



Coronavirus (Covid-19) Procurement Advice 1

Public procurement, like the rest of the UK, is living in unprecedented times.

To help buyers across the UK public sector, BiP Solutions' Procurement Advice and Support Service (PASS) will be creating a range of resources to help buyers navigate the challenges: ensuring that they are able to work effectively, compliantly and responsively in a dynamic and fast-changing environment.

Our materials will cover a wide and diverse range of information, from official guidances, including Procurement Policy Notes (PPNs) from the UK and Scottish Governments; to advice from the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly; to articles, opinion pieces and blogs from our own PASS consultants; and anything else we feel will help in the coming weeks and months.

We will also be running webinars and online events to cover specific issues, including the use of the Urgency provisions within the Regulations, securing your supply chain and using Frameworks and DPS in urgent situations. The first of these webinars will be hosted on Thursday 26 March at 11am when we will be looking at the use of Regulation 32 in general, considering not only when the use of Urgency may be appropriate but also how it can be utilised to extend on certain current contracts. You can register for this webinar [by clicking here](#).

PASS also has eLearning modules available to support procurement knowledge.

Today we are bringing you the latest information from the Cabinet Office, in the form of a Procurement Policy Note on Responding to Covid-19

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873521/PPN_01-20_-_Responding_to_COVID19.v5_1_.pdf

which explains how buyers can use Regulation 32(2)(c) to procure goods, services and works in circumstances of extreme urgency.

There have already been several contracts issued across the UK taking advantage of this Regulation to procure urgently, from the University of Edinburgh making an emergency purchase of laptops to meet urgent contingency plans in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, to Milton Keynes Council seeking to provide a temporary increase in its care home/specialist accommodation capacity in Northamptonshire to remove medically fit people from hospital to free up hospital capacity. These and other examples show just how Regulation 32(2)(c) can be used in the current crisis.

It is important, however, that buyers bear in mind that they should limit their requirement to only what is absolutely necessary, both in terms of what they are procuring and in terms of the length of the contract.

While this provision has existed in the Regulations for many years, we recognise that most buyers will have little knowledge of how to manage it, given they have probably never used it. Our PASS consultants stand ready to provide you with in-depth guidance and advice on using Regulation 32(2)(c). If you need further support, contact us at <https://www.passprocurement.co.uk/contact-us/> or call us on 0845 270 7055.

For further information on all PASS services, simply go to <https://www.passprocurement.co.uk/>

All information provided in this article is given in good faith. However, to the extent that any actions are taken in relation to matters concerning procurement, the above article does not constitute legal advice to you. The contents of these articles are not to be construed as legal advice or as a substitute for such advice, which you should obtain from your own legal advisors if required. We are not and shall not be held responsible for anything done or not done by you as a result of the information provided.



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