



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**

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Central Procurement Directorate

“Helping The Public Sector Deliver Better Public Services”

Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy

Version 4



Education &
Library Boards



Housing Northern Ireland Executive

HSC Business Services
Organisation
Procurement and Logistics Service



Health Estates

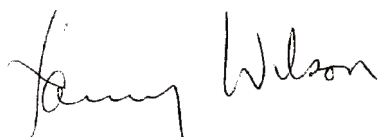
Foreword

Public procurement expenditure in Northern Ireland, has increased significantly over the last ten years rising to some £2.4 billion in 2008 – 2009. Given the current financial climate, with the credit crunch affecting the global and local economy, there is increasing pressure on Government finances, and now more than ever, there is a need to maximise the return on public expenditure. As Finance Minister and Chair of the Procurement Board, I am determined to ensure that the Government in Northern Ireland spends its resources wisely, and delivers best value for money.

In Northern Ireland 96% of procurement spend is now subject to the professional influence of Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs). The achievement of this key procurement target gives procurement professionals the greatest opportunity to deliver Best Value for Money for the tax payer and enables funds to be released to provide other high priority services for the citizens in Northern Ireland.

Many of the new approaches to Public Procurement put in place following the Review of Public Procurement in 2001 are now being replicated in the other devolved administrations. This recognition is to be welcomed and reinforces the progress being made in public sector procurement in Northern Ireland since the Review was undertaken.

There is still much work to be done, for example implementing best practice, challenging procurement professionals and suppliers to help deliver the Government's sustainability goals; and delivering best value for money. However I am confident that, by working together, across the public sector and with industry, the leverage provided by public procurement expenditure can be used to best effect to maximise the outcomes for the people of Northern Ireland.



Sammy Wilson MP MLA

Minister for Finance and Personnel

Chairman of the Northern Ireland Procurement Board

December 2009

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 16 May 2002, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed to a revised public procurement policy for Northern Ireland Departments, their Agencies, non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and Public Corporations. The list of bodies covered by the policy is set out in Annex B. This paper sets out the policies adopted by the Executive and the organisational structures that have been established to implement them.



2. The revision of public procurement policy resulted from recommendations in a report by the Procurement Review Team, which was issued for public consultation in September 2001. Following the consultation, the Review Team modified their original report and their final recommendations have been incorporated into the policy.

Procurement Policy Principles

3. The Executive agreed that the policy should be guided by a clear definition of “public procurement” and the concept of “best value for money” and adopted the following definitions:
 - **“Public procurement is the process of the acquisition, usually by means of a contractual arrangement after public competition, of goods, services, works and other supplies by the public service”.** The public procurement process spans the whole life cycle from initial conception and definition of the needs of the public service through to the end of the useful life of an asset or the end of a contract. Both conventionally funded and more innovative types of funded projects (for example PPP/PFI arrangements with the private sector) are included as are the use of the private sector to deliver services previously delivered directly by the public sector (“contracting out”) and in-house consortia bidding in a public procurement process.
 - The concept of **“best value for money”** is defined as **“the optimum combination of whole life cost and quality (or fitness for purpose) to meet the customer’s requirements”**. This definition enables a public body to compile a procurement specification which includes social, economic and environmental policy objectives within the procurement process. “Whole life cost” includes both quantifiable and non-quantifiable or intangible costs and benefits.

The Executive believe these definitions to be fundamental to the policies outlined in this paper.

4. The award of grants is not included within the activity of public procurement as the legal requirements are different, particularly in the context of EU procurement law. However, public sector bodies which receive grants are expected to apply procurement policy to their expenditure, which only leaves grants to non public sector bodies excluded. As recommended by the Executive, the Procurement Board has reviewed the situation and Central Procurement Directorate has issued guidance entitled “The Use of Grant for Procurement” (Guidance Note 01/07 issued on 9 March 2007)

http://www.cpdni.gov.uk/guidancenote01-07_use_of_grant_for_procurement.pdf

This guidance provides advice for Departments and other public bodies to enable them to obtain assurance that the use of grants by the public sector complies with public procurement law and Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy.

