Consultation
Did you take part in the Scottish Government consultation exercise which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Yes, as a member of the NHSS National Procurement Steering Group. No specific comments were made on the financial assumptions.

Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. Not applicable.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes.

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that these have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. Yes.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM and over the timescales for which they are projected are reasonable and accurate?
5. Yes.

If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs it is expected to incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. Yes. Continued support from Scottish Government for regional joint working will allow efficiencies in fixed costs which can be used to support integration of the duties into existing working practices by sharing resources.

Wider Issues
Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the estimates and the timescales over which such costs would be expected to arise?
7. Yes, as far as can be predicted at this point.

Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures the costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
8. It is a reasonable estimate. Further costs associated with training public sector procurement staff in compliance. Also, given that suppliers' expectations of securing more public sector contracts, they may incur costs in marketing and sales
training in making themselves ready to be able to satisfy large organisation’s needs, especially very small SMEs and the third sector.

*Do you believe that there might be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?*

9. The absence of reference to an ombudsman or other arbitration suggests remedies may incur costs in any dispute. This has been fed into the consultation as per point 1 above.

10. From a local perspective future costs are not known and therefore not quantifiable at this stage.