



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

An tOllamh Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh
BComm (Gaillimh), DipPrAcc (UCD), PhD (Leeds), FCA (Éire)
Uachtarán

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh
BComm (Galway), DipPrAcc (UCD), PhD (Leeds), FCA (Ireland)
President

18th January 2023

Ms Sarah Cremin
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Ms Sarah Cremin
An Coiste um Chuntais Phoiblí
Teach Laighean
Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 XR20

Ref: S1150 PAC33

Dear Ms Cremin,

Thank you for your letter of 30th December 2022. We wish to assure the Public Accounts Committee that the University takes matters relating to compliance with procurement guidelines seriously. We have taken significant steps to address non-compliance, going from €4.45million of reported non-compliance in 2017/2018 to €1.1million in 2020/2021. We envisage reporting further improvement in the 2021/2022 financial year. We remain committed to ensuring procurement compliance..

We are herewith providing the information that you have requested.

As you note in your letter, in the period 2020/2021, the University incurred expenditure of €1.1million (or c1.5% of total operating expenses) that was found to be non-compliant with procurement guidelines. This procurement activity was in respect of 23 suppliers where the procedures employed did not comply with procurement regulations. Appendix 1 sets out in tabular form the contracts that were non-compliant with procurement guidelines in 2020/2021, the associated expenditure, goods/services, supplier(s), the reason(s) for the non-compliance and actions taken to rectify the procurement issues.

The table below summarises the actions that the University has taken to address the reported non-compliance.

	Contract in place for Goods / Services	Tender in progress	Service no longer required	Exemption
No. of Suppliers impacted	16	3	2	2
Value	€900,000	€130,000	€15,000	€75,000

The University would also like to note ongoing actions that it is taking to further improve its level of compliance with the procurement regulations. These steps include:

- Further improvement of IT systems to support the execution of procurement in line with regulations.
- Ongoing sampling throughout the financial year.



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- Regular review and updating procurement policies and procedures to ensure that they are in line with the latest guidelines.
- Continued close engagement with the Office of Government Procurement and the Educational Procurement Service to adopt and also support the development of national and sectoral contracts to maximise compliance levels.

I would also like to thank the Public Accounts Committee for your continued work to enhance and strengthen public accountability.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh'.

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

BComm (Galway), DipPrAcc (UCD), PhD (Leeds), FCA (Ireland)

Uachtarán, OÉ Gaillimh, President, NUI Galway



Supplier Name	Supply / Service	Value of Non-Compliance (excl VAT)	Reason For Non-Compliance	Action Taken to rectify Non-Compliance
Common Sense Clinical	Service	€224,794.32	The total contract value exceeded the tendered value.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Agilent Technologies IRL LTD	Supply	€29,283.15	The total contract value exceeded the tendered value.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Bio-Techne LTD	Supply	€146,206.75	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
ABCAM (Netherlands) BV	Supply	€121,950.50	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services



Gentian Consultancy Services LTD	Service	€71,868.00	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Tender in progress for service
MDPI AG	Service	€65,491.03	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Novogene (UK) Company Limited	Service	€41,192.03	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Modepharma Limited	Supply	€40,746.38	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Procurement Exemption finalised
Frontiers Media SA	Service	€39,670.59	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k	Contract in place for Goods / Services



			when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	
Labquip Ireland LTD	Supply	€15,372.92	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Donal Fleming Construction LTD	Service	€10,494.00	The total contract value exceeded the tendered value.	Service no longer required
Enspire Science LTD	Service	€34,926.18	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Tender in progress for service
Medguard Healthcare	Supply	€34,779.72	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period,	Contract in place for Goods / Services



			thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	
Stemcell Technologies	Supply	€34,290.20	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Procurement Exemption Finalised
The Learning Rooms T/A SHRC Limited	Service	€19,022.36	The total contract value exceeded the tendered value.	Tender in progress for service
Bechtel Direct Limited	Supply	€29,640.32	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Henderson Fire & Safety LTD	Supply	€28,622.00	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Leica Microsystems (UK) LTD	Supply	€28,292.62	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Passax Business Systems & Supplies LTD	Supply	€28,085.89	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period,	Contract in place for Goods / Services



			thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	
COMSOL LTD	Supply	€27,965.41	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Aquabiotech Limited - Aquabiotech Group	Supply	€5,050.00	The total contract value exceeded the tendered value.	Service no longer required
Glenrock Logos - Roy Gibson (Advertees)	Supply	€26,337.12	This spend is comprised of an aggregation of smaller procurements that exceed €25k when the aggregate spend on the category of product or services is examined over a 12 month period, thus rendering the procurement of the overall service as non-compliant.	Contract in place for Goods / Services
Barons Self Storage Esteranda Ltd	Service	€25,805.15	The procurement process used was incorrect at the time for a contract of this value.	Tender in progress for service