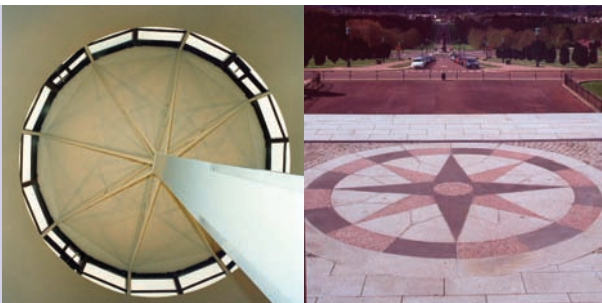


Principles

5. There are 12 guiding principles to govern the administration of public procurement. The Executive believes that the principles, listed below, reflect the statutory obligations related to equality of opportunity and sustainable development and link to the Programme for Government.
- i. **Accountability:** effective mechanisms must be in place in order to enable Departmental Accounting Officers and their equivalents in other public bodies to discharge their personal responsibility on issues of procurement risk and expenditure.
 - ii. **Competitive Supply:** procurement should be carried out by competition unless there are convincing reasons to the contrary.
 - iii. **Consistency:** suppliers should, all other things being equal, be able to expect the same general procurement policy across the public sector.
 - iv. **Effectiveness:** public bodies should meet the commercial, regulatory and socio-economic goals of government in a balanced manner appropriate to the procurement requirement.



- v. **Efficiency:** procurement processes should be carried out as cost effectively as possible.
- vi. **Fair-dealing:** suppliers should be treated fairly and without unfair discrimination, including protection of commercial confidentiality where required. Public bodies should not impose unnecessary burdens or constraints on suppliers or potential suppliers.
- vii. **Integration:** in line with the statutory duties on equality of opportunity and sustainable development and the Executive's policy on joined-up government, procurement policy should pay due regard to the Executive's other economic, social and environmental policies, rather than cut across them.
- viii. **Integrity:** there should be no corruption or collusion with suppliers or others.
- ix. **Informed decision-making:** public bodies need to base decisions on accurate information and to monitor requirements to ensure that they are being met.
- x. **Legality:** public bodies must conform to European Community and other legal requirements.
- xi. **Responsiveness:** public bodies should endeavour to meet the aspirations, expectations and needs of the community served by the procurement.
- xii. **Transparency:** public bodies should ensure that there is openness and clarity on procurement policy and its delivery.



Implications of the Principles

6. The Executive has accepted that the implications of adopting the principles are as follows:-
- i. The wider economic, social and environmental strategies and initiatives of the Executive should be more closely integrated into procurement policy.
 - ii. In respect of strategic procurements and policy in general, public bodies should ensure that there is appropriate consultation with members of the public who will be directly affected by the outcome of procurement and also with the wider community and other stakeholders in the procurement system.
 - iii. In order to optimise efficiency gains, greater emphasis should be placed on integrating the North/South, as well as the UK and European-wide procurement markets, and there should be greater collaboration between Northern Ireland public bodies, but only to the extent that it meets the wider economic, social and environmental goals of procurement policy.
 - iv. Better information, management and monitoring systems to enable more informed decision-making and more emphasis on contract management.
 - v. Public bodies, as purchasers, should, as a matter of enlightened self-interest, use their commercial influence to help improve the competitiveness of their suppliers and ensure that appropriate procurement policies and principles cascade down the supply chain.
 - vi. Better trained and managed professional procurement teams to operate the procurement principles and to exercise judgement in increasingly complex circumstances. This training should be complemented by the implementation of best practice across all public bodies.
 - vii. Adherence to the provisions of Managing Public Money NI, which reflects the new principles of procurement and replaces the guidance set out in Government Accounting Northern Ireland.
 - viii. Institutional structures to co-ordinate the development and the implementation of procurement policies and principles.

