d)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F141** Words in [reg. 66\(4\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(37)(d)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I66** [Reg. 66](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

[^{F142}Contract notices **S**

67.—(1) A contract notice must contain the information set out in the relevant part of Annex XI to the Utilities Contracts Directive, but as if—

- (a) in paragraph 10 of Part A, “the third and fourth sub-paragraph of Article 73(1)” were a reference to regulation 71(4) and (5) of these Regulations (electronic availability of procurement documents),
- (b) in—
- (i) paragraph 19 of Part A,
 - (ii) paragraph 16 of Part B,
 - (iii) paragraph 15 of Part C,
- “Article 82” were a reference to regulation 80 of these Regulations,
- (c) in—
- (i) paragraph 20 of Part A,
 - (ii) paragraph 18 of Part B,
 - (iii) paragraph 18 of Part C,
- “in the *Official Journal of the European Union*” read “on the UK e-notification service (within the meaning of the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016)”, and
- (d) in—
- (i) paragraph 22 of Part A,
 - (ii) paragraph 20 of Part B,
 - (iii) paragraph 20 of Part C,
- “date of dispatch” were a reference to the date on which the notice is submitted to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations.

(2) Such notices must be submitted for publication in accordance with regulation 69 (publication on the UK e-notification service).]

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F142 Reg. 67 substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(38)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Contract award notices **S**

68.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the award of a contract or conclusion of a framework agreement, a utility must [^{F143}submit] for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F144}publication on the UK e-notification service]) a contract award notice on the results of the procurement.

[^{F145}(2) A contract award notice must—

- (a) contain the information set out in Annex XII to the Utilities Contracts Directive, but as if—
 - (i) in paragraph 5(b), “in the *Official Journal of the European Union*” read “on the UK e-notification service (within the meaning of the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016)”,
 - (ii) in paragraph 5(c), “Article 50” were a reference to regulation 48 (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition) of these Regulations,
 - (iii) in paragraph 9, “Article 50(h)” were a reference to regulation 48(4)(d) of these Regulations,
 - (iv) in paragraph 17, the words in brackets were omitted,
 - (v) in paragraph 19, “Article 64(1)” were a reference to regulation 62(1) (variants) of these Regulations,
 - (vi) in paragraph 20, “Article 84” were a reference to regulation 82 (abnormally low tenders) of these Regulations,
 - (vii) in paragraph 21, “date of transmission” were a reference to the date on which the notice is submitted to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations, and
- (b) be submitted for publication in accordance with regulation 69 (publication on the UK e-notification service).]

[^{F146}(3)

(4) In accordance with paragraph (5), a utility must [^{F147}submit] for publication a contract award notice in respect of the award of a supply, service or works contract based on a framework agreement if the estimated value of the contract under the framework is equal to or greater than the threshold referred to in regulation 15(1) (thresholds) applicable to that type of contract.

(5) The utility must [^{F148}submit] such notices for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F149}publication on the UK e-notification service]) on a quarterly basis, within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(6) In the case of the award of a contract based upon a dynamic purchasing system, a utility must either—

- (a) [^{F150}submit] for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F151}publication on the UK e-notification service]) a contract award notice within 30 days after the award of each such contract; or

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) group notices referred to in sub-paragraph (a) on a quarterly basis, in which case the utility must [^{F152}submit] for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F151}publication on the UK e-notification service]) the grouped notices within 30 days of the end of each quarter.
- (7) A utility may withhold from publication information on the contract award or the conclusion of the framework agreement where the release of the information—
- (a) would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest;
 - (b) would prejudice the commercial interests of any person; or
 - (c) might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.
- (8) In the case of contracts for research and development services, the information in paragraph (2) concerning the nature and quantity of the services may be limited to—
- (a) where the contract has been awarded by a negotiated procedure without a call for competition in accordance with regulation 48(1)(b) (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition), the indication “R & D Services”; and
 - (b) where the contract has been awarded by a procedure with a call for competition, information at least as detailed as was indicated in the notice that was used as a means of calling for competition.

Textual Amendments

- F143** Word in reg. 68(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F144** Words in reg. 68(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F145** Reg. 68(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(b\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F146** Reg. 68(3) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, [5\(18\)](#) (with reg. 3)
- F147** Word in reg. 68(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(c\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F148** Word in reg. 68(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(c\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F149** Words in reg. 68(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(d\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F150** Word in reg. 68(6)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(c\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F151** Words in reg. 68(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(d\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F152** Word in reg. 68(6)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(39\)\(c\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I67** [Reg. 68](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

[^{F153}Publication on the UK e-notification service] **S**

69.—(1) The notices required by regulations 65 to 68 to be [^{F154}submitted] for publication in accordance with this regulation must—

- (a) be [^{F154}submitted][^{F155}to the UK e-notification service] for publication; ^{F156}...

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

^{F156}(b)

(2) A utility must ensure that it is able to supply proof of the dates on which notices are [^{F157}submitted to the UK e-notification service] for publication.

(3) Where the [^{F158}provider of the UK e-notification service] has given the utility confirmation of ^{F159}... the publication of the information [^{F160}submitted], indicating the date of that publication, that confirmation shall constitute proof of publication.

(4) A utility may [^{F161}submit] notices in respect of works, supply or service contracts to the [^{F162}UK e-notification service] for publication even where the utility is not required to do so by these Regulations ^{F163}....

[^{F164}(5) In these Regulations, “the UK e-notification service” has the meaning given by regulation 52(5) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations,

(6) For the purposes of these Regulations, a notice of any description is submitted to the UK e-notification service if the information comprising the notice is entered in the portal in such form or manner as the portal requires and in compliance with any specific instructions given within the portal about the entry of information or any part of it.]

Textual Amendments

- F153** Reg. 69 heading substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F154** Word in reg. 69(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F155** Words in reg. 69(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(b)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F156** Reg. 69(1)(b) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(b)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F157** Words in reg. 69(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F158** Words in reg. 69(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(d)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F159** Words in reg. 69(3) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(d)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F160** Word in reg. 69(3) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(d)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F161** Word in reg. 69(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(e)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F162** Words in reg. 69(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(e)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F163** Words in reg. 69(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(e)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F164** Reg. 69(5)(6) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(40)(f)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

- I68** Reg. 69 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Publication [^{F165}otherwise than on the UK e-notification service] **S**

70.—(1) In addition to the publication of the notices referred to in regulations [^{F166}50 and] 65 to 68 [^{F167}on the UK e-notification service], a utility may publish the information contained in such notices on the internet on a buyer profile.

(2) A buyer profile may also include—

- (a) periodic indicative notices which are published on it pursuant to regulation 65(3)(b) (periodic indicative notices);
- (b) information on on-going invitations to tender, scheduled purchases, contracts concluded, procedures cancelled; and
- (c) any useful general information, such as a contact point, telephone and fax number, postal address and e-mail address.

(3) The notices referred to in regulations [^{F168}50 and] 65 to 68, and the information contained in them, must not be published [^{F169}otherwise than on the UK e-notification service before they are published on that service.]

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), publication may take place [^{F170}otherwise than on the UK e-notification service] where a utility has not been notified of the publication [^{F171}on that service within 48 hours after the notice was submitted to that service].

(5) A notice published [^{F172}otherwise than on the UK e-notification service] must not contain information other than that contained in the notice [^{F173}submitted to that service] or published on a buyer profile, but must indicate the date of [^{F174}submission of the notice to that service] or its publication on the buyer profile.

(6) Where a periodic indicative notice is to be published on a buyer profile—

- (a) the periodic indicative notice may not be so published before the utility [^{F175}submits to the UK e-notification service] the notice referred to in regulation 65(4) (periodic indicative notices); and
- (b) the periodic indicative notice must indicate the date of that [^{F176}submission].

Textual Amendments

- F165** Words in [reg. 70 heading](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(a\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F166** Words in [reg. 70\(1\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F167** Words in [reg. 70\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F168** Words in [reg. 70\(3\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(c\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F169** Words in [reg. 70\(3\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F170** Words in [reg. 70\(4\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(d\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F171** Words in [reg. 70\(4\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F172** Words in [reg. 70\(5\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(e\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F173** Words in [reg. 70\(5\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(41\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F174** Words in reg. 70(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(41)(e)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F175** Words in reg. 70(6)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(41)(f)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F176** Word in reg. 70(6)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(41)(f)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I69 Reg. 70 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Electronic availability of procurement documents **S**

71.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a utility must offer on the internet unrestricted and full direct access free of charge to the procurement documents from the date of publication of a notice in accordance with regulation 69 (^{F177}publication on the UK e-notification service) ^{F178}....

(2) Where the means of calling for competition is a notice on the existence of a qualification system, the access referred to in paragraph (1) must be offered as soon as possible and at the latest when the invitation to tender or to negotiate is sent.

(3) The text of the notice or the invitation must specify the internet address at which the procurement documents are accessible.

(4) Where unrestricted and full direct access free of charge by electronic means to certain procurement documents cannot be offered for one of the reasons set out in regulation 38(3) (rules applicable to communication), a utility may indicate in the notice ^{F179}... that the procurement documents concerned will be transmitted by means other than electronic means in accordance with the periods mentioned in paragraphs (7) and (8).

(5) Where unrestricted and full direct access free of charge by electronic means to certain procurement documents cannot be offered because a utility intends to apply regulation 37(3) (confidentiality), the utility must indicate, in one of the following, which measures, aimed at protecting the confidential nature of the information, the utility requires and how access can be obtained to the documents—

(a) the notice;

^{F180}(b)

(c) where the means of calling for competition is a notice on the existence of a qualification system, the procurement documents.

(6) Where paragraph (4) or (5) applies, the time limit for the submission of tenders must be extended by 5 days, except—

(a) in a case of duly substantiated urgency referred to in regulation 43(5) (open procedure); or

(b) where the time limit is set by mutual agreement in accordance with regulation 44(6) (restricted procedure) or 45(6) (negotiated procedure with prior call for competition).

