

Innovation

Innovation is

"the implementation of a new or significantly improved product, service or process, with the purpose of helping to solve societal challenges or to support smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth"

Quote derived from [current regulations](#) and approved by the Scottish Government Procurement Innovation Delivery Group

Examples of some current societal challenges are:

- an aging population
- the climate emergency

Buyers (and staff across the public sector) will often be required to investigate the market and procure innovative goods or services. This may be for a number of reasons such as:

- the goods and services required may not exist in the market
- your requirement involves upgrading or adapting what is currently available
- your procurement is trying to solve a unique/newly identified challenge or issue
- work is required to adapt existing goods or services specifically for the public sector
- buyers want to test the market to see what options are available before commencing a procurement exercise

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 contains the sustainable procurement duty. This states that it is the duty of the public sector organisation to consider, before carrying out a regulated procurement, how the procurement process can promote innovation (when it is relevant

and proportionate to do so).

[The Impact and Value of the Sustainable Procurement Duty report](#) received buyer feedback that more support for innovation was required, whilst responses to the [Supplier Survey](#) showed that considering innovation in procurement exercises could be improved.

What has Changed?

In response to this feedback, [Public Contract Scotland](#) (PCS) notices (as well as tools, guidance and reporting) have been created to help you procure innovative goods/services.

Buyers are advised to use the innovation notices, as well as the additional resources, to support procurement of innovation, where applicable. The developments are:

- a [preliminary market consultation \(PMC\) notice](#). This includes a Supplier Collaboration Tool whose functionality in PCS allows organisations to network and work together on an innovative project
- a [pre commercial procurement \(PCP\) notice](#)
- a [pre commercial procurement \(PCP\) award notice](#)
- [new innovation questions](#) added to the existing PCS Contract Notices
- the introduction of a [Research Pilot and Innovation Register](#)
- [Scotland Innovates](#), a supplier-led innovation service which allows suppliers and individuals to submit innovative proposals to the entire public sector. Scotland Innovates contains: news; event details; useful resources and [case studies](#)
- this innovation guidance in the Procurement Journey

Please note there has been no change to the [Innovation Partnership](#) procurement process.