Procurement Board

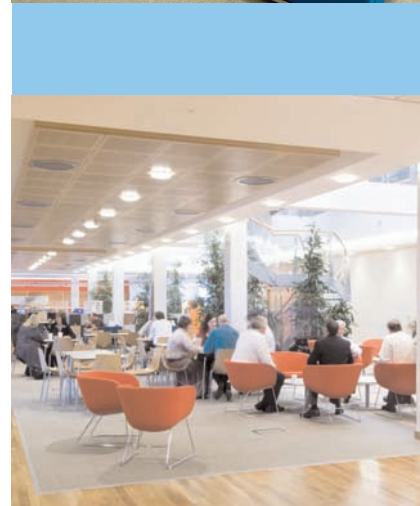
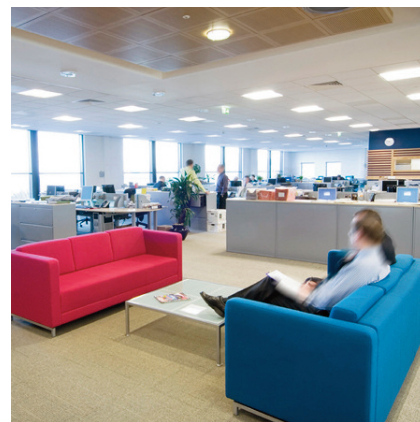
7. Given the financial importance of procurement policy, both in terms of total spend and in relation to the Executive's budget, the Procurement Board (<http://www.cpdni.gov.uk/index/about-cpd/overview.htm>) has responsibility for the development, dissemination and co-ordination of public procurement policy and practice for the Northern Ireland public sector. The Board is responsible to the Executive and accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly.
8. The Board is chaired by the Finance Minister. Membership of the Board comprises the Permanent Secretaries of the 11 Departments, in order to ensure that there is compliance with the agreed policies and procedures in all Departments, their Agencies, NDPBs and public corporations. Other members of the Board include the Treasury Officer of Accounts, 2 external experts without a specific sectoral interest and the Director, Central Procurement Directorate. A representative of the Comptroller and Auditor General and of the Strategic Investment Board Ltd attend as observers. The roles and responsibilities of the Procurement Board are as set out in Appendix A.



Minister for the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) - Sammy Wilson, MP, MLA (right), with Stephen Peover, Permanent Secretary (DFP, left), and Des Armstrong, Director of Central Procurement Directorate (centre)

Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)

9. The Procurement Board is fully supported by Central Procurement Directorate in all aspects of public procurement policy within the Northern Ireland public sector. Central Procurement Directorate, a directorate within the Department of Finance and Personnel, as the lead professional procurement body for Northern Ireland, also interacts with the wider body of stakeholders in developing policy.
10. The Central Procurement Directorate also provides expertise, advice and a co-ordinating role and, where appropriate, directly procures strategic requirements. Guidance on the definition of a strategic project has been agreed by the Procurement Board and the implementation of such projects is subject to the Gateway Review Process. The Central Procurement Directorate, through its Centre of Excellence for Delivery, provides the co-ordinating role and central expertise to ensure strategic projects are subject to the Gateway Process and advice and guidance on programme and project management. Strategic projects will include major information technology systems, capital works and service contracts and all other programmes or projects which have been defined as major business change should be undertaken with careful reference to all aspects of Procurement Guidance Note 01/09 “Best Practice in Programme/Project Management”.
11. The role and responsibilities of the Directorate are set out in Appendix B.



Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPE)

12. There are a number of centres with specialist procurement expertise across the public sector, including the Roads Service, NI Water, Translink, Health Estates, Procurement and Logistics Service, Business Support Organisation; the Education and Library Boards and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Each of these Centres of Procurement Expertise have procurement activities which are heavily interlinked with the area of responsibility which they support but considerable added value can be derived from these Centres of Procurement Expertise, both in developing operable policies and providing a more integrated procurement service to public bodies in general. The Executive therefore decided that:-



- the Procurement Board should establish a Procurement Practitioners Group (PPG) where representatives from the Central Procurement Directorate and the Centres of Procurement Expertise would meet regularly to inform, test and develop policy and where appropriate, operational issues. This group now has two sub-groups: for supplies and services, and construction works and services;
- Departments, their Agencies, NDPBs and public corporations should carry out their procurement activities by means of documented Service Level Agreements with the Central Procurement Directorate or a relevant Centre of Procurement Expertise;
- the Central Procurement Directorate and other public sector procurers should continue to access Office of Government Commerce frameworks and contracts, amended where appropriate to reflect local requirements;
- the competency of Centres of Procurement Expertise should be reviewed by the Procurement Board on a periodic basis.

