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Convener, Economy and Fair Work Committee
Scottish Parliament
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(sent by e-mail)

01 September 2025

Dear Convener,

We advised the Committee during its review of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, that the Scottish Government planned to conduct a survey of suppliers to the Scottish public sector to help us better understand the Scottish public procurement process from the perspective of suppliers. I am writing to advise that the Scottish Government has now published a [report](#) of the findings of its latest supplier survey, conducted between 10 September and 19 November 2024. This was the second edition of the survey, which was first held between 2 November and 11 December 2020 with the previous survey's report also published [online](#).

The main sections of the survey covered: respondents' bidding patterns, feedback received on their bids, the supplier journey, the sustainable procurement duty, challenges and support for bidders, consortium bids, sub-contracting, training and capacity building, and overall perceptions of public procurement in Scotland.

The survey results, a copy of which is attached separately, found that respondents were generally positive about their experience of the Scottish public procurement system, including the training, support or advice they had received on tendering for Scottish public sector contracts, and their experiences of sub-contracting on Scottish public sector contracts. However, some areas for improvement were also identified, including respondents reporting difficulty in obtaining feedback on their bids and difficulty communicating with Scottish public sector buyers.

These findings complement the recommendations of the Committee following their review of the 2014 Act and therefore work is already well underway to address many of the opportunities for improvement. Nonetheless, officials will engage with both partners and stakeholders to explore the survey findings and consider what additional steps may need to be taken to respond to them, helping to inform our ongoing work to maximise the impact of procurement in Scotland.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

I trust that the Committee will find this update helpful and we will provide a further update, by year end, on progress against their recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

IVAN MCKEE