(7) Provided that it has been requested in good time, a utility must supply to all tenderers taking part in the procurement additional information relating to the specifications and any supporting documents, not later than 6 days before the time limit fixed for the receipt of tenders.

(8) In the case of an accelerated open procedure, the period mentioned in paragraph (7) shall not be later than 4 days before the time limit fixed for the receipt of tenders.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F177** Words in [reg. 71\(1\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(42\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F178** Words in [reg. 71\(1\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2](#), [5\(19\)\(a\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))
- F179** Words in [reg. 71\(4\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2](#), [5\(19\)\(b\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))
- F180** [Reg. 71\(5\)\(b\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2](#), [5\(19\)\(c\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

Commencement Information

- I70** [Reg. 71](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Invitations to candidates S

72.—(1) In a restricted procedure, a competitive dialogue procedure, an innovation partnership and a negotiated procedure with prior call for competition, an invitation by a utility to selected candidates or to participants to submit a tender must be issued simultaneously and in writing.

(2) In a competitive dialogue procedure, an innovation partnership and a negotiated procedure with or without prior call for competition, an invitation by a utility to selected candidates to participate must be issued simultaneously and in writing.

^{F181}(3)

(4) The invitations required by paragraphs (1) [^{F182}and (2)] must—

- (a) include a reference to the electronic address at which the procurement documents have been made directly available by electronic means; or
- (b) be accompanied by the procurement documents, where those documents have not been the subject of unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, for the reasons referred to in regulation 71(4) or (5) (electronic availability of procurement documents) and have not already been made otherwise available.

(5) The invitations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) must also contain at least the following information—

- (a) where tenders are to be submitted, the deadline for the receipt of the tenders, the address to which the tenders must be sent and the language or languages in which the tenders must be drawn up;
- (b) in the case of competitive dialogue, the date and the address set for the start of consultation and the language or languages to be used;
- (c) a reference to the call for competition published;
- (d) an indication of any documents to be attached;
- (e) the criteria for the award of the contract, where they are not indicated in the notice on the existence of a qualification system used as a means of calling for competition;
- (f) the relative weighting of criteria for the award of the contract or, where appropriate, the order of importance of such criteria, where they are not given in the contract notice, the notice on the existence of a qualification system or the specifications.

^{F183}(6)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F181** Reg. 72(3) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(20)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F182** Words in reg. 72(4) substituted (30.5.2023) by [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(20)(b)** (with reg. 3)
- F183** Reg. 72(6) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(20)(c)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

- I71** [Reg. 72](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Informing applicants for qualification, candidates and tenderers **S**

73.—(1) A utility must as soon as possible after reaching a decision concerning the award of a contract, the conclusion of a framework agreement or admittance to a dynamic purchasing system, inform each candidate and tenderer of the decision reached.

(2) Information provided in accordance with paragraph (1) must, where applicable, include the grounds for any decision—

- (a) not to conclude a framework agreement;
- (b) not to award a contract for which there has been a call for competition;
- (c) to recommence the procedure; or
- (d) not to implement a dynamic purchasing system.

(3) On request from the candidate or tenderer concerned, the utility must as soon as possible, and in any event within 15 days from receipt of a written request, inform—

- (a) any unsuccessful candidate of the reasons for the rejection of its request to participate;
- (b) any unsuccessful tenderer of the reasons for the rejection of its tender, including, for the cases referred to in regulation 58(13) and (14) (technical specifications), the reasons for its decision of non-equivalence or its decision that the works, supplies or services do not meet the performance or functional requirements;
- (c) any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the tender selected as well as the name of the successful tenderer or the parties to the framework agreement; and
- (d) any tenderer that has made an admissible tender of the conduct and progress of negotiations and dialogue with tenderers.

(4) A utility may decide to withhold certain information referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3), where the release of such information—

- (a) would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest;
- (b) would prejudice the commercial interests of any person; or
- (c) might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.

(5) A utility which establishes and operates a system of qualification must—

- (a) inform applicants of its decision as to qualification within a period of 6 months;
- (b) if the decision as to qualification will take longer than 4 months from the presentation of an application, inform the applicant within 2 months of the application of—
 - (i) the reasons justifying the longer period; and

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (ii) the date by which the application will be accepted or refused;
 - (c) inform applicants whose qualification is refused of the refusal decision and the reasons for that decision as soon as possible and no more than 15 days after the date of the refusal decision.
- (6) A utility which establishes and operates a system of qualification must—
- (a) base its reasons for decisions as to qualification on the criteria for qualification referred to in regulation 75(3) to (5) (qualification systems); and
 - (b) only bring the qualification of an economic operator to an end for reasons based on the criteria for qualification referred to in regulation 75(3) to (5) (qualification systems).
- (7) Any intention to bring the qualification of an economic operator to an end must be notified in writing to the economic operator at least 15 days before the date on which the qualification is due to end, together with the reasons justifying the proposed action.

Commencement Information

I72 Reg. 73 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

SECTION 3

Choice of participants and award of contracts

General principles **S**

- 74.**—(1) For the purpose of selecting participants in their procurement, a utility—
- (a) which has provided rules and criteria for the exclusion of tenderers or candidates in accordance with regulations 76(1) (criteria for qualitative selection) or 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations), must exclude economic operators identified in accordance with such rules and fulfilling such criteria;
 - (b) must select tenderers and candidates in accordance with the objective rules and criteria mentioned in regulations 76 (criteria for qualitative selection) and 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations);
 - (c) must, where appropriate and in accordance with regulation 76(2) and (3) (criteria for qualitative selection), reduce the number of candidates selected in accordance with subparagraphs (a) and (b) in—
 - (i) restricted procedures;
 - (ii) negotiated procedures with a call for competition;
 - (iii) competitive dialogues; and
 - (iv) innovation partnerships.
- (2) When a call for competition is made by means of a notice on the existence of a qualification system and for the purpose of selecting participants in a procurement for the specific contracts which are the subject of the call for competition, a utility must—
- (a) qualify economic operators in accordance with regulation 75 (qualification systems);
 - (b) apply to such qualified economic operators those provisions of paragraph (1) that are relevant to restricted or negotiated procedures, to competitive dialogues or to innovation partnerships.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(3) When selecting participants for a restricted or negotiated procedure, a competitive dialogue or an innovation partnership, in reaching its decision as to qualification or when the criteria and rules are being updated, a utility must not—

- (a) impose administrative, technical or financial conditions on certain economic operators which would not be imposed on others;
- (b) require tests or evidence which would duplicate objective evidence already available.

(4) Where information or documentation to be submitted by an economic operator is or appears to be incomplete or erroneous, or where specific documents are missing, a utility may request the economic operator concerned to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation within an appropriate time limit, provided that such requests are made in full compliance with the principles of equal treatment and transparency.

(5) A utility must verify that the tenders submitted by the selected tenderers comply with the rules and requirements applicable to tenders and award the contract on the basis of the criteria laid down in regulations 80 (contract award criteria) and 82 (abnormally low tenders), taking into account regulation 62 (variants).

(6) A utility may decide not to award a contract to, or conclude a framework agreement with, the tenderer submitting the most economically advantageous tender where the utility has established that the tender does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and employment law established by ^{F184}... national law, collective agreements or [^{F185}, subject to paragraphs (6A) and (6B),] by the international environmental, social and employment law provisions listed in Annex XIV to the Utilities Contracts Directive as amended from time to time.

[^{F186}(6A) Where—

- (a) the United Kingdom has ratified an international agreement establishing obligations in any of the fields mentioned in paragraph (6), and
- (b) the agreement is not already listed,

the Scottish Ministers may make regulations providing that paragraph (6) is to have effect as if the agreement were listed.

(6B) Where the United Kingdom has ceased to ratify an international agreement that is already listed, the Scottish Ministers may make regulations providing that paragraph (6) is to have effect as if the agreement were not listed.

(6C) In paragraphs (6A) and (6B)—

- (a) “listed” means listed as described in paragraph (6), and
- (b) where paragraph (6) already has effect as if an agreement were listed, “already listed” includes that agreement.]

(7) In open procedures, a utility may decide to examine tenders before verifying the suitability of tenderers, provided that the relevant provisions of regulations 74 to 82 are observed.

Textual Amendments

F184 Words in [reg. 74\(6\)](#) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(43)(a)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F185 Words in [reg. 74\(6\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(43)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F186 [Reg. 74\(6A\)-\(6C\)](#) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(43)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I73 Reg. 74 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

SUB-SECTION 1

Qualification and qualitative selection

Qualification systems **S**

- 75.—(1) A utility may establish and operate a system of qualification of economic operators.
- (2) A utility which establishes or operates a system of qualification must ensure that economic operators are at all times able to request qualification.
- (3) The system under paragraph (1) may involve different qualification stages.
- (4) A utility must establish objective rules and criteria for—
- (a) the exclusion and selection of economic operators requesting qualification; and
 - (b) the operation of the qualification system, covering matters such as—
 - (i) inscription in the system;
 - (ii) periodic updating of the qualifications, if any; and
 - (iii) the duration of the system.
- (5) Where the rules and criteria referred to in paragraph (4) include technical specifications, regulations 58 to 60 apply.
- (6) The rules and criteria referred to in paragraph (4)—
- (a) must be made available to economic operators upon request; and
 - (b) may be updated as required and, if so, must be communicated to interested economic operators.
- (7) Where a utility considers that the qualification system of certain other entities or other bodies meets its requirements, it must communicate the names of those entities and bodies to interested economic operators.
- (8) A utility must keep a written record of qualified economic operators, which may be divided into categories according to type of contract for which the qualification is valid.
- (9) When a call for competition is made by means of a notice on the existence of a qualification system, specific contracts for the works, supplies or services covered by the qualification system must be awarded by restricted or negotiated procedure, competitive dialogue or innovation partnership as modified so that all tenderers and participants are selected among the candidates already qualified in accordance with such a system without being required to submit further information for qualitative selection or to submit a request to participate.
- (10) Any charges that are billed to an economic operator by a utility in connection with requests for qualification or with updating or conserving an already obtained qualification in accordance with the system must be proportionate to the generated costs.