The role and responsibilities of the Procurement Practitioners' Group are set out in Appendix C.

13. The relationships and roles of the Executive, the Procurement Board, Procurement Practitioners' Group and the Central Procurement Directorate are indicated diagrammatically at Appendix D.





Operational Procurement Processes and Practices

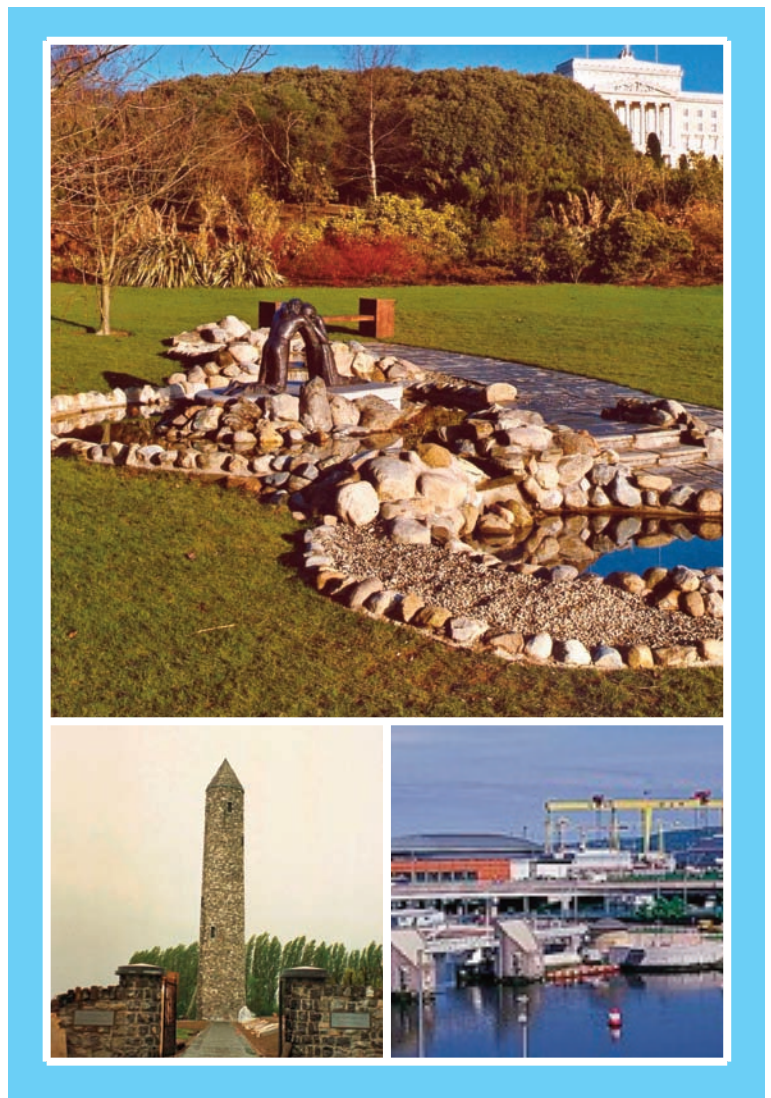
14. On the question of operational processes and practices, the Executive has accepted a wide range of recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of procurement activities both for contracting authorities and suppliers. These included:-

- strategic issues;
- strategic and routine procurement;
- principles of good practice;
- the role of the Central Procurement Directorate's in major projects
- management of the supply base;
- aggregation, collaboration and rationalisation;
- management information;
- supplier sourcing and management;
- management and staff resources;
- electronic procurement; and
- monitoring and evaluation of procurement performance.

15. These recommendations have been implemented under the direction of the Procurement Board.

Integration with the Executive's Other Policies

16. One of the key roles for the Review Team was to “identify the scope to use public procurement in Northern Ireland to further local social and economic objectives within the context of current EC and international law relating to procurement”. The Team interpreted this to include environmental considerations, in part because of the close similarity between the issues raised by such considerations and economic and social policies, and also because a policy of integration of environmental considerations into public procurement already existed in Northern Ireland.
17. The EU has published interpretative communications setting out how environmental and social considerations may be integrated into public procurement. It is clear, drawing on this advice, that integration is compatible with existing EU and international law within certain parameters – namely that the integration is transparent, that it does not discriminate directly or indirectly between suppliers; and that all requirements as to the procurement process are complied with. The Consolidated Directives allow for the integration of economic, social and environmental policy into procurement provided the terms are compatible with Community law.



