

Equinox House
City Link
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG2 4LA

Email: FOI@supplychain.nhs.uk
www.supplychain.nhs.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2022-098

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office, requesting information on the published medical examination gloves and surgical gloves contract issued December 2021.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Supply Chain Coordination Limited (SCCL) can provide a reply to your questions raised. SCCL's responses are set out below.

Q1. The framework contract is valued at £6bn, but in the supporting documentation, the value is given as "Estimated value excluding VAT: Range: between 320 000 000 and 375 000 000 GBP". Please explain this discrepancy and advise the precise estimated value of this framework agreement?

The figure of £6bn represents the maximum total procurement value of the [medical examination gloves and surgical gloves contract](#) (procurement reference tender _269071/1021658) and was awarded in December 2021 to commence in January 2022.

The estimated value you mention above of £320,000,000 - £375,000,000, seems to be for a contract listed in May 2019.

Q2. Secondly, I would also like to know what due diligence was carried out on the labour practices of the companies who were listed in this contract. At least one of the suppliers has faced significant public criticism for their exploitative labour practices, so I would like to know whether these well-publicised concerns were considered in awarding this contract?

As with all awarded contracts, a proper due diligence process is carried out before awarding any suppliers onto frameworks and they follow the highest legal and ethical standards.

All the glove suppliers on our current gloves' framework have been registered and have been asked to complete a Modern Slavery Assessment and a Labour Standards Assessment on the NQC portal. This is a government recognised portal and online supply chain risk tool. NQC has worked alongside the UK government for 16 years as a provider of Supplier Registration Service (SRS) solutions <https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>.

The portal collates data from the suppliers about Labour Standards and down the supply chain via questionnaires associated with a Modern-Day Slavery (MSAT) module and a Human Rights and Labour Standards (LSAT) module based on International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards. The system through AI then collates and scores the suppliers responses and where applicable provides an improvement plan. Through contract management and due diligence NHS Supply Chain has visibility of these assessments, scores, and improvement plans.

NHS Supply Chain's supports the UK Government Modern Slavery Statement 2020 which outlines a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and commits to ensuring respect for human rights are built into contracts, self-assessments, audits, training and capacity-building opportunities for suppliers, subcontractors, customers, and all those involved in the government supply chain.

NHS Supply Chain expects all suppliers to proactively manage and mitigate the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking from within their own supply chains, providing greater supply chain visibility where risks are at the highest, along with supporting the wider response to any international issues.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain