Scottish Government
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Scottish Procurement

List of Supported Businesses not on the Requirements Reserved for Supported Businesses Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)

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1. List of Supported Businesses not on DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) – May 2024

It is important that the public and private sector in Scotland utilises the power of procurement by putting public procurement at the heart of a sustainable economy to maximise value for the people of Scotland.

Scottish Procurement and Property Directorate is working to encourage the use of all Supported Businesses – not just those on our national Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) – across the public and private sectors.

The following list was compiled with help from BASE Scotland and is of Scottish based Supported Businesses who are not part of the current DPS List.

Please note that Scottish Procurement have conducted no due diligence on these Supported Businesses and that it is the responsibility of the buying organisation to do so before contracting with them.

The list is provided for reference only.

If you have any queries or questions on the use of supported businesses in your supply chains, or simply wish to add your organisation to the DPS list, or on to this list, please contact the Scottish Procurement point of contact.

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Supported Business	Goods and Services	Address	Telephone	Contact	Webpage	Email
Lady Haig's Poppy Factory	Commemorative wreaths, Poppies	9 Warriston Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4HJ	0131 550 1572	**Charlie Pelling, (Manager)**	Lady Haig's Poppy Factory – Lady Haig's Poppy Factory (ladyhaigspoppyfactory.org.uk)	manager@lhpfscotland.org.uk
Hansel	Laundry services	Broadmeadows, Symington, Ayrshire, KA1 5PU.	01563 830340	**Carol Montgomery**	Assisting people with additional support needs - Hansel	info@hansel.org.uk
Re-Employ	Training, work experience and volunteering services, Branded safety & leisurewear	Unit 19-20, Crosshill Business Centre Main Street, Lochgelly, KY5 8BJ, Fife	0776 444 1458	**Gordon Reid**	http://www.re-employ.org.uk/	re-employsales@outlook.com

2. Information on Supported Businesses

The sustainable procurement duty, outlined in Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, aligns with our purpose to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

It is underpinned by the National Performance Framework and Scotland's Economic Strategy.

The sustainable procurement duty requires that before a public sector contracting authority buys anything, it must think about how it can improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the area in which it operates, with a particular focus on reducing inequality.

It also requires a public sector contracting authority to consider how its procurement processes can facilitate the involvement of SMEs, third sector bodies and supported businesses, and how public procurement can be used to promote innovation.

Public bodies are encouraged to use the Reserved Contracts process where it is appropriate to do so. They should familiarise themselves with the goods and services provided by Supported Businesses and consider, when planning a procurement exercise, if a contract or framework agreement should be 'reserved'.

It is in the interest of public bodies to monitor how they are facilitating supported businesses in their procurement activities as it will help bodies evidence their compliance with the sustainable procurement duty and annual reporting requirements set out in the 2014 Act.

Irrespective of the processes described in the Scottish Government's national DPS for Requirements Reserved for Supported Businesses.

All public sector procurement buyers have the ability to "reserve" any procurement exercise so that the contract or part of it e.g., a lot or lots, can only be supplied by a Supported Business or Businesses.

The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, Section 2, Regulation 21 states

21.—(1) A contracting authority may—

(a) reserve the right to participate in procurement for the award of a public 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.

For a Reserved Contract all the normal procurement rules apply, including being subject to all procurement legislation.

If a contract is to be a Reserved Contract, then this must be stated within the Contract Notice.

It is worthy of note that Supported Business suppliers are encouraged when they interact with public sector procurement buyers to remind them of Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, Section 2, Regulation 21 and their ability to choose to reserve the right to participate in procurement for the award of a public contract or framework agreement to a supported business and the direction given in the sustainable procurement duty, outlined in Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

3. What is a supported business?

Supported businesses are businesses/organisations whose main aim is to integrate disabled or disadvantaged people socially and professionally.

Regulation 21 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"), defines a supported business as an organisation which must have the social and professional integration of disabled and disadvantaged persons as its main aim and least 30% of the employees of the organisation are disabled or disadvantaged.

This may be evidenced in the organisation's Articles of Association (in the case of companies) or such other constitutional documentation that governs the organisation. It is within the discretion of individual public bodies to determine whether a bidding organisation has demonstrated the requirement that it has as its main aim the social and professional integration of disabled and disadvantaged persons.

Regulation 2 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 states "disabled", in relation to a person, means a disabled person within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 and, in relation to a worker, means a disabled person who is a worker.

4. Why should public bodies use a supported business?

Legal Procurement

Supported businesses are organisations whose main aim is to integrate disabled or disadvantaged people socially and professionally into work.

This intent is supported by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 which includes a provision allowing public bodies to restrict participation in the tendering process to Supported Businesses only.

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 ("the 2014 Act") similarly includes a provision (Section 9 -sustainable procurement duty) allowing public bodies to restrict participation in the tendering process to Supported Businesses only. It also places a requirement on a public body to:

- consider, before starting a procurement competition, how, by the way in which it conducts the procurement process, it might facilitate the involvement of Supported Businesses and

- (assuming the public body considers it may facilitate involvement of Supported Businesses) then to act in a way to best bring that about.

Under the 2014 Act, the definition of a Supported Business and supported employment programme is the same as under the Regulations.

The Sustainable Procurement Duty outlined in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that an Organisation must think about how they can improve the Social, Environmental and Economic wellbeing of the area in which they operate, with a particular focus on reducing inequality.

Public bodies are encouraged to use the Reserved Contracts process where it is appropriate to do so. They should familiarise themselves with the goods and services provided by Supported Businesses and consider, when planning a procurement exercise, if a contract or framework agreement should be 'reserved'.

It is in the interest of public bodies to monitor how they are facilitating supported businesses in their procurement activities as it will help bodies evidence their compliance with the sustainable procurement duty and annual reporting requirements set out in the 2014 Act.

Societal / Economic

The key aim of the Requirements Reserved for Supported Businesses National Dynamic Purchasing System and the public procurement legislation is to provide Scottish public sector and third sector bodies (framework public bodies) with a clear path for the purchase of goods and services from Supported Businesses in Scotland and in so doing support the integration of disabled and disadvantaged citizens into the mainstream workforce.

Supported businesses help narrow the disability employment gap by employing disabled (and disadvantaged) people and helping them to

- Increase their financial independence and security
- Improve their mental and physical health
- Provide greater social connection and belonging, Increased sense of purpose and self-worth

Supported businesses help provide Benefits for society and public sector organisations by helping to:

- Increase economic productivity and growth in the local areas supported business operate in. (When disabled and disadvantaged people are employed, they spend money on goods and services locally, which boosts the local economy. This can create jobs and opportunities for everyone).

- Reduce Local and Central Government spending on welfare programmes (When disabled and disadvantaged people are employed, they are less likely to need to rely on government benefits. This can save taxpayers money in the long run.

- Increase tax revenue (When disabled and disadvantaged people are employed, they spend money on goods and services, which boosts the national and local economy. This can create jobs and opportunities for everyone.)
- Help provide a more diverse and inclusive workforce.
- Reduced stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities and disadvantage.