18. The Procurement Board has implemented the Review Team's recommendations on integration and a comprehensive suite of guidance, including detailed guidance on the integration of equality of opportunity and sustainable development into public sector procurement, has been produced to assist public bodies with the implementation and embedment of economic, social and environmental policies. This guidance can be found on the Central Procurement Directorate's website www.cpdni.gov.uk

Compliance

19. The Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy was approved by the Executive in 2002. In approving the policy the Executive took the decision that legislation was not necessary to ensure that Departments, their Agencies, NDPB's and public corporations complied with the policy.
20. The Executive considered that compliance could be achieved by means of an administration action, as determined by the Procurement Board. This arrangement is kept under review by the Procurement Board.
21. As the lead procurement body in Northern Ireland, CPD is responsible for disseminating advice and guidance on the direction and policies on public procurement, determined by the Procurement Board, to the Northern Ireland Public Sector and monitoring their implementation. This it does through the production of Procurement Policy Guidance Notes, which are developed in consultation with PPG, and its sub-groups whose membership includes practitioners from the various CoPEs. Once endorsed by the Procurement Board these guidance notes are issued to all CoPEs and placed on CPD's website.
22. As regards District Councils, the Executive accepts that their different and separate framework of accountability must be recognised and, under existing legislation, compliance can only be on a voluntary basis.
23. The Review Team considered that there was some uncertainty in Northern Ireland legislation as to the extent to which the award of procurement contracts is subject to a requirement not to discriminate. The Executive accepted this opinion and agreed to bring forward legislation:-
- to provide unambiguously that direct and indirect discrimination is prohibited in relation to procurement on the grounds included in current Northern Ireland anti discrimination provisions;



- to provide for anti-discrimination provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and
 - to provide for equivalent sanctions, similar to those contained in the Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998, should be introduced to prevent firms found guilty by a tribunal or a court of persistent and recalcitrant breach of anti-discrimination legislation from benefiting from public procurement contracts. This would mean that where a penalty has been imposed by a Tribunal or Court, the firm would be held to be in “default” and the Equality Commission should be able to serve a “not qualified” notice on the firm prohibiting public bodies from entering into contracts with that firm. In such circumstances, an appeal system would be put in place.
24. The Executive proposed to take these matters forward within the context of the Single Equality Bill. This remains the position.

Other Policy Frameworks

Achieving Excellence in Construction

25. The Procurement Board has approved a Northern Ireland version of the Achieving Excellence initiative with goals and targets for construction projects in the public sector. Achieving Excellence is now the cornerstone of construction procurement within the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy and its principles should be applied and reflected in Departments’ documented client procedures for the management of projects. Departments should have in place procedures to control capital projects, which as a minimum include these principles. Departments should liaise with their Achieving Excellence Champion during the documentation and application of the procedures.

Most Economically Advantageous Tender

26. The Procurement Board has determined that contracts should be awarded on the basis of objective criteria which ensure compliance with the EC Treaty principles and which guarantee that tenders are assessed in conditions of effective competition. This permits the use of one of two award criteria: “the most economically advantageous tender” (MEAT) and “the lowest price”. The Procurement Board has also determined that contracts are to be awarded on the basis of MEAT with any exceptions being subject to formal approval by the Head of Procurement for the relevant Centre of Procurement Expertise.

Procurement Control Limits

27. The Procurement Board has set optimum limits for the procurement of general goods, services and works which are detailed in procurement Guidance Note 01/04 - Procurement Control Limits (revised November 2008) on the Central Procurement Directorate's website: www.cpdni.gov.uk. The guidance provides advice on supplier sourcing for procurement below the threshold for public advertisement and recommends optimum levels to ensure that the transaction cost of procurement procedures is efficient, while maintaining a sufficient level of supplier sourcing to achieve value for money through competition.

