

**Pan Scotland People & Skills Working Group**  
**Consolidated Response (APUC and sector) regarding the draft Scottish**  
**Procurement Community Proposal and EU Procurement Directives Training**

**Scottish Procurement Community Proposal**

Section	Response
Title	Unable to discern from the title what the proposal covers
General Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal is at the concept stage and is arguably too vague to obtain the desired levels of buy-in in its present format i.e. the reader is unable to assess with any degree of clarity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ how the portal would operate;</li> <li>○ whether participation is regarded as mandatory, and if so, on whose authority;</li> <li>○ any costs involved to develop and maintain the portal and who pays;</li> <li>○ who would own the portal and the personal data contained within it;</li> <li>○ accessibility to the data and personal data;</li> <li>○ how the portal would be kept up to date to ensure it remains fit for purpose and who would undertake that role;</li> <li>○ what the tangible benefits are and whether the proposal is workable and the only/best way forward;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The proposal could be better written and presented, providing more informative content</li> </ul>
Background	<p>This paragraph contains text, which to a reader unfamiliar to the topic does not adequately set the agenda, clear objectives, costs, nor cover management issues and benefits. Suggest replacing the last two sentences with “The rapidly developing governance structure aims to achieve synergy and reduce duplication whilst still meeting local requirements. CIPS aims to encourage procurement professionalism and can support these initiatives by encouraging working together to deliver value for the public and the business community.”</p>
Supply of Management Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• para 1: Why have only CIPS been approached to develop and deliver this portal? The requirement is for goods and services, and as with the advertising portal and potential costs involved, should be subject to competitive tendering as a Part A service under the EU Procurement Regulations. Approaching CIPS only would raise the issue of a possible conflict of interest as they would be in a position to use this opportunity as a drive to increase membership, market their chargeable services etc. In such circumstances, how would adherence to the EC Treaty Principles of equal treatment, transparency, non discrimination between suppliers etc be demonstrated? The requirement needs to be competitively tendered as for any other Part A service</li> <li>• bullet 2: Are standardised (pan Scotland) job descriptions and roles</li> </ul>

	<p>ever likely to be achievable? How will individuals with non standard roles e.g. where there is no procurement function and the role is undertaken by finance officers, researchers etc be catered for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bullets 3-5: The text is too vague to allow the reader to comprehend fully what this actually means in terms of how these objectives will operate, what benefits may be derived, and how this dovetails with existing provision and working relationships</li> <li>• para 2: The text implies that use of the portal will be voluntary - “.....individuals <i>can join</i>.....” - and not mandatory (see comment previously raised in general comments section above). If so, how is it envisaged that sufficient usage will be secured to enable the five objectives to be met and outcomes to be considered representative and credible? What is the costing model i.e. will Scottish Government fund the portal’s development in addition to ongoing management and updating? Will joining and use be free of charge to users?</li> <li>• para 3: Access to the data needs to be defined i.e. who will be able to view and use the data and when, will it be sector specific, by individual organisation, limited to individual access etc and how will access to different types of information be addressed? How will permission from individuals about use of their personal data be managed? Restricting access to the central database to the Scottish Government only is likely to be unacceptable in terms of equality of access and collaborative partnerships. In line 2, for clarity suggest replacing “.....virtual centre of population.....” with “virtual centre of the current procurement-active staff.....” In line 3, how can objective 5 be met if the portal is restricted just to registered CIPS members and students?</li> </ul> <p>Skill mapping – it is unclear how the proposed benefit will be achieved. How will the issue of individuals who are active in procurement and need access to training or development materials but may not need to progress to full CIPS be addressed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• para 5: How does effectively creating “.....an education and networking community.....” sit with and relate to other aspects of the procurement reform agenda and existing services, networks, pan Scotland forums, current services provided by CIPS to members etc to prevent crossover and duplication? Has any benchmarking been done to establish how other parts of the UK have addressed the idea of a procurement community?</li> <li>• General comments on section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the added value that CIPS would bring regarding the procurement competency framework is unclear given the existence of the pan Scotland competency framework</li> <li>○ care is needed given that some institutions already operate processes in the development of skills and added requests for information would be viewed as diversionary activity, particularly where data has already been sought by sector CoEs/Scottish Government and doesn’t need to be repeated for this proposal</li> <li>○ comparisons derived from data without understanding the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	institutional context could lead to incorrect assumptions being made
Professional Development	CIPS' view that only individuals with CIPS membership can access the portal is unacceptable, especially where equivalent recognised or enhanced qualifications exist. This does not promote inclusivity and effectively excludes parts of the sector e.g. colleges with no procurement function or individuals with equivalent or higher qualifications other than CIPS i.e. the individuals that a portal could potentially benefit most. It could also be viewed as boosting affiliate membership just so that people can access the site. There seems to be no recognition of (or relationship to) organisations' existing training plans etc. Meshing the proposal into existing provision could prove problematic. Unable to view Appendix 1. Cost is a consideration not mentioned here, and it is unclear if any assistance/part funding will be available e.g. to a buyer in a small college who is struggling to secure any employer support but could perhaps continue if it was a shared cost
Membership	Clarify what added value the portal would provide in this area since a number of forums and procurement communities already exist on a UK-wide basis. Costs, access issues, and use of personal data raised previously apply here
Routes to Membership	The suggested routes exist already. Academic study could also be at a college or through eLearning and SVQ/NVQ may be more appropriate terminology
Training & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• para 2: How will the portal be used to 'tag and measure the graduate programme?' Doesn't the portal duplicate the information already available on the CIPS website?</li> <li>• para 3: A list of providers would be useful but these cannot just be limited to those contracted by the Scottish Government. As well as relying on third party training providers there should be a constant cycle of centrally run training on core elements of procurement. Suggest re-visiting the wording relating to "CIPS education and training programmes" to establish if it will cover Routes to Membership or Objectives 3 and 5</li> <li>• The remaining paragraphs contain CIPS specific information only</li> </ul>
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• line 1: Unable to see how buy-in can be supported until the proposal has been further developed to enable an opinion regarding feasibility and benefits to be formed.</li> <li>• The justification for developing this proposal with CIPS only without undertaking competitive tendering for delivery of the portal needs to be clarified.</li> <li>• line 3: Clarity is needed regarding how ".....this initiative can play a significant role in delivering policy....."</li> </ul>

### EU Procurement Directives Training – Delivery Options

Pan Scotland basis via a contract/framework agreement	8
By individual CoEs for their respective sectors	4
Total number of responses for this question:	<b>12</b>