Commencement Information

I74 Reg. 75 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Criteria for qualitative selection **S**

76.—(1) A utility—

- (a) may establish objective rules and criteria for the exclusion and selection of tenderers or candidates; and
- (b) if so, must make those rules and criteria available to interested economic operators.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), where a utility needs to ensure an appropriate balance between the particular characteristics of the procurement and the resources required to conduct it, it may, in restricted procedures, negotiated procedures, competitive dialogues or innovation partnerships, establish objective rules and criteria that reflect that need and enable the utility to reduce the number of candidates that will be invited to tender or to negotiate.

(3) A utility must take account of the need to ensure adequate competition when selecting the number of candidates.

Commencement Information

I75 [Reg. 76](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Reliance on the capacities of other entities **S**

77.—(1) This regulation applies where there are objective rules and criteria for the exclusion and selection of—

- (a) economic operators requesting qualification in a qualification system; or
- (b) candidates and tenderers in open, restricted or negotiated procedures, competitive dialogues or innovation partnerships.

(2) Where the objective rules and criteria for the exclusion and selection of those referred to in paragraph (1) include requirements relating to the economic operator's economic and financial capacity or technical and professional abilities, an economic operator may, where necessary rely upon the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them.

(3) With regard to criteria relating to the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider or contractor or those of the undertaking's managerial staff or to relevant professional experience, economic operators may only rely upon the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the works or services for which these capacities are required.

(4) Where an economic operator wants to rely upon the capacities of other entities, it must prove to the utility that the necessary resources will be available to it, for example by producing a commitment by those entities to that effect.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), an economic operator requesting qualification in a qualification system must prove that the necessary resources will be available to it throughout the period of the qualification system.

(6) Where, in accordance with regulation 78 (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations), a utility has referred to exclusion or selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations, the utility must verify, in accordance with the provisions applied by regulation 78(4)—

- (a) whether the other entities upon whose capacity the economic operator intends to rely fulfil the relevant selection criteria; or
- (b) whether there are grounds for exclusion, to which the utility has referred, under regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations.

(7) The utility—

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) must require the economic operator to replace an entity which does not meet a relevant selection criterion or in respect of which there are compulsory grounds for exclusion; and
- (b) may require the economic operator to substitute an entity in respect of which there are non-compulsory grounds for exclusion.

(8) Where an economic operator relies upon the capacities of other entities with regard to criteria relating to economic and financial standing, the utility may require the economic operator and those entities to be jointly liable for the performance of the contract.

(9) A group of economic operators as referred to in regulation 35(4) (economic operators) may rely upon the capacities of participants in the group or of other entities, and paragraphs (1) to (8) apply in relation to such a group in the same way that they apply in relation to an economic operator.

(10) In the case of works contracts, supply contracts requiring siting or installation work and [F187service] contracts, a utility may require certain critical tasks to be performed directly by the tenderer itself or, where the tender is submitted by a group of economic operators as referred to in regulation 35(4) (economic operators), by a participant in that group.

Textual Amendments

F187 Word in [reg. 77\(10\)](#) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 2\(6\)](#)

Commencement Information

I76 [Reg. 77](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations **S**

78.—(1) This regulation applies to objective rules and criteria for the exclusion and selection of—

- (a) economic operators requesting qualification in a qualification system; and
- (b) candidates and tenderers in open, restricted or negotiated procedures, competitive dialogues or innovation partnerships.

(2) The objective rules and criteria may include—

- (a) the exclusion grounds referred to in regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations on the terms set out in that regulation;
- (b) the selection criteria listed in regulation 59 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations on the terms set out in that regulation, including as regards the limits to requirements concerning yearly turnovers as provided for under regulation 59(9) and (10) of those Regulations.

(3) Where the utility is a contracting authority, the criteria and rules referred to in paragraph (1) must include the exclusion grounds listed in regulation 58(1) to (3) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations on the terms set out in that regulation.

(4) For the purposes of applying paragraphs (1) to (3), regulations 60 to 62 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations apply.

(5) For the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (4), any reference to a contracting authority in regulations 58 to 62 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations must be read as a reference to a utility.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 Reg. 78 modified (18.4.2016) by S.S.I. 2013/50, **Sch. 3 para. 10(2)(b)** (as substituted by The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 (S.S.I. 2016/49), reg. 1, **sch. 3 para. 3(2)(b)**)

Commencement Information

I77 Reg. 78 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Quality assurance standards and environmental management standards **S**

79.—(1) A utility must, where it requires the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting that the economic operator complies with certain quality assurance standards, including on accessibility for disabled persons, refer to quality assurance systems based on the relevant European standards series certified by accredited bodies.

^{F188}(2)

(3) A utility must also accept other evidence of equivalent quality assurance measures where the economic operator concerned had no possibility of obtaining such certificates within the relevant time limits for reasons that are not attributable to that economic operator, provided that the economic operator proves that the proposed quality assurance measures comply with the required quality assurance standards.

(4) Where a utility requires the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting that the economic operator complies with certain environmental management systems or standards, the utility must refer to ^{F189} ...

^{F189}(a)

^{F189}(b)

(c) ^{F190}... environmental management standards based on the relevant European or international standards by accredited bodies,

^{F191} ...

(5) Where an economic operator had demonstrably no access to such certificates referred to in paragraph (4) or no possibility of obtaining them within the relevant time limits for reasons that are not attributable to that economic operator, the utility must accept other evidence of environmental management measures, provided that the economic operator proves that these measures are equivalent to those required under the applicable environmental management system or standard.

Textual Amendments

F188 Reg. 79(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(44)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F189 Words in reg. 79(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(44)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F190 Word in reg. 79(4)(c) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(44)(b)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F191 Words in reg. 79(4) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(44)(b)(iii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I78 Reg. 79 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

SUB-SECTION 2

Award of the Contract

Contract award criteria **S**

80.—(1) A utility must base the award of contracts on the most economically advantageous tender assessed from the point of view of the utility.

(2) Where the utility is a person mentioned in regulation 4(1)(a) (utilities) it must not use price only or cost only as the sole award criteria.

(3) A utility must identify the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of the price or cost using a cost-effectiveness approach (such as life-cycle costing in accordance with regulation 81 (life-cycle costing)) and may include the best price-quality ratio which must be assessed on the basis of criteria linked to the subject-matter of the contract in question.

(4) Criteria referred to in paragraph (3) may comprise or include—

- (a) quality, including technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, accessibility, design for all users, social, environmental and innovative characteristics and trading and its conditions;
- (b) organisation, qualification and experience of staff assigned to performing the contract, where the quality of the staff assigned can have a significant impact on the level of performance of the contract; and
- (c) after-sales service and technical assistance, delivery conditions such as delivery date, delivery process and delivery period or period of completion and commitments with regard to parts and security of supply.

(5) The cost element may also take the form of a fixed price or cost on the basis of which economic operators will compete on quality criteria only.

(6) Award criteria must be considered to be linked to the subject-matter of the contract where they relate to the works, supplies or services to be provided under that contract in any respect and at any stage of their life cycle, including factors involved in—

- (a) the specific process of production, provision or trading of those works, supplies or services; or
- (b) a specific process for another stage of their life cycle,

even where such factors do not form part of their material substance.

(7) Award criteria must—

- (a) not have the effect of conferring an unrestricted freedom of choice upon the utility;
- (b) ensure the possibility of effective competition; and
- (c) be accompanied by specifications that allow the information provided by the tenderers to be effectively verified in order to assess how well the tenders meet the award criteria.

(8) In case of doubt, the utility must verify effectively the accuracy of the information and proof provided by the tenderers.

(9) The utility must specify, in the procurement documents, the relative weighting which it gives to each of the criteria chosen to determine the most economically advantageous tender.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(10) The weightings referred to in paragraph (9) may be expressed by providing for a range with an appropriate maximum spread.

(11) Where weighting is not possible for objective reasons, the utility must indicate the criteria in descending order of importance.

Commencement Information

I79 Reg. 80 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Life-cycle costing **S**

81.—(1) Life-cycle costing must, to the extent relevant, cover part or all of the following costs over the life cycle of a product, service or works—

- (a) costs, borne by the utility or other users, such as—
 - (i) costs relating to acquisition;
 - (ii) costs of use, such as consumption of energy and other resources;
 - (iii) maintenance costs;
 - (iv) end of life costs, such as collection and recycling costs; and
- (b) costs imputed to environmental externalities linked to the works, product or service during its life cycle, provided their monetary value can be determined and verified.

(2) The costs mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) may include the cost of emissions of greenhouse gases and of other pollutant emissions and other climate change mitigation costs.

(3) The method used for the assessment of costs imputed to environmental externalities must fulfil all of the following conditions—

- (a) it is based on objectively verifiable and non-discriminatory criteria and, in particular, where it has not been established for repeated or continuous application, it must not unduly favour or disadvantage certain economic operators;
- (b) it is accessible to all interested parties;
- (c) the data required can be provided with reasonable effort by normally diligent economic operators ^{F192}

(4) Where a utility assesses costs using a life-cycle costing approach, the utility must indicate in the procurement documents—

- (a) the data to be provided by the tenderers; and
- (b) the method which the utility will use to determine the life-cycle costs on the basis of those data.

^{F193}(5)

^{F193}(6)

Textual Amendments

F192 Words in **reg. 81(3)(c)** omitted (31.12.2021) by virtue of **The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468)**, **regs. 1(4), 7(3)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 10-15)

F193 **Reg. 81(5)(6)** omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of **The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468)**, **regs. 1(2), 6(45)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I80 Reg. 81 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Abnormally low tenders **S**

82.—(1) A utility must require a tenderer to explain the price or costs proposed in the tender where the tender appears to be abnormally low in relation to the works, supplies or services.