Equality Impact Assessment

28. In developing this policy, an equality impact assessment was carried out as required under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Public Consultation

29. The Review Team's Report was issued to over 400 individuals and organisations. Responses to the consultation and views put forward by the Assembly Committee were considered by the Review Team to enable them to clarify or amend their original recommendations. As the Executive accepted all of the Review Team's recommendations, adjusted as a result of the comments received during the public consultation, it did not consider it appropriate to repeat the public consultation on the policy. However, given that the Executive only approved the broad thrust of the policy, the Department of Finance and Personnel are content to receive comments on how the policy might best be implemented.

Conclusion

30. The Executive considered carefully the proposals put forward by the Procurement Review Team, the views of the Finance and Personnel Committee and the contributions made in response to the public consultation exercise. The Executive believed that the public procurement policy set out in this paper had the potential to bring about a step change in procurement activities in the public sector in Northern Ireland. As a package, the policy provided the foundation for a professional, flexible and more modern approach to the efficient and effective management of a significant proportion of the public funds for which the Executive is responsible in a way which provides for a greater integration of policies across Departments in pursuit of the aims of the Programme for Government.
31. A copy of the final report of the Procurement Review Team and the Equality Impact Assessment on the policy is available for viewing on the Internet on the Central Procurement Directorate's (CPD)'s website www.cpdni.gov.uk.

Appendix A

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Procurement Board:

- i. to develop public procurement policy and to monitor the implementation of that policy within Northern Ireland public bodies;
- ii. to establish the strategies and objectives for implementing that procurement policy, including PPP and PFI;
- iii. to direct matters of public procurement policy and strategy approved by the Executive and make recommendations where appropriate to the Executive;
- iv. to ensure adherence to legal obligations (including the implications of the Human Rights Act 1998 for procurement) and future development of EC legislation as they relate to procurement in the wider public sector;
- v. to approve strategic targets for procurement performance, and to monitor progress against those targets, including the development of e-procurement;
- vi. to ensure that procurement policy pays due regard to the requirements of the Executive's wider policy commitments, including equality, sustainable development, "Lifetime Opportunities" and environmental standards;
- vii. to liaise with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in accordance with the obligations mentioned in the Concordat on Co-ordination of EU, International and Policy Issues on Public Procurement.

Appendix B

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Central Procurement Directorate:

- i. formulating and reviewing procurement policy, in consultation with major stakeholders in the Centres of Procurement Expertise, for endorsement by the Procurement Board and as appropriate, by the Executive.
- ii. disseminating agreed policies to the public sector and monitoring their implementation;
- iii. developing a common Strategic Procurement Framework;
- iv. operating and maintaining a generic procurement process model;
- v. developing management information on procurement expenditure;
- vi. collating and monitoring information on procurement performance across the public sector;
- vii. advising public sector procurers on the appropriate body to deal with high-value, strategically important procurements, whether this be the Central Procurement Directorate, an appropriate Centre of Procurement Expertise or others;
- viii. providing procurement services, under Service Level Agreements, to Departments, Agencies and NDPBs which request them;
- ix. developing the existing process for strategic management of key suppliers and in particular developing a “lead buyer” framework/network in collaboration with the Procurement Practitioners Group;
- x. seeking out and promoting best practice in procurement from within the Procurement Practitioner Group or from the wider public sector, including promotion of necessary investment and taking account of particular constraints (for example, funding);

