

## **Scotland Excel**

**To: Chief Executive Officers Management Group**

**On: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

### **Report by Chief Executive Scotland Excel**

### **Covid-19 - PPE Update**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The supply and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is an emotive and contentious issue in the efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. This paper sets out the background to the approach taken by Scotland Excel and provides a high-level overview of the initial process implemented by Scotland Excel to support its members.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 CEOMG members are requested to note the content of this report, and support the measures and approach taken by Scotland Excel to support non-care PPE requirements by councils.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 *Supply and Delivery of Personal Protective Equipment* is a fourth-generation framework. PPE is defined as all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects them against one or more risks to their health or safety. The current framework has an annual value of approximately £7.5 million across 32 participating councils plus Tayside Contracts and Associate Members. The spend data captured notes that 31% of value is from core items and 69% from non-core items.
- 3.2 At the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Scotland Excel were approached by National Services Scotland (NSS), the procurement shared service for NHS Scotland, to discuss their "One Scotland" approach to the supply and distribution of PPE across the Scottish public sector.

NSS provided an update on their mandate by Scottish Government and the work being undertaken with Scottish Enterprise to identify manufacturers and supply of PPE within both the Scottish and Asian markets. The organisation

sought support from Scotland Excel to provide any resources and information that could support a “One Scotland” approach.

Scotland Excel understood that significant work had already been undertaken on this approach and to deviate from this would be counter-productive to the national effort. Scotland Excel worked with NSS to understand how it could support the national initiative. Initial discussions focussed on the provision of experienced Scotland Excel team members to support the initiative.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of April Colin Sinclair, Chief Executive of NSS, wrote to council and NHS chief executives providing an update on the NSS approach to PPE. This update caused concern amongst council chief executives and Scotland Excel were asked to look at a more council based solution. In addition, SOLACE sought to understand the levels of PPE demand across councils.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April at a meeting with a range of stakeholders including SOLACE, COSLA, Scottish Government, NSS and Scotland Excel it was agreed that NSS would manage PPE for all Care related services and Scotland Excel would support non care related services within local government.

Subsequent to the above, Scottish Government indicated their intention to supply PPE for all non-health and social care and non-council PPE. This solution would be in conjunction with Lyreco.

#### 4. Quantitative Analysis of Demand

- 4.1 Scotland Excel immediately sought to support a more strategic approach and to provide quantitative indications of PPE demand through the Scotland Excel framework.

Table 1 Provides details of the annual total historic PPE demand through the Scotland Excel framework.

**Table 1**

	Apron	Gloves	Full Suite	Surg Masks	FFP2	FFP3	Overshoes
Total Demand	7,820	2,853,530	11,804	12,230	14,750	22,590	39
Weekly Demand	150	54,876	227	235	284	434	1
	Ear Plugs	Scrub	Tunic	Disposable	Face Shield	Eye Protection	Fit Test
Total Demand	1,771,500	382,100	1,592,500	199,900	156	12,145	38
Weekly Demand	34,067	7,348	30,625	3,844	3	234	1

- 4.2 Recognising the increased utilisation of PPE due to Covid-19, an indicative weekly demand was calculated by using a multiplier of fifty times historic demand. These demand figures were passed to each council to agree ongoing weekly demand.

- 4.3 In parallel to the Scotland Excel work, SOLACE representatives wrote to all councils to understand demand and current stock levels. These responses were provided to Scotland Excel and returns were collated and analysed to provide further quantitative business intelligence. Further work was subsequently undertaken by Scotland Excel with councils to understand the split between care and non-care PPE.

Table 2 provides a summary of the confirmed council weekly demand for a consolidated group of products split between care and non-care.

**Table 2**

	<b>Masks</b>	<b>Eye Protection</b>	<b>Gloves</b>	<b>Aprons</b>	<b>Sanitiser</b>	<b>Overshoes</b>
<b>Care</b>	1,626,625	281,767	2,832,103	1,610,127	24,255	2,724
<b>Non Care</b>	204,042	2,217	723,073	214,287	4,127	7,144
<b>Total</b>	1,830,667	283,984	3,555,176	1,824,413	28,382	9,868

Some of the key facts that demonstrate the quantum changes that have occurred with respect to demand.

- Historic weekly demand of 55k gloves compared with a current weekly demand of 3.5m.
- Historic weekly demand of 235 masks compared with a current weekly demand of 1.8m
- Historic weekly demand of 150 aprons compared with a current weekly demand of 1.8m

- 4.4 It is worth also considering that PPE may have been procured via other routes other than the Scotland Excel framework despite the participation of all councils; i.e. historical demand through this framework may be an understatement of consumption.

## **5. Ongoing PPE Process**

- 5.1 Scotland Excel aims to provide an effective and efficient service response to support councils with their PPE needs. This has been hampered by the changing landscape and issues with regard to clarity.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 provides a high-level overview of the initial process implemented by Scotland Excel.
- 5.3 The process will seek to undertake the following steps:
- Utilise the agreed weekly demand collated by Scotland Excel whilst recognising changing patterns within councils.
  - Allow consolidation of demand avoiding numerous supply chain issues.

- Confirm availability for the sector.
- Benchmarking and negotiation of costs.
- Ensure standards and certifications.
- Support alternative product recommendations
- Support cross organisational learning and good practice.
- Consolidate ordering with agreed suppliers.

5.4 This process will be dynamic and may have been adapted further by the time the CEOMG is held.

5.5 After the current crisis, Scotland Excel will continue to work with member councils to ensure contract development activity is in alignment with strategic plans.

Appendix 1