(2) The explanations given in accordance with paragraph (1) may, in particular, relate to—

- (a) the economics of the manufacturing process, of the services provided or of the construction method;
- (b) the technical solutions chosen or any exceptionally favourable conditions available to the tenderer for the execution of the works or for the supply of the products or services;
- (c) the originality of the works, supplies or services proposed by the tenderer;
- (d) compliance with obligations referred to in regulation 34(4) (principles of procurement);
- (e) compliance with obligations referred to in regulation 85 (subcontracting);

^{F194}(f)

[^{F195}(g) whether the price or costs take into account the grant of subsidies.]

(3) The utility must assess the information provided by consulting the tenderer.

(4) The utility may only reject the tender where the explanations given and any evidence supplied do not satisfactorily account for the low level of price or costs proposed, taking into account the elements referred to in paragraph (2).

(5) The utility must reject the tender where the utility has established that the tender is abnormally low because it does not comply with applicable obligations referred to in regulation 34(4) (principles of procurement).

^{F196}(6)

^{F196}(7)

Textual Amendments

F194 Reg. 82(2)(f) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(46)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F195 Reg. 82(2)(g) inserted (27.6.2022) by The Public Procurement (International Trade Agreements) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/766), regs. 1(1), **6(2)** (with reg. 9)

F196 Reg. 82(6)(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(46)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I81 Reg. 82 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

SECTION 4

Tenders comprising products originating in third countries and relations with those countries

Tenders comprising products originating in third countries **S**

^{F197}**83.**

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F197 Reg. 83 omitted (31.12.2021) by virtue of [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(4), **7(4)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 10-15)

CHAPTER 4 **S**

CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

Conditions for performance of contracts **S**

84.—(1) A utility may lay down special conditions relating to the performance of a contract, provided that they are—

- (a) linked to the subject-matter of the contract within the meaning of regulation 80(6) (contract award criteria); and
- (b) indicated in the call for competition or in the procurement documents.

(2) Such conditions may include economic, innovation-related, environmental, social or employment-related considerations.

Commencement Information

I82 Reg. 84 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

^{F198}Electronic invoicing **S**

84A.—(1) It shall be an implied term of all public contracts that utilities must accept and process electronic invoices for the provision of works, supplies or services in the performance of a contract where such invoices—

- (a) comply with the European standard on electronic invoicing reference to which has been published pursuant to Article 3(2) of [Directive 2014/55/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on electronic invoicing in public procurement, and
- (b) contain any of the syntaxes on the list published pursuant to Article 3(2) of that Directive.

(2) In this regulation—

“electronic invoice” means an invoice containing the information components referred to in regulation 84A(3) that has been issued, transmitted and received in a structured electronic format which allows for its automatic and electronic processing,

“GDPR” means the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing [Directive 95/46/EC](#), and

“syntax” means the machine readable language or dialect used to represent the data elements contained in an electronic invoice.

(3) An electronic invoice referred to in this regulation must contain the following information components—

- (a) process and invoice identifiers,
- (b) the invoice period,
- (c) seller information,
- (d) buyer information,

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (e) payee information,
- (f) seller's tax representative information,
- (g) contract reference,
- (h) delivery details,
- (i) payment instructions,
- (j) allowance or charge information,
- (k) invoice line item information,
- (l) invoice totals, and
- (m) VAT breakdown.

(4) This regulation is without prejudice to applicable law on data protection.

(5) Subject to any provisions to the contrary in any enactments and without prejudice to the exemptions and restrictions set out in GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, personal data obtained for the purpose of electronic invoicing may be used only for that purpose or for purposes compatible with it.

(6) This regulation is without prejudice to any provision made by or under Schedule 11 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994.]

Textual Amendments

F198 Reg. 84A inserted (18.4.2019 for specified purposes, 18.4.2020 in so far as not already in force) by [The Electronic Invoicing \(Public Contracts etc.\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/7\)](#), regs. 1(2), 4(2)

Subcontracting **S**

85.—(1) In the procurement documents, the utility may ask the tenderer to indicate in its tender any share of the contract that the tenderer may intend to subcontract to third parties and information about any proposed subcontractors including their name and contact details.

(2) Paragraph (1) is without prejudice to the liability of the main contractor under the contract.

(3) Where paragraph (4) applies, the utility must require the main contractor to notify it at the latest when the performance of the contract commences, of the name, contact details and legal representatives of its subcontractors, involved in such works or services, in so far as known at the time.

(4) This paragraph applies in the case of—

- (a) a works contract;
- (b) a ^{F199}service contract] which includes services to be provided at a facility under the direct oversight of the utility.

(5) The utility must require the main contractor to notify the utility of—

- (a) any changes to the information referred to in paragraph (3) during the course of the contract; and
- (b) the name, contact details and legal representatives of any new subcontractors which the contractor subsequently involves in such works or services.

(6) Paragraphs (3) and (5) do not apply to subcontractors who provide only supplies.

(7) Where necessary for the purposes of paragraph (9), the required information must be accompanied by ^{F200}SPDs] in respect of the subcontractors.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(8) A utility may require a contractor to provide information of the kind referred to in paragraphs (3) and (5) in respect of any one or more of the following—

- (a) supply contracts or [^{F201}service contracts] (other than those concerning services to be provided at the facilities under the direct oversight of the utility);
- (b) suppliers involved in works or [^{F202}service contracts];
- (c) subcontractors of the main contractor's subcontractors or other contractors further down the subcontracting chain.

(9) A utility may, in accordance with regulation 78(4) (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations), verify whether there are grounds for exclusion of subcontractors pursuant to regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations.

(10) The utility must require the economic operator to replace a subcontractor in respect of which the verification has shown that there are compulsory grounds for exclusion.

(11) The utility may require the economic operator to replace a subcontractor in respect of which the verification has shown that there are non-compulsory grounds for exclusion.

Textual Amendments

F199 Words in reg. 85(4)(b) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(7)(a)**

F200 Word in reg. 85(7) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(48)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F201 Words in reg. 85(8)(a) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(7)(b)**

F202 Words in reg. 85(8)(b) substituted (1.7.2019) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2019 \(S.S.I. 2019/173\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(7)(b)**

Commencement Information

I83 [Reg. 85](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Modification of contracts during their term **S**

86.—(1) A contract and framework agreement may be modified without a new procurement—

- (a) where the modifications, irrespective of their monetary value, have been provided for in the initial procurement documents in clear, precise and unequivocal review clauses, which may include price revision clauses or options, provided that such clauses—
 - (i) state the scope and nature of possible modifications or options as well as the conditions under which they may be used; and
 - (ii) do not provide for modifications or options that would alter the overall nature of the contract or framework agreement;
- (b) to provide for additional works, supplies or services by the original contractor, irrespective of their value, that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor—
 - (i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement; and
 - (ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the utility;

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) where the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent utility could not have foreseen and the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract or framework agreement;
 - (d) where a new contractor replaces one to which the utility had initially awarded the contract or framework as a consequence of—
 - (i) an unequivocal review clause or option in conformity with sub-paragraph (a); or
 - (ii) complete or partial succession into the position of the initial contractor, following corporate restructuring, including takeover, merger, acquisition or insolvency, by another economic operator that fulfils the criteria for qualitative selection initially established, provided that this does not entail other substantial modifications to the contract or framework agreement and is not aimed at circumventing the application of this Part;
 - (e) where the modifications, irrespective of their value, are not substantial (as defined in paragraph (7)); or
 - (f) where paragraph (4) applies.
- (2) A utility which has modified a contract or framework agreement in either of the cases described in paragraph (1)(b) or (c) must [^{F203}submit] a notice to that effect for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F204}publication on the UK e-notification service]).
- (3) The notice referred to in paragraph (2) must contain the information set out in Annex XVI to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F205}, but as if paragraph 10 (financing by EU funds) were omitted].
- (4) This paragraph applies where the value of the modification is below both of the following values—
- (a) the relevant threshold mentioned in regulation 15 (thresholds); and
 - (b) 10% of the initial contract value for service and supply contracts or framework agreements and 15% of the initial contract value for works contracts or framework agreements,
- provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract or framework agreement.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), where several successive modifications are made, the value must be the net cumulative value of the successive modifications.
- (6) For the purpose of the calculation of the values mentioned in paragraph (4)(b) the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the contract or framework agreement includes an indexation clause.
- (7) A modification of a contract or a framework agreement during its term must be considered substantial for the purpose of paragraph (1)(e) where one or more of the following conditions are met—
- (a) the modification renders the contract or the framework agreement materially different in character from the one initially concluded;
 - (b) the modification introduces conditions which, had they been part of the initial procurement, would have—
 - (i) allowed for the admission of candidates other than those initially selected;
 - (ii) allowed for the acceptance of a tender other than that originally accepted; or
 - (iii) attracted additional participants in the procurement;
 - (c) the modification changes the economic balance of the contract or the framework agreement in favour of the contractor in a manner which was not provided for in the initial contract or framework agreement;

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (d) the modification extends the scope of the contract or framework agreement considerably;
 - (e) a new contractor replaces one to which the utility had initially awarded the contract or framework agreement in cases other than those provided for in paragraph (1)(d).
- (8) A new procurement in accordance with these Regulations is required for modifications of the provisions of a works, supply or service contract or a framework agreement during its term other than those provided for in this regulation.

Textual Amendments

F203 Word in reg. 86(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(49)(a)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F204 Words in reg. 86(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(49)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F205 Words in reg. 86(3) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(49)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I84 [Reg. 86](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Termination of contracts S

87.—(1) A utility must ensure that every works, supply or service contract or framework which the utility awards contains provisions enabling the utility to terminate the contract or framework where—

- (a) the contract or framework has been subject to a substantial modification which would have required a new procurement in accordance with regulation 86(8) (modification of contracts during their term); [^{F206}or]
- (b) the contractor has, at the time of contract award, been in one of the situations referred to in regulation 58(1) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations, including as a result of the application of regulation 58(2) of those Regulations, and should have been excluded from the procurement as a result of the application of rules and criteria referred to in regulation 78(3) (use of exclusion grounds and selection criteria provided for under the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations) of these Regulations ^{F207}...

^{F207}(c)

(2) Those provisions may address the basis on which the power is to be exercisable in those circumstances, for example by providing for notice of termination to be given and by addressing consequential matters that will or might arise from the termination.