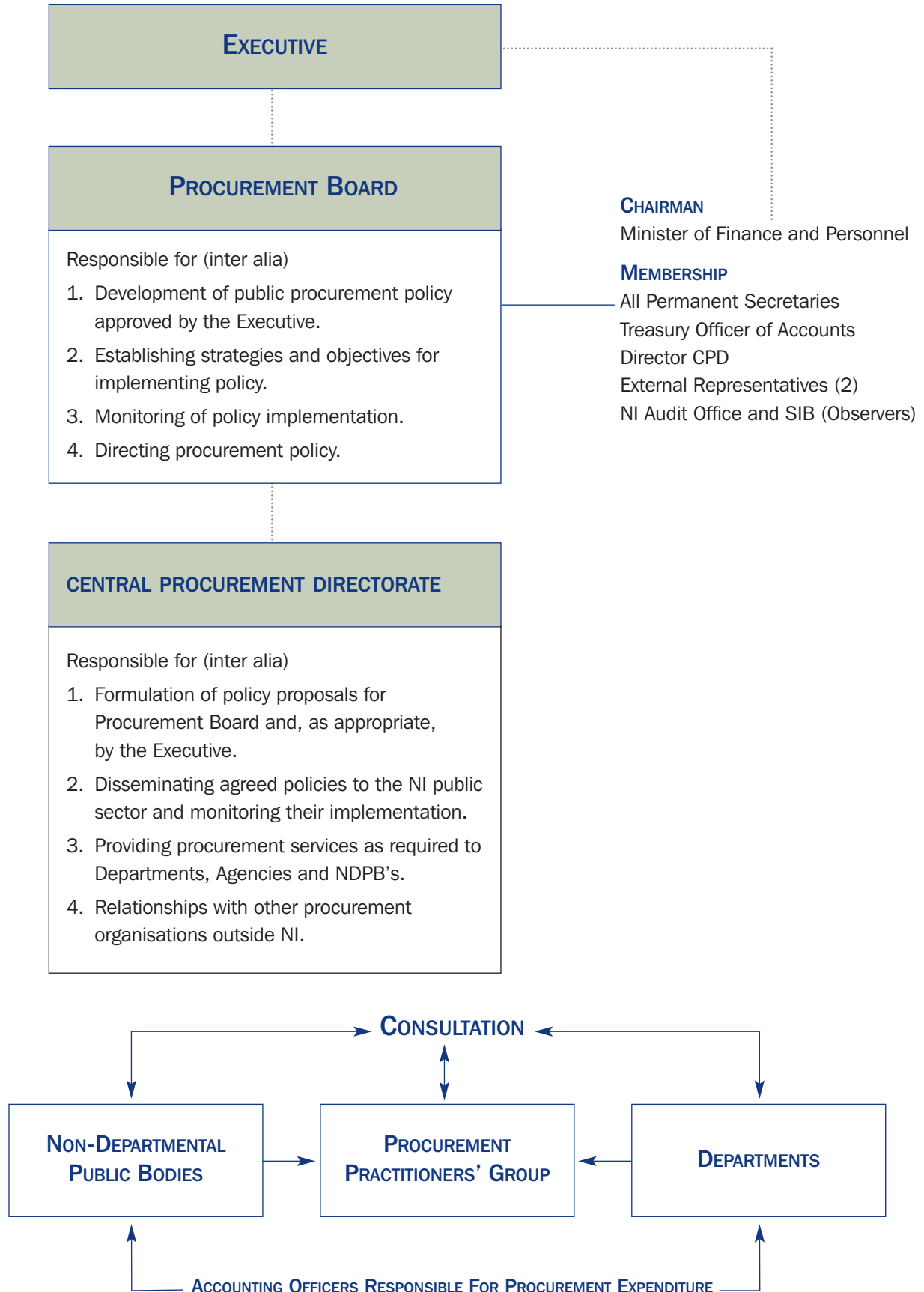
- xi. establishing and maintaining appropriate relationships with similar procurement organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and the Irish Republic, as well as Centres of Procurement Expertise and the private sector;
- xii. supporting and encouraging Northern Ireland Departments, their Agencies and NDPBs to respond to the challenges and deliver the benefits of modern procurement; and
- xiii. promoting appropriate research on public sector procurement issues, and accessing methods of organisational learning and professional training for the benefit of wider Northern Ireland public sector procurement performance.

Appendix C

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Procurement Practitioners' Group (PPG):

- i. contribute to the development of overarching procurement policy and the generic procurement process/model;
- ii. collaborate with like organisations in Great Britain and the Irish Republic, share learning within the Group, and use information to inform/develop wider policy;
- iii. assist in establishing a framework for savings targets and performance measures with customers/spenders, which meet the requirements of the Procurement Board;
- iv. offer up areas of existing good practice for review/learning by the wider network of experts;
- v. pilot leading edge developments on behalf of other Centres of Procurement Expertise;
- vi. develop proposals for operational policies and procedures which are in line with the overarching procurement policy for consideration by the Central Procurement Directorate and Procurement Board;
- vii. establish and highlight constraints (including funding) which prevent implementation of overarching policy or particular good practice developments;
- viii. interact as necessary with the private sector including trade bodies.

