



Office of the National Director of Procurement
Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens' Hospital
Dublin 8
D08 W2A8

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Soláthair
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'
Baile Atha Clíath 8
D08 W2A8

Tel: 01 6352688 F:6352358
Email: john.swords@hse.ie

Deputy Noel Grealish,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19/10/2022

RE PQ 51321/22

Question

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has plans to set targets for green procurement in 2022 and in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Noel Grealish

Response

Deputy Grealish,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Building on Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 20/2019 'Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement' and the Climate Action Plan 2021, a key procurement objective of HSE's Corporate Procurement Plan (2022-2024) is to facilitate environmental objectives through procurement.

The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to put Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. The role that the public sector has to play in leading by example is critical. It brings a commitment to developing and implementing a sustainable public procurement policy that ensures that what we are buying and building is consistent with our climate ambition. As the largest purchaser of goods, services and works in the state, the health service will play a central role in delivering greener public procurement. Our suppliers will need to prepare themselves in order to be able to continue to work with us to achieve our sustainability goals.

Climate Action Plan 2021 mandates the development of clear leadership across the health sector around sustainability and climate change. To achieve this, HSE will promote awareness of climate change and sustainability measures across the health service, develop, and deliver appropriate training relating to the Climate Action Plan. Evolving our procurement practices to promote greener goods and services will also be an important part of our commitment.

Alongside the OGP, who will update all procurement frameworks in line with green procurement practice by 2023, the HSE will adjust evaluation criteria to give appropriate weighting to products and services that assist the HSE in delivering on the governmental commitment to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 51% by 2030, and to become climate neutral no later than 2050. HSE commit to and indeed welcome engagement with suppliers to help us understand how best to achieve this objective.

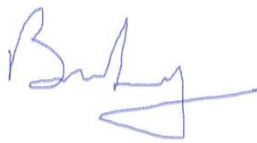
HSE is currently developing a corporate plan to address climate action and sustainability including sustainable procurement. Two sustainable procurement objectives are currently being developed:

1. Develop procured goods and services waste reduction framework and supporting implementation plan to reduce waste and related emissions, strengthen supply chain resilience and support the transition towards a circular economy.
2. Develop a baseline for all HSE supply chain emissions and work in consultation with key supply chain and product partners to include sustainability criteria in all tender procurement processes and establish a credible decarbonisation trajectory.

We hope that work will commence on these in Q4 2022 and more specific targets will be set as the programme of work evolves.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2688 or via john.swords@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Long', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Brian Long | Acting National Director of Procurement | HSE | 2nd Floor | Dr. Steevens' Hospital | Dublin 8 | D08 W2A8 |
Tel: +353 (01) 6352688 | Email: john.swords@hse.ie