(3) To the extent that a contract or framework does not contain provisions enabling the utility to terminate the contract or framework on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraph (1), a power for the utility to do so on giving notice to the contractor shall be an implied term of that contract or framework.

[^{F208}(4) A utility must not terminate a contract in a manner that circumvents the obligations under these Regulations.]

Textual Amendments

F206 Word in reg. 87(1)(a) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(50)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F207** Reg. 87(1)(c) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(50)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 7)
- F208** Reg. 87(4) inserted (30.5.2023) by The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(21)** (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

I85 Reg. 87 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

PART 3 S

PARTICULAR PROCUREMENT REGIMES

CHAPTER 1 S

SOCIAL AND OTHER SPECIFIC SERVICES

Award of contracts for social and other specific services S

88. A contract or framework for social and other specific services listed in Schedule 2 (social and other specific services) must be awarded in accordance with this Chapter, where the estimated value of the contract or framework is equal to or greater than the threshold indicated in regulation 15(1) (c) (thresholds).

Commencement Information

I86 Reg. 88 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Publication of notices S

89.—(1) A utility intending to award a contract or framework for the services referred to in regulation 88 (award of contracts for social and other specific services) must make known its intention by means of—

(a) a contract notice;

^{F209}(b)

(c) a notice on the existence of a qualification system, which must be published continuously.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where a negotiated procedure without prior call for competition could have been used in accordance with regulation 48 (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition) for the award of the contract or framework.

(3) A utility that has awarded a contract or framework for the services referred to in regulation 88 (award of contracts for social and other specific services) must make known the results of the procurement by means of a contract award notice.

(4) A utility may, however, group notices referred to in paragraph (3) on a quarterly basis, in which case it must [^{F210}submit] the grouped notices within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(5) The notices referred to in paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) must contain the information referred to in the relevant part of Annex XVIII to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F211}, but as if, in paragraph 4 of part D, “in the *Official Journal of the European Union*” read “on the UK e-notification service (within the meaning of the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016)].

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(6) A utility must [^{F212}submit] the notices referred to in paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F213}publication on the UK e-notification service]).

Textual Amendments

F209 Reg. 89(1)(b) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/124), regs. 2, **5(22)** (with reg. 3)

F210 Word in reg. 89(4) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(51)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F211 Words in reg. 89(5) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(51)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F212 Word in reg. 89(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(51)(c)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F213 Words in reg. 89(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(51)(c)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I87 Reg. 89 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Principles of awarding contracts **S**

90.—(1) A utility must determine the procedure that is to be applied in connection with the award of a contract or framework subject to this Chapter and may take into account—

- (a) the specificities of the services in question; and
- (b) the requirements and needs of users.

(2) The procedure must be at least sufficient to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators.

(3) The procedure may provide for the exclusion from participation in the procurement of any economic operator in relation to which exclusion grounds referred to in regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations apply on the terms set out in that regulation.

(4) Where the utility is a contracting authority, the procedure must provide for the exclusion from participation in the procurement of any economic operator in relation to which exclusion grounds referred to in regulation 58(1) to (3) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations apply on the terms set out in that regulation.

(5) Where, in accordance with regulation 89 (publication of notices), a contract notice ^{F214}... has been published in relation to a procurement, the utility must, except in the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (6), conduct that procurement, and award any resulting contract or framework, in conformity with the information contained in the notice about—

- (a) conditions for participation;
- (b) time limits for contacting the utility; and
- (c) the award procedure to be applied.

(6) The utility may, however, conduct the procurement, and award any resulting contract or framework, in a way which is not in conformity with that information, but only if all of the following conditions are met—

- (a) the failure to conform does not, in the particular circumstances, amount to a breach of the principles of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators;
- (b) the utility has—

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) after giving due consideration to the matter, concluded that sub-paragraph (a) is applicable;
- (ii) documented that conclusion and the reasons for it in accordance with regulation 96(5) and (6) (reporting and documentation requirements); and
- (iii) informed the participants of the respects in which the utility intends to proceed in a way which is not in accordance with the information contained in the notice.

(7) In paragraph (6)(b)(iii), “participants” means any economic operators which have responded to the notice and not been informed by the utility that they are no longer under consideration for the award of a contract within the scope of the procurement concerned.

(8) All time limits imposed upon economic operators for the purposes of this regulation, whether for responding to a contract notice or taking any other steps in the relevant procedure, must be reasonable and proportionate having regard to the nature of the requirement and the needs of service users.

(9) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), a utility may apply procedures for the purposes of this regulation which correspond (with or without variations) to procedures, techniques or other features otherwise provided for in these Regulations, as well as procedures which do not.

(10) In relation to the award of contracts subject to this regulation, a utility may take into account—

- (a) the need to ensure quality, continuity, accessibility, affordability, availability and comprehensiveness of the services;
- (b) the specific needs of different categories of users, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- (c) the involvement and empowerment of users;
- (d) innovation; and
- (e) any other relevant consideration.

(11) A utility which is a person mentioned in regulation 4(1)(a) (utilities) must award a contract or framework for services listed in Schedule 2 (social and other specific services) on the basis of the tender representing the best price-quality ratio, taking into account quality and sustainability criteria for such services.

Textual Amendments

F214 Words in [reg. 90\(5\)](#) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), [regs. 2, 5\(23\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

Commencement Information

I88 [Reg. 90](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

CHAPTER 2 S

RULES GOVERNING DESIGN CONTESTS

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C4 Pt. 3 Ch. 2 modified (18.4.2016) by [S.S.I. 2013/50](#), [Sch. 3 para. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#) (as substituted by [The Utilities Contracts \(Scotland\) Regulations 2016 \(S.S.I. 2016/49\)](#), [reg. 1](#), [sch. 3 para. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#))

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Scope of Chapter **S**

91. This Chapter applies to—

- (a) design contests organised as part of a procedure leading to the award of a service contract provided that the estimated value [^{F215}inclusive of VAT, where appropriate] of the service contract including any possible prizes or payments to participants is equal to or greater than the threshold referred to in regulation 15(1)(a) (thresholds); and
- (b) design contests where the total estimated value [^{F216}inclusive of VAT, where appropriate] of contest prizes and payments to participants, including the estimated value [^{F216}inclusive of VAT, where appropriate] of the service contract which might subsequently be concluded in accordance with regulation 48(4)(f) (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition) if the utility does not exclude such an award in the contest notice, is equal to or greater than the threshold referred to in regulation 15(1)(a) (thresholds).

Textual Amendments

F215 Words in reg. 91(a) substituted (1.1.2022) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds etc.) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/378), regs. 1(2), 4(4) (with reg. 6)

F216 Words in reg. 91(b) substituted (1.1.2022) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds etc.) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/378), regs. 1(2), 4(4) (with reg. 6)

Commencement Information

I89 Reg. 91 in force at 18.4.2016, see reg. 1(2)

Notices **S**

92.—(1) A utility that intends to carry out a design contest must call for competition by means of a contest notice which includes the information set out in Annex XIX to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F217}, but as if, in paragraph 15, “date of dispatch” were a reference to the date on which the notice is submitted to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations].

(2) Where a utility intends to award a subsequent service contract under regulation 48(4)(f) (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition) this must be indicated in the contest notice.

(3) A utility that has held a design contest must—

- (a) make the results known by means of a notice which must include the information set out in Annex XX to the Utilities Contracts Directive [^{F218}, but as if, in paragraph 11, “date of dispatch” were a reference to the date on which the notice is submitted to the UK e-notification service for the purposes of these Regulations]; and
- (b) [^{F219}submit] such notice to the [^{F220}UK e-notification service] within 30 days of the closure of the design contest.

(4) A utility may withhold from publication information on the result of the contest where the release of the information—

- (a) would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest;
- (b) would prejudice the commercial interests of any person; or
- (c) might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(5) The utility must [^{F221}submit] the notices referred to in this regulation for publication in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F222}publication on the UK e-notification service]).

Textual Amendments

- F217** Words in reg. 92(1) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F218** Words in reg. 92(3)(a) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F219** Word in reg. 92(3)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(b)(ii)(aa)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F220** Words in reg. 92(3)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(b)(ii)(bb)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F221** Word in reg. 92(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(c)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F222** Words in reg. 92(5) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(52)(c)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I90 Reg. 92 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Rules on the organisation of design contests and the selection of participants and the jury **S**

93.—(1) When organising a design contest, a utility must apply procedures which are adapted to the provisions of Part 1 and this Chapter.

^{F223}(2)

- (3) Where a design contest is restricted to a limited number of participants, the utility must—
 - (a) lay down clear and non-discriminatory selection criteria; and
 - (b) ensure that the number of candidates invited to participate is sufficient to ensure genuine competition in so far as there are enough qualified candidates.

(4) A utility must appoint a jury which must be composed exclusively of natural persons who are independent participants in the contest.

(5) Where a particular professional qualification is required of participants in a contest at least a third of the jury members must have that qualification or an equivalent qualification.

Textual Amendments

F223 Reg. 93(2) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(53)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I91 Reg. 93 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Decisions of the jury **S**

94.—(1) The jury must be autonomous in its decisions and opinions.

(2) The jury must examine the plans and projects submitted by the candidates anonymously and solely on the basis of the criteria indicated in the contest notice.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) The jury must record its ranking of projects in a report, signed by its members, made according to the merits of each project, together with its remarks and any points that may need clarification.
- (4) Anonymity must be observed until the jury has reached its opinion or decision.
- (5) Candidates may be invited, if need be, to answer questions that the jury has recorded in the minutes to clarify any aspects of the projects.
- (6) Complete minutes must be drawn up of the dialogue between jury members and candidates.

Commencement Information

I92 Reg. 94 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

PART 4 **S**

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Retention of contract copies **S**

95.—(1) A utility must, at least for the duration of the contract, keep copies of all concluded contracts with a value equal to or greater than—

- (a) [^{F224}£884,720] in the case of supply or service contracts;
- (b) [^{F225}£8,847,200] in the case of works contracts.

