Department of Finance
An Roinn Airgeadais
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Social Value Strategy
2025-2027

Progress Report (October 2026)



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Introduction

1. The Department of Finance (DoF) Social Value Strategy 2025-2027 was published on 1 May 2025 and sets out the social value goals and ambitions for the Department up to 31 March 2027.

2. The Strategy defines 'social value' as the wider financial and non-financial impacts on the wellbeing of individuals, communities and the environment. This incorporates ethical and sustainable supply chains, community benefits and wealth building, job and skills creation and efforts to combat climate change.

3. The Strategy includes **57** enabling actions to be delivered over the 2 years under the following 4 themes:

Theme One: Increasing secure employment and skills (14 Actions)
Securing employment and skills through our procurement spend and delivering a five-year people strategy to ensure the Civil Service attracts, retains and develops its diverse and inclusive workforce. The five-year people strategy will help address skill shortages in key areas and support people with disabilities to enter and remain in work.
Theme Two: Building ethical and resilient supply-chains (16 Actions)
Maximising security of supply for critical goods and services and reducing barriers for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs) tendering for government contracts.
Theme Three: Delivering Climate Action (18 Actions)
Working towards net zero emissions in the Civil Service Office Estate; minimising the impact on our climate through the goods, services and works contracts procured; and assisting Departments to achieve Climate Change Targets by updating finance and HR Policies.
Theme Four: Promoting Well-being (9 Actions)
Supporting well-being through our contracts and within communities; and in the Civil Service by supporting diversity networks and updating HR policies and systems.

4. This is the third progress report. The first progress report[1] was published in September 2025 and the second progress report in May 2026.

Purpose

5. The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made against the actions to be delivered between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2026.

6. The publication of the progress report seeks to encourage stakeholders to provide feedback to the Department on its performance to date and to help inform actions and targets beyond 2027.

7. The next progress report will be published by the end of June 2027.

Summary of Actions

8. The previous progress report described the progress by 31 March 2026. There were 28 actions delivered at that stage, one chosen not for completion; and eight actions were carried forward to the 26/27 year for completion outside the target date. An additional 20 actions were allocated for delivery between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027.

9. The table below shows the current status of all 57 actions.

Completed	In Progress	No longer for completion	Not achieved
35	18	3	1

[1] https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/social-value-strategy-2025-2027

10. The Report is structured in three sections:

    I. Actions carried forwards from the 25/26 year;

    II. Other actions to be completed; and

    III. Stakeholder feedback.

Section 1

Actions carried forward from 25/26 year

11. The table below outlines the progress against these actions in each of the Themes:

TABLE 1: ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED OUTSIDE TARGET DATE	
Theme One: Increasing secure employment and skills (1 Action)	**Outcome**
i. Allocate at least 10% of the maximum weighted score to delivering secure employment and skills through the collaborative contract for Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)	The procurement was not progressed as a new contract was not required.
Theme Two: Building ethical and resilient supply-chains (3 Actions)	**Position**
ii. Allocate at least 10% to social value of the maximum weighted to build resilient supply chains through the NICS Portering and Furniture Storage contract	Original target was 31 March 2026. **Revised Date:** 1st February 2027

	Progress is ongoing; expect to complete action by the revised target date.
iii. Work with other departments to provide guidance on Grant Standards to ensure consistent application of grant funding across all departments	Original target date was 31 March 2026. **Revised Date:** 31 December 2026 Progress is ongoing; expect to complete action by the revised target date.
iv. Update the Social Value Supplementary Business Case guidance and Social Value Tool with regards to building ethical and resilient supply chains.	Original target date was 31 March 2026. **Revised Date:** 31 March 2027 Progress is ongoing; expect to complete action by the revised target date.
Theme Four: Promoting Well-being (4 Actions)	**Position**
v. Review the actions within the Civil Service People Plan People Pillar two: 'support and improve health and wellbeing'	Original target date was 1 April 2025. **Revised Date:** 31 December 2026 Progress is ongoing; expect to complete action by the revised target date.
vi. Reaffirm the Civil Service commitment to the Mental Health Charter	Original target date was 1 April 2025. **Revised Date:** 31 March 2027 Progress is ongoing; expect to complete action by the revised target date.

vii. Increase the number of volunteering days by 10%	Decision taken not to complete this action; due to resources, not a priority in this timeframe.
viii. Continue to implement the Civil Service Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as a key commitment in the Civil Service five-year People Strategy, building a positive health and wellbeing culture for all civil servants	Original target date was 31 March 2026. Revised Date: 30 May 2026 Completed.

