



COVID-19 & Public Sector Procurement - supporting our network with considerations around the coronavirus outbreak

You'll no doubt have seen the Cabinet Office guidance, "[Procurement Policy Note - Supplier relief due to COVID-19](#)", March 2020. We're contacting you to make you aware of this and to offer our support where we can at this very difficult time.

The aim of this advice is to safeguard cashflow and help contractors retain staff as well as paying suppliers "as a matter of urgency to support their survival over the coming months." To this end 'contracting authorities' are encouraged to make regular and quick payment (even where service delivery is disrupted or suspended) and resolve disputed payment applications speedily.

If work is disrupted or suspended then payment can be made based on the average of the previous three months. Payments should not include profit where work has not been completed.

Payment in advance is approved by the Treasury but capped at 25% of the contract value until the end of June.

The guidance is in place until 30 June 2020 and will be re-evaluated in mid-June.

Specific advice to framework service providers

You can help clients by providing open book information around payments in line with the Procurement Policy Note and by providing confirmation that you are paying your workforce and suppliers and that you are acting with integrity.

If clients are making payments under these principles you are under obligation to also make payments in similar fashion to those who rely on you.

You can also help with agreeing to relax some of the contractual terms and work collaboratively so that we can all work together to overcome some very difficult circumstances.

SEC would value feedback on where you are as contractors regarding completing work on the ground and tendering timescales / logistics so we can better advise our Members.

Help from SEC

Contact

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This is a very difficult time for everyone, especially the emergency services. We also have a role to play in keeping people safe while protecting businesses and individual's income. At SEC we are keen to support both Members and contractors through this time.

To this end we can help shape tenders while work is reducing on site so that we can help support a quick 'back to normal' approach as far as possible. Again this supports the aim of keeping businesses afloat and safeguarding those who are employed.

SEC would also welcome open conversations over the practicalities in how we all get through these difficult times while supporting one another in the best way possible. So please keep us updated so we can keep Members and contractors alike informed on what is happening.



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