(2) A utility must grant access to those contracts, but access to specific documents or items of information may be denied to the extent and on the conditions provided for in the [^{F226}rules on access to documents and data protection applicable in the relevant part of the United Kingdom].

Textual Amendments

- F224** Sum in reg. 95(1)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(54\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F225** Sum in reg. 95(1)(b) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(54\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)
- F226** Words in reg. 95(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), [6\(54\)\(b\)](#) (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I93 Reg. 95 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Reporting and documentation requirements **S**

96.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a utility must keep appropriate information on each contract and framework agreement covered by these Regulations and each time a dynamic purchasing system is established.

(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) must be sufficient to permit the utility at a later date to justify decisions taken in connection with—

- (a) the qualification and selection of economic operators and the award of contracts;
- (b) the use of negotiated procedures without a call for competition in accordance with regulation 48 (use of the negotiated procedure without prior call for competition);

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(c) the derogations provided for in Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 1 to these Regulations relating to Chapters 2 to 4 of Part 2 to these Regulations;

(d) where necessary, the reasons why means of communication other than electronic means have been used for the submission of tenders.

(3) To the extent that the contract award notice drawn up in accordance with regulations 68 (contract award notices) or 89(3) (publication of notices) contains the information required in this paragraph, the utility may refer to that notice.

(4) A utility must document the progress of all procurement procedures, whether or not the procedures are conducted by electronic means.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), a utility must ensure that the utility keeps sufficient documentation to justify decisions taken in all stages of the procurement, such as documentation on—

(a) communications with economic operators;

(b) internal deliberations;

(c) preparation of the procurement documents;

(d) dialogue or negotiation, if any;

(e) selection and award of the contract.

(6) The documentation must be kept for a period of at least 3 years from the date of award of the contract.

^{F227}(7)

(8) Where the Scottish Ministers so request, the utility must communicate the information and documentation referred to in paragraphs (1) to (5), or its main elements, to the Scottish Ministers

^{F228}

^{F229}(9)

Textual Amendments

F227 Reg. 96(7) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(55)(a)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F228 Words in reg. 96(8) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(55)(b)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F229 Reg. 96(9) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(55)(c)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

Commencement Information

I94 Reg. 96 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

PART 5 **S**

REMEDIES

CHAPTER 1 **S**

FACILITATION OF REMEDIES

Scope of Chapter **S**

97. This Chapter applies to procurement falling within the scope of Parts 1 to 4.

Commencement Information

I95 Reg. 97 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement **S**

98.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a utility must, by notice in writing as soon as possible after the decision has been made, inform all tenderers and candidates concerned of its decision to award the contract, conclude the framework agreement or establish a dynamic purchasing system.

(2) The notice referred to in paragraph (1) must include—

- (a) the criteria for the award of the contract, conclusion of the framework agreement or establishment of the dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) where practicable, the score obtained by the economic operator which is to receive the notice;
- (c) the name of and, where practicable, the score obtained by the economic operator—
 - (i) to be awarded the contract;
 - (ii) to become a party to the framework agreement; or
 - (iii) to be admitted to the dynamic purchasing system;
- (d) in the case of an unsuccessful tenderer—
 - (i) a summary of the reasons why the tenderer was unsuccessful; and
 - (ii) the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender;
- (e) in the case of an unsuccessful candidate concerned, a summary of the reasons why the candidate was unsuccessful; and
- (f) a precise statement of the effect of regulation 99 (standstill period) on the economic operator which is to receive the notice.

(3) The reasons referred to in paragraph (2)(d)(i) and (e) must include any reason for the utility's decision that the economic operator did not meet the technical specifications—

- (a) because compliance with a specification mentioned in regulation 58(13) (technical specifications) does not address the performance or functional requirements laid down by the utility; or
- (b) in an equivalent manner as mentioned in regulation 58(14) (technical specifications).

(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply where—

- (a) the only tenderer is the economic operator to be awarded the contract or to become a party to the framework agreement, and there are no candidates concerned;

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) the contract is a contract awarded under a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system; or
 - (c) the contract or framework agreement is exempt from the requirement for prior publication of a call for competition.
- (5) A utility may withhold any information to be provided in accordance with the preceding requirements of this regulation where the release of such information—
- (a) would impede law enforcement or would otherwise be contrary to the public interest;
 - (b) would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of a particular economic operator, whether public or private; or
 - (c) might prejudice fair competition between economic operators.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (5), a utility must within 15 days of the date on which it receives a request in writing from any economic operator—
- (a) if it was unsuccessful, inform that economic operator of the reasons why it was unsuccessful, including any reason referred to in paragraph (3);
 - (b) in the case of an unsuccessful tenderer, other than a tenderer which has been informed by notice under paragraph (1), inform that tenderer of the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the name of—
 - (i) the economic operator to be awarded the contract;
 - (ii) the parties to the framework agreement; or
 - (iii) the economic operators admitted to the dynamic purchasing system; and
 - (c) if it was successful, a description of any improvements the utility considers the tenderer could have made to its tender.
- (7) Subject to paragraph (5), a utility must by notice in writing, as soon as possible after the decision has been made, inform all candidates and tenderers of its decision to abandon or recommence a contract award procedure in respect of which a call for competition has been published in relation to—
- (a) the award of a contract;
 - (b) the conclusion of a framework agreement; or
 - (c) the establishment of a dynamic purchasing system.
- (8) Where a utility provides information in accordance with paragraph (7) it must include the reasons for its decision and, if so requested by an economic operator, must provide the information and reasons in writing.
- (9) In this regulation—
- “candidate” means a candidate, as defined in regulation 2(1) (interpretation), which—
- (a) is not a tenderer; and
 - (b) has not been informed of the rejection of its application and the reasons for it; and
- “tenderer” means a tenderer, as defined in regulation 2(1) (interpretation), which has not been definitively excluded.
- (10) For the purposes of paragraph (9), an exclusion is definitive only if the tenderer has been notified of the exclusion and either—
- (a) the exclusion has been held to be lawful in proceedings under Chapter 2 of this Part (applications to the court); or

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) the time limit for starting such proceedings has expired even on the assumption that the court would have granted the maximum extension permitted by regulation 101(4) (enforcement of duties through the courts).

Commencement Information

I96 Reg. 98 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Standstill period **S**

99.—(1) A utility must allow a period of at least the relevant standstill period to elapse between the date of despatch of the notice referred to in regulation 98(1) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement) and the date on which that utility enters into the contract or concludes the framework agreement.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where—

- (a) the contract or framework agreement is exempt from the requirement for prior publication of a call for competition;
- (b) there are no tenderers concerned or candidates concerned; or
- (c) a notice is not required to be given under regulation 98(1) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement).

(3) Where notice is sent to all economic operators by facsimile or electronic means, the standstill period is a period of 10 days ending at midnight at the end of the 10th day after that on which the last notice is sent.

(4) Where the notice is sent to any economic operators only by other means, the standstill period is a period of 15 days ending at midnight at the end of the 15th day after that on which the last notice is sent.

Commencement Information

I97 Reg. 99 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

CHAPTER 2 **S**

APPLICATIONS TO THE COURT

Duty owed to economic operators [^{F230}, including those from countries with whom the EU has a relevant international agreement other than the GPA] **S**

100.—(1) The obligation on a utility to comply with the provisions of these Regulations (except where otherwise specified), and with any [^{F231}retained EU obligation that is enforceable by virtue of section 4 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018] in respect of a contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or design contest falling within the scope of these Regulations, is a duty owed to an economic operator from [^{F232}the United Kingdom or Gibraltar].

- ^{F233}(2)
- ^{F234}(3)
- ^{F235}(3A)
- ^{F233}(4)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- F233(4A)
- F236(5)

Textual Amendments

F230 Words in reg. 100 heading inserted (11.6.2021) by The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/573), regs. 1(1), **6(5)(a)**

F231 Words in reg. 100(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(56)(a)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F232 Words in reg. 100(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(2), **6(56)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F233 Reg. 100(2)(4)(4A) omitted (31.12.2021) by virtue of The Public Procurement etc. (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.S.I. 2020/468), regs. 1(4), **7(5)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 10-15)

F234 Reg. 100(3) omitted (11.6.2021) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/573), regs. 1(1), **6(5)(c)**

F235 Reg. 100(3A) omitted (11.6.2021) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/573), regs. 1(1), **6(5)(c)**

F236 Reg. 100(5) omitted (11.6.2021) by virtue of The Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/573), regs. 1(1), **6(5)(c)**

Commencement Information

I98 Reg. 100 in force at 18.4.2016, see **reg. 1(2)**

[^{F237}Duty owed to economic operators from GPA parties S

100A.—(1) The duty owed in accordance with regulation 100(1) (duty owed to economic operators, including those from countries with whom the EU has a relevant international agreement other than the GPA) is a duty owed also to an economic operator from a GPA party, but only where the agreement applies to the procurement concerned.

- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the GPA applies to a procurement if—
 - (a) the procurement may result in the award of a contract of any description; and
 - (b) at the relevant time—
 - (i) a GPA party has agreed with the United Kingdom that the GPA shall apply to a contract of that description; and
 - (ii) the economic operator is from that GPA party.
- (3) In this regulation, “relevant time” means—
 - (a) if the utility selects economic operators to tender for or to negotiate the contract in accordance with a qualification system established in accordance with regulation 75 (qualification systems), the date on which the selection commences;

^{F238}(b)

- (c) in any other case, the date on which the utility submitted a contract notice (or design contest notice) to the UK e-notification service or would have done so if the requirement that there be a call for competition applied and the utility decided to satisfy that requirement by submitting such a notice.]