Section 2

Actions for April 2026 onwards

12. The table below provides details of the actions completed to date.

TABLE 2: COMPLETED	
Theme Two: Building ethical and resilient supply-chains (4 Actions)	
I.	Have delivered 5 training sessions on Modern Slavery to departments and non-departmental public bodies.
II.	Have delivered 5 workshops in conjunction with InterTradeIreland to help SMEs / SEs tender for government contracts.
III.	Develop an accessibility self audit tool to help micro and small business assess their social value maturity.

IV.	All DoF staff involved in specifying goods and services will be trained in all social value themes to ensure that tender assessments are conducted with relevant expertise and contracts are actively managed.
Theme Three: Delivering Climate Action (2 Actions)	
V.	We will report our actions in the DoF Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2025/26 and publish an action plan for 2026/27 continuing to strengthen our commitment to climate action.
VI.	Allocate at least 10% to social value of the maximum weighted score to deliver climate action through Print Management and Multi Functional Devices contracts.

13. The table below provides details of the actions still in progress

TABLE 3: STILL TO BE COMPLETED		**Target date**
Theme One: Increasing secure employment and skills (4 Actions)		
I.	Allocate at least 10% of the maximum weighted score to delivering secure employment and skills through the Public Shared Network contract.	31 March 2027
II.	Deliver the year two commitments in the five-year People Strategy	31 March 2027
III.	Within the first two years of the Civil Service People Strategy implementation, and by 31st March 2027, develop and implement new Civil Service Employability Programmes including work placements, internships and ring-fenced job opportunities to those furthest removed from work.	31 March 2027

IV. Implement a Civil Service Learning and Development Strategy, to include upskilling in existing and emerging technologies and the continuing development of members of Civil Service professions from entry to deep specialism.	31 March 2027
Theme Two: Building ethical and resilient supply-chains (1 Action)	
V. The additional social value delivered from the DoF top 10% highest spend suppliers will be published.	31 March 2027
Theme Three: Delivering Climate Action (6 Actions)	
VI. Reduce the 'in scope' Civil Service Office Estate by circa 35% (against the 2022 baseline) in line with NICS Office Estate Strategy. [ALSO CSAP ACTION 18 - wording is 'Reduce the NICS Estate by a further 4 sites by 31 March 2027, as part of the NICS Estate Strategy']	31 March 2027
VII. Carry out a carbon audit of the Civil Service retained office estates.	31 March 2027
VIII. At least 70% of CPD staff to have undertaken online carbon literacy training to improve understanding of climate action.	31 March 2027
IX. Reduce its fleet of 11 vehicles to 8 vehicles.	31 March 2027
X. Explore opportunities for the circular economy in collaborative supplies contracts.	31 March 2027
XI. Additional Climate Action Targets in contracts with the DoF top 10% highest spend suppliers will be published.	31 March 2027
Theme Four: Promoting Well-being (2 Actions)	
XII. Have delivered the first two years of health and wellbeing commitments within the Civil Service People Strategy	31 March 2027

XIII. Have delivered an annual programme of well-being seminars for DoF staff.	31 March 2027

14. The table below provides details of the actions chosen not to be progressed further.

TABLE 4: WILL NOT BE PROGRESSED FURTHER
Theme One: Increasing secure employment and skills (1 Action)
I. Allocate at least 10% of the maximum weight score to delivering secure employment and skills though the Public Shared Network contract. The target is now irrelevant due to changes in dates for contract replacement.

Section 3

Stakeholder Feedback

15. The commitment to develop a Social Value Strategy is included in the Procurement Policy Note PPN 01/21 - Social Value in Procurement. The Department of Finance is the first Department to publish its Social Value Strategy and is therefore leading the way for other departments.

16. The Department is keen to gather feedback from stakeholders in terms of the goals and ambitions outlined in its Social Value Strategy to help inform future strategies.

17. If you wish to provide feedback, please email procure.policy@finance-ni.gov.uk.