

## PPN 05/21 Human Rights in Public Procurement

### Purpose

NI Water's Capital Procurement Team is responsible for the procurement of all capital works and development of the strategy for future capital delivery frameworks. In accordance with the PPN 05/21 Procurement Policy Note 'Human Rights in Public Procurement', the focus is to ensure that decisions made in procurement processes do not have negative impact on the human rights of people employed to deliver capital works and their services through our contracts.

### How we adhere to this?

The Capital Procurement Team have existing practices built into their NEC contracts and Frameworks to ensure that across the delivery of the Capital Works Programme there are measures and controls in place to protect the needs and rights of human rights of those who are involved in the Supply Chain. These controls and initiatives include:

- Contracts are aligned to comply with the legislative requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and other legislative standards.

Additionally, with the recent market pressures experienced over the past number of years due to the global pandemic, geo-political impacts such as Ukraine and Brexit, the following initiatives have been introduced as additional practices:

- Our Suppliers are engaged to support understanding and potential risks to human rights in their areas of operation;
- Framework Tenders assess Suppliers own policies, procedures and standards across human rights, determining right behaviours and protections established in their own organisations;
- Further provisions built into contract, project and programme level risk registers across the Capital Works Programme, along with mitigating measures;
- Identifying gaps between social clause and contract documents;
- Supply chain considerations and associated linkages through supply chain mapping and resilience (PPN 03/21);



- Frequent Framework Supplier engagement meetings and annual assurance statements sought from Suppliers to confirm their ongoing compliance with the framework clauses and legislative requirements.
- Attending relevant training courses and seminars which recently included Anti-Slavery Digital Learning Roadshow to keep up to date with changes and amendments to relevant legislation.
- Introduction of the Modern Slavery Assessment Tool (a modern slavery risk identification and management online tool) into our recently procured major Capital Frameworks.
- Incorporation and consideration of modern slavery risks within contract risk registers.
- A Modern Slavery Policy has now been developed in November 2023 to ensure there is transparency in our own business and in our approach to tackling modern slavery throughout our supply chains, consistent with our disclosure obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

### Outcome of this

Capital Procurement continues to identify any risks through all levels of its Supply Chain reported through a bespoke Risk Management tool purpose built for managing all its construction contracts. This tool enables risks and issues to be managed from contract level through to programme and corporate level. In the near future, it is expected that new tools to assist data capture for PPN 03/21 Supply Chain resilience (Supply Chain mapping) will further identify external/market/global factors that may pose threat to human rights standards.