Appendix D





Department of
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Annex A

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies

Northern Ireland Government Departments*

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Department of Education

Department for Employment and Learning

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Department of the Environment

Department of Finance and Personnel

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Department for Regional Development

Department for Social Development

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

* Bodies for which Departments are responsible are listed separately on the attached pages

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Government Agencies

Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA)

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Forest Service

Health and Social Services Estates Agency

Land and Property Services (LPS)

Rivers Agency

Roads Service

Social Security Agency (SSA)

Northern Ireland Statistic and Research Agency (NISRA)

Planning Service

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department	
Officer of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	
Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERINI)	
Planning Appeals Commission	
Water Appeals Commission	
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI)	
Community Relations Council (CRC)	
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY)	
Strategic Investment Board (SIB)	
ILEX Urban Regeneration Company Limited (joint responsibility with DSD)	
Commission for Victims and Survivors	

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)	
Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC)	
Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA)	
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	
Fisheries Conservancy Board	
National Museums Northern Ireland (MMNI)	
Northern Ireland Museums Council	
Sport NI	

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (cont'd)

Armagh Observatory

Armagh Planetarium

Northern Ireland Events Company

Northern Ireland Screen

Ulster Scots Agency

Northern Ireland Library Authority (from April 2009)

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Education¹	
	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)
	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)
	Education and Library Boards ²
	Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards
	Youth Council
	Education and Skills Authority (from April 2009)
Department for Employment and Learning	
	Construction Industry Training Board
	Labour Relations Agency

¹ Note: From 1 January 2010, the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will subsume all the Department of Education's current NDPBs listed below. When established, the ESA will be subject to public procurement policy.

² Note: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) are under the responsibility of the Department of Education however, from 1 April 2009 the libraries provision of the ELBs will transfer to the Northern Ireland Library Authority (NILA) which will be the responsibility of DCAL, while the remainder will be subsumed in ESA.

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
	Consumer Council for Northern Ireland
	Health and Safety Executive
	Invest Northern Ireland
	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Department of the Environment	
	Local Government Officer's Superannuation Committee
	Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC)

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Finance and Personnel	
Law Reform Advisory Committee	
Building Regulations Advisory Committee	
Lands Tribunal	
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety³	
Mental Health Commission (being absorbed into Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) April 2009)	
NI Practice and Education Council (NIPEC)	
NI Medical and Dental Training Association	
Health and Social Services Boards (being replaced by Regional Health and Social Care Board (RHSCB) April 2009)	
Health and Social Services Councils (being replaced by Patient and Client Council (PCC) April 2009)	
Health Promotion Agency (being absorbed into Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well Being (RAPHSW) April 2009)	

³ Four new Health bodies are due to come into existence in April 2009, replacing or absorbing a number of existing bodies as indicated

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (cont'd)	
Blood Transfusion Agency	
Central Service Agency (being absorbed into Regional Business Support Organistaion April 2009)	
Guardian Ad Litem Agency	
Regional Medical Physics Agency (being absorbed into the Health and Social Care Trust April 2009)	
NI Fire and Rescue Service	
Health and Social Care Trusts	
Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)	
NI Social Care Council (NISCC)	
Regional Health and Social Care Board (RBSO) from April 2009	

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (cont'd)	
	Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well Being (RAPHSW) from April 2009
	Regional Business Support Organisation (RBSO) from April 2009
	Patient and Client Council from April 2009
Department for Regional Development	
	Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company
	Translink
	Northern Ireland Water (NIW)

List of Public Bodies to which Procurement Policy applies (cont'd)

Other Public Bodies by Department (cont'd)	
Department for Social Development ⁴	
ILEX Urban Regeneration Company Limited (joint responsibility with OFMDFM)	
Charities Advisory Committee	
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	
Rent Assessment Panel	
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)	
The Charities Commission (from 31 March 2009)	
Vaghans Charity	

⁴ Note: The Charities Commission is to be established as a NDPB. Legislation has been passed by the Assembly and is currently seeking Royal Assent. The target date for completion is the end of March 2009. The Charities Commission will then fall under the DSD list of bodies