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F237** Reg. 100A inserted (11.6.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(6)**
- F238** Reg. 100A(3)(b) omitted (30.5.2023) by virtue of [The Public Procurement \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/124\)](#), regs. 2, **5(24)** (with reg. 3)

^[F239] **Duty owed to economic operators from countries with whom the United Kingdom has an international agreement, other than the GPA** **S**

100B.—(1) The duty owed in accordance with regulation 100(1) (duty owed to economic operators, including from countries with whom the EU has an international agreement other than the GPA) is a duty owed also to an economic operator from a country in respect of which a relevant international trade agreement applies, but only where the agreement applies to the procurement concerned.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a relevant international trade agreement applies if the procurement is covered by an agreement listed in Schedule 2A (international trade agreements).]

Textual Amendments

- F239** Reg. 100B inserted (2.7.2021) by [The Public Procurement \(International Trade Agreements\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/787\)](#), regs. 1(1), **6(3)**

Enforcement of duties through the courts **S**

101.—(1) A breach of the duty owed in accordance with regulation 100 (duty owed to economic operators) is actionable by any economic operator which, in consequence of the breach, suffers, or risks suffering, loss or damage.

(2) Any proceedings for the purposes of paragraph (1) must be brought in the Sheriff Court or the Court of Session.

(3) Proceedings under this regulation may not be brought unless—

- (a) the economic operator bringing the proceedings has informed the utility of—
- (i) the breach or apprehended breach of the duty owed to it in accordance with regulation 100 (duty owed to economic operators); and
 - (ii) of its intention to bring proceedings under this Part in respect of that breach or apprehended breach; and
- (b) the proceedings are brought in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) For the purpose of paragraph (3)(b), proceedings must be brought—

- (a) in the case of proceedings seeking an ineffectiveness order (as defined in regulation 104 (ineffectiveness orders))—
- (i) where paragraph (5) applies, within 30 days from the relevant date referred to in that paragraph; and
 - (ii) in any other case, within 6 months from the date of the contract being entered into or the date of conclusion of the framework agreement; and
- (b) in any other case, within 30 days beginning with the date when the economic operator first knew or ought to have known that grounds for starting the proceedings had arisen unless the court considers that there is a good reason for extending the period within

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

which proceedings may be brought, in which case the court may extend that period up to a maximum of 3 months from that date.

- (5) For the purpose of paragraph (4)(a)(i), this paragraph applies where—
- (a) the utility has [^{F240}submitted] a contract award notice to [^{F241}the UK e-notification service] in accordance with regulation 69 ([^{F242}publication on the UK e-notification service]), including reasons for its decision to enter into the contract or conclude the framework agreement without prior publication of a call for competition, in which case the relevant date is the date of publication of the notice [^{F243}on the UK e-notification service]; or
 - (b) the utility has by notice in writing informed all tenderers concerned and all candidates concerned (if any) of its decision in relation to the award of the contract or the conclusion of the framework agreement, and the notice includes the information referred to in regulation 98(2)(d)(i) or, as the case may be, (e) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement), in which case the relevant date is the date of sending of the notice.

Textual Amendments

- F240** Word in [reg. 101\(5\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(57\)\(a\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F241** Words in [reg. 101\(5\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(57\)\(b\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F242** Words in [reg. 101\(5\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(57\)\(c\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))
- F243** Words in [reg. 101\(5\)\(a\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\)](#), [6\(57\)\(d\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5](#))

Commencement Information

- I99** [Reg. 101](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Automatic Suspension of utility's power to proceed with contract award **S**

102. Without prejudice to the application of any relevant standstill period, where proceedings under this Part are served on a utility in relation to a contract that has not been entered into, a framework agreement that has not been concluded or a dynamic purchasing system that has not been established, the utility must not enter into the contract, conclude the framework agreement or establish the dynamic purchasing system unless—

- (a) the proceedings are determined, discontinued or disposed of; or
- (b) the court, by interim order, brings to an end the prohibition.

Commencement Information

- I100** [Reg. 102](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Powers and duties of the court **S**

103.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (7), but otherwise without prejudice to any other powers of the court, in proceedings brought under this Part the court—

- (a) may by interim order suspend one or more of the following—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) the procedure leading to the award of a contract, the conclusion of a framework agreement, the establishment of a dynamic purchasing system or the determination of a design contest;
 - (ii) the implementation of any decision or action taken by the utility in the course of following a procedure referred to in paragraph (i);
 - (b) if satisfied that a decision or action taken by a utility was in breach of the duty owed under regulation 100 (duty owed to economic operators), may do one or more of the following—
 - (i) order the setting aside of that decision or action;
 - (ii) order the utility to amend any document;
 - (iii) award damages to an economic operator which has suffered loss or damage as a consequence of the breach.
- (2) In any interim proceedings under this Part the court may decide not to grant an interim order when the negative consequences of such an order are likely to outweigh the benefits, having regard to the following considerations—
 - (a) that decisions taken by a utility must be reviewed effectively and, in particular, as rapidly as possible;
 - (b) the probable consequences of an interim order for all interests likely to be harmed; and
 - (c) the public interest.
- (3) Where the court is satisfied that regulation 104(8)(a) (ineffectiveness orders) applies but the second ground for ineffectiveness (within the meaning of regulation 104(8)) is not otherwise met, the court must, without prejudice to the other powers of the court, order—
 - (a) the payment by the utility of a financial penalty; or
 - (b) the shortening of the duration of the contract or framework agreement awarded following the procurement in relation to which the breach occurred.
- (4) In determining what order to make under paragraph (3) the court must—
 - (a) ensure that the order is effective, proportionate and dissuasive; and
 - (b) have regard to all relevant factors including—
 - (i) the seriousness of the breach; and
 - (ii) the behaviour of the utility.
- (5) Where the court makes an order under paragraph (3)(b) the court must, without prejudice to the other powers of the court, make such other order as the court considers appropriate to address the consequences of the shortening of the duration of the contract or framework agreement on the rights and obligations of the parties to the contract or framework agreement.
- (6) Before making an order under paragraph (5), the court must have regard to any terms of the contract or framework agreement relating to the rights and obligations of the parties should the duration of the contract or framework agreement be shortened.
- (7) Subject to paragraph (3) and regulation 104 (ineffectiveness orders), in proceedings under this Part the court does not have power to order any remedy other than an award of damages in respect of a breach of the duty owed under regulation 100 (duty owed to economic operators) if the contract in relation to which the breach occurred has been entered into, or the framework agreement in relation to which the breach occurred has been concluded.
- (8) Sections 21 and 42 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947(26) do not apply in proceedings brought under this Part against the Crown.

Commencement Information

I101 Reg. 103 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Ineffectiveness orders **S**

104.—(1) Without prejudice to all rights and obligations in respect of the period leading up to the date of the order, an ineffectiveness order made in relation to a contract renders unenforceable all rights and obligations directly arising from the contract in respect of the period commencing on the date of the order.

(2) Subject to any order made under regulation 105(1)(b) (powers of the court) obligations rendered unenforceable by an ineffectiveness order made in relation to a contract must not be performed by the parties to the contract.

(3) Without prejudice to any power of the court to make an ineffectiveness order in relation to a contract based on a framework agreement in accordance with this Part, an ineffectiveness order made in relation to a framework agreement prohibits, with effect from the date of the order, the awarding of contracts based on the framework agreement.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5) and regulation 106 (general interest grounds for not making a declaration of ineffectiveness), the court must make an ineffectiveness order where—

- (a) the first ground for ineffectiveness referred to in paragraph (6) applies;
- (b) the second ground for ineffectiveness referred to in paragraph (8) applies; or
- (c) the third ground for ineffectiveness referred to in paragraph (9) applies.

(5) In proceedings under this Part to which regulation 101(4)(b) (enforcement of duties through the courts) applies, the court does not have power to make an ineffectiveness order if the proceedings would be incompetent if regulation 101(4)(a) applied to the proceedings.

First ground for ineffectiveness

(6) The first ground for ineffectiveness applies where the utility has entered into a contract or has concluded a framework agreement without [^{F244}submitting] a call for competition to the [^{F245}UK e-notification service] in circumstances where the contract or framework agreement was not exempt from the requirement for prior publication of a contract notice.

(7) The first ground for ineffectiveness does not apply where—

- (a) the utility [^{F246}submitted to the UK e-notification service a voluntary ex ante transparency notice] expressing its intention to enter into the contract or to conclude the framework agreement and containing—
 - (i) the name and contact details of the utility;
 - (ii) a description of the object of the contract or framework agreement;
 - (iii) a justification of the decision of the utility to award the contract or conclude the framework agreement without prior publication of a contract notice;
 - (iv) the name and contact details of the economic operator to be awarded the contract or to become party to the framework agreement; and
 - (v) any other information which the utility considered useful; and
- (b) the utility allowed a period of at least 10 days to elapse between the date of publication [^{F247}on the UK e-notification service] of the notice referred to in sub-paragraph (a) and the date on which the utility entered into the contract or concluded the framework agreement.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Second ground for ineffectiveness

- (8) The second ground for ineffectiveness applies where all of the following apply—
- (a) the utility has breached regulation 98(1) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement), 99(1) (standstill period) or 102 (automatic suspension of utility’s power to proceed with contract award);
 - (b) the utility’s breach referred to in sub-paragraph (a) prevented the economic operator from bringing proceedings or obtaining a remedy before the contract was entered into or the framework agreement was concluded;
 - (c) in awarding the contract or concluding the framework agreement there has been a breach of the duty owed to the economic operator under these Regulations, other than a breach of regulations 98(1) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement), 99(1) (standstill period) or this Chapter;
 - (d) the utility’s breach referred to in sub-paragraph (c) has affected the chances of the economic operator bringing proceedings under this Part to obtain the contract or become a party to the framework agreement.

