Case Study 2022/2023



**Repair, reuse, recycle of furniture items**

**Reserving Contracts under Regulation 20 of the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 (as amended)**

**Introduction**

The Northern Ireland Executive has previously promoted the use of public procurement to deliver social, economic and environmental objectives in a number of ways. The publication of Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 01/21 maximises the delivery of social value into Procurement and enshrines it into Government Policy.

Procurement Policy Note [PPN 01/21- Scoring Social Value](https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/PPN%200121%20Scoring%20Social%20Value%20%5Bpdf%20version%2006%20Oct%202022%5D.PDF) states, “*2.4 As part of its pre-procurement deliberations Departments must consider the potential to reserve a contract under the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015.”*

Regulation 20 of the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 (as amended) allows a Contracting Authority to reserve participation in procurement procedures to supported businesses and economic operators whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons.

**The Contract**

In December 2021 Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) Supplies and Services Division (SSD) were approached by their Client, Property Services Division (PSD) with a requirement for the repair, reuse, removal and recycling of furniture items. As part of pre procurement planning SSD along with their client considered the use of Regulation 20 to reserve the competition. Through pre-market engagement it was established that there was capability within the market which meets the requirements of Regulation 20 for the provision of the required services.

The criteria for evaluation were progressed and developed to reserve the contract for supported businesses and economic operators whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons.

**Outcomes and Benefits**

In March 2023 a contract for the repair, reuse, removal and recycling of furniture items was awarded to Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL). The award of this contract will see posts created for disabled and disadvantaged persons within USEL for all services associated with the contract. The contract has an initial contract period of three years, commencing 1st April 2023, with two optional extension periods of 24 months. As a demand lead contract the value is difficult to predict.

The contract will achieve a reduction in costs for the public purse by increasing the usable lifespan of Northern Ireland Civil Service office furniture and significantly reduce waste and disposal of items which cannot be repaired through recycling and upcycling.

**USEL**

USEL was formed in 1962 with the aim of providing supported paid employment for people with disabilities within its Belfast manufacturing base.

It is the largest direct supporter of people with disabilities and health related conditions and trains, supports and employs up to 1200 people across Northern Ireland every year.

The company uses the social enterprise model, tackling social issues and reinvesting its profits back into expanding its workforce. For every £1 invested USEL, £18 is created in social value.

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