Third ground for ineffectiveness

- (9) The third ground for ineffectiveness applies where—
- (a) the contract is a contract based on a framework agreement or a contract awarded under a dynamic purchasing system;
 - (b) the contract was awarded in breach of—
 - (i) regulation 49(5) (framework agreements), in the case of a contract based on a framework agreement (rules governing the award of contracts based on a framework agreement); or
 - (ii) regulation 50(17) to (19), (21) or (22) (dynamic purchasing systems), in the case of a contract awarded under a dynamic purchasing system (rules governing the award of contracts under a dynamic purchasing system); and
 - (c) the estimated value of the contract at the relevant time is equal to or greater than the relevant threshold.
- (10) The third ground for ineffectiveness does not apply where the utility—
- (a) considered the award of the contract to be in accordance with the provisions mentioned in paragraph (9)(b);
 - (b) has, despite regulation 98(4)(b) (notices of decisions to award a contract or conclude a framework agreement), by notice in writing informed the economic operators that submitted tenders of its decision in relation to the award of the contract and the notice included the information referred to in regulation 98(1) to (3); and
 - (c) has allowed a period of at least the relevant standstill period to elapse between the date of sending of the notice of its decision to award the contract and the date on which the utility entered into the contract.

Textual Amendments

F244 Word in reg. 104(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(58)(a)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F245 Words in reg. 104(6) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(58)(a)(ii)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

F246 Words in reg. 104(7)(a) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(58)(b)(i)** (with sch. paras. 1-5, 9)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

F247 Words in [reg. 104\(7\)\(b\)](#) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), [regs. 1\(2\), 6\(58\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (with [sch. paras. 1-5, 9](#))

Commencement Information

I102 [Reg. 104](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Powers of the court: ineffectiveness order **S**

105.—(1) If an ineffectiveness order is made, the court must, without prejudice to the other powers of the court—

- (a) order the payment by the utility of a financial penalty; and
- (b) make such other order as the court considers appropriate to address the consequences of the ineffectiveness order on the rights and obligations of the parties to the contract or framework agreement.

(2) In the case of an order made under paragraph (1)(a), the court must have regard to the extent to which the contract or framework agreement will remain in effect in respect of the period leading up to the date of the ineffectiveness order.

(3) Before making an order under paragraph (1)(b), the court must have regard to any terms of the contract or framework agreement relating to the rights and obligations of the parties should an ineffectiveness order be made in relation to the contract or framework agreement.

Commencement Information

I103 [Reg. 105](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

General interest grounds for not making a declaration of ineffectiveness **S**

106.—(1) The court may decline to make an ineffectiveness order where the court is satisfied that overriding reasons relating to a general interest require that the enforceability of the rights and obligations arising from the contract or framework agreement should be maintained.

- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—
 - (a) economic interests directly linked to the contract or framework agreement do not constitute overriding reasons relating to a general interest; and
 - (b) economic interests in the effectiveness of the contract or framework agreement may only be considered as overriding reasons relating to a general interest in exceptional circumstances where ineffectiveness would lead to disproportionate consequences.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(a), economic interests directly linked to the contract or framework agreement include the costs—

- (a) resulting from the delay in the performance of the contract or framework agreement;
- (b) resulting from the commencement of a new procurement;
- (c) resulting from the change of the economic operator performing the contract or framework agreement; and
- (d) of legal obligations resulting from an ineffectiveness order.

Commencement Information

I104 [Reg. 106](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Other orders **S**

107.—(1) Where the court declines to make an ineffectiveness order under regulation 106 (general interest grounds for not making a declaration of ineffectiveness), the court must, without prejudice to the other powers of the court, order—

- (a) the payment by the utility of a financial penalty; or
- (b) the shortening of the duration of the contract or framework agreement.

(2) In determining what order to make under paragraph (1)(a), regulation 103(4) (powers and duties of the court) applies.

(3) Regulation 103(5) and (6) (powers and duties of the court) applies to an order made under paragraph (1)(b) as it applies to an order made under regulation 103(3)(b).

Commencement Information

I105 [Reg. 107](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Financial penalties **S**

108.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a financial penalty is ordered to be paid under this Part—

- (a) the order must state that the financial penalty must be paid to the Scottish Ministers; and
- (b) the clerk of the court must send an extract of the decree (without charge) to the Scottish Ministers.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any financial penalty ordered to be paid by the Scottish Ministers or an office in the Scottish Administration which is not a ministerial office.

(3) The Scottish Ministers must pay into the Scottish Consolidated Fund any financial penalty—

- (a) ordered to be paid by them under this Part; and
- (b) recovered by them under paragraph (1).

(4) An office in the Scottish Administration which is not a ministerial office must pay any financial penalty ordered to be paid by them under this Part into the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

(5) In this regulation, “an office in the Scottish Administration which is not a ministerial office” is construed in accordance with section 126(8) of the Scotland Act 1998(27).

Commencement Information

I106 [Reg. 108](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F248}PART 5A S

AMENDING THESE REGULATIONS

Textual Amendments

F248 Pt. 5A inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Public Procurement etc. \(EU Exit\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(S.S.I. 2020/468\)](#), regs. 1(2), **6(59)** (with sch. paras. 1-5)

General provisions about regulations under these Regulations S

108A.—(1) Regulations under these Regulations are to be made by Scottish statutory instrument subject to the negative procedure.

(2) Regulations under these Regulations may make supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provision.]

PART 6 S

REVOCATIONS, CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS, SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Interpretation of Part 6 S

109. In this Part “the 2012 Regulations” means the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012(**28**).

Commencement Information

I107 [Reg. 109](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Revocations and consequential amendments S

110.—(1) Subject to regulation 111 (transitional provision and saving where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016), the 2012 Regulations are revoked.

(2) The consequential and miscellaneous amendments set out in Schedule 3 (consequential and miscellaneous amendments to subordinate legislation) have effect.

Commencement Information

I108 [Reg. 110](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Transitional provision and saving: where procurement commenced before 18th April 2016 S

111.—(1) Nothing in these Regulations affects any contract award procedure or design contest commenced before 18th April 2016 which continues to be subject to the application of the 2012 Regulations as if those Regulations had not been revoked.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

(2) For that purpose, a contract award procedure or design contest has commenced if, before that date—

- (a) a contract notice, or as the case may be, design contest, has been sent to the Official Journal in accordance with the 2012 Regulations in order to invite offers or requests to be selected to tender for or to negotiate in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) a periodic indicative notice has been sent to the Official Journal in accordance with the 2012 Regulations, in which case the contract award procedure which is not affected by these Regulations and which will continue to be subject to the application of the 2012 Regulations is the procedure for the award of any proposed contract the intention to award which was indicated in the notice, but only if the requirements in regulation 16(3)(a) or (b) of the 2012 Regulations are satisfied;
- (c) the utility has had published any form of advertisement seeking offers or expressions of interest in a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
- (d) the utility has contacted any economic operator in order to—
 - (i) seek expressions of interest or offers in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
 - (ii) respond to an unsolicited expression of interest or offer received from that economic operator in relation to a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system.

(3) Nothing in these Regulations affects the award of a specific contract based on a framework agreement where the framework agreement was concluded—

- (a) before 18th April 2016; or
- (b) on or after that date following a contract award procedure which, by virtue of paragraph (1), was not affected by these Regulations,

which continues to be subject to the application of the 2012 Regulations as if those Regulations had not been revoked.

(4) Nothing in these Regulations affects the award of a specific contract under a dynamic purchasing system where the system was established—

- (a) before 18th April 2016; or
- (b) on or after that date following a contract award procedure which, by virtue of paragraph (1), was not affected by these Regulations,

which continues to be subject to the application of the 2012 Regulations as if those Regulations had not been revoked.

(5) Nothing in these Regulations, except regulations 86 (modification of contracts during their term) and 87(1)(a), (2) and (3) (termination of contracts), affects a contract awarded—

- (a) before 18th April 2016; or
- (b) on or after that date, where the award itself was not, by virtue of paragraphs (1) to (4), affected by these Regulations,

which continues to be subject to the application of the 2012 Regulations as if those Regulations had not been revoked.

(6) In this regulation, “contract”, “contract notice”, “design contest”, “dynamic purchasing system”, “economic operator”, “framework agreement”, “periodic indicative notice” and “utility” have the same meanings as in the 2012 Regulations.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Commencement Information

I109 Reg. 111 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Transitory provision: prior to full commencement of regulation 38(1) to (7) **S**

112.—(1) This regulation applies during the period beginning on 18th April 2016 and ending immediately before 18th October 2018.

(2) During that period, a utility may choose between the following means of communication for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (3)—

- (a) electronic means in accordance with regulation 38 (rules applicable to communication);
- (b) post or other suitable carrier;
- (c) fax; or
- (d) a combination of those means.

(3) That choice is available for all communication and information exchange in respect of which both the following criteria are met—

- (a) the use of electronic means would, in accordance with regulation 38(1) to (7) (rules applicable to communication), have been required if those provisions had been in force;
- (b) the use of electronic means is not required by any provision of these Regulations other than regulation 38(1) (rules applicable to communication).

Commencement Information

I110 Reg. 112 in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

Transitory provision: temporary exemption **S**

113.—(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs (3) and (4) of regulation 1, nothing in the provisions commenced by those paragraphs affect—

- (a) any procurement or design contest that has commenced before the dates respectively mentioned in those paragraphs; or
- (b) any contract awarded as a result of such procurement or following such contest.

(2) For that purpose, a procurement or design contest has commenced before the dates mentioned if, before such date—

- (a) a contract notice or, as the case may be, contest notice, has been sent to the Official Journal in accordance with regulation 69 (form and manner of sending notices for publication at EU level) in order to invite offers or requests to be selected to tender for or to negotiate in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) where a periodic indicative notice has been sent to the Official Journal, in which case the contract award procedure that has commenced is the procedure for the award of any proposed contract the intention to award which was indicated in the notice, but only if the requirements in regulation 65(3)(a) to (c) (periodic indicative notices) are satisfied;
- (c) the utility has dispatched any form of advertisement seeking offers or expressions of interest in a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
- (d) the utility has contacted any economic operator in order to—

Status: Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation: The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) seek expressions of interest or offers in respect of a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system; or
- (ii) respond to an unsolicited expression of interest or offer received from that economic operator in relation to a proposed contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system.

Commencement Information

III1 [Reg. 113](#) in force at 18.4.2016, see [reg. 1\(2\)](#)

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh

KEITH BROWN
A member of the Scottish Government

Status:

Point in time view as at 30/10/2023.

Changes to legislation:

The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 September 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.