



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

**Inquiry into the Modern Slavery Legislation Amendment Bill 2023**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**DUE: Friday 23 June 2023**

Asked by Mr Braddock on 15 June: Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, Budget, Procurement and Finance, Ms Mirzabegian took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Uncorrected Proof Transcript [16/06/23] [PAGE 31]]

In relation to:

**MR BRADDOCK:** So, do you take the suppliers word for that? Do you undertake any auditing or checking to establish whether that is correct?

**Ms Mirzabegian:** That process is done at the approach to market stage. And yes, there would be a process with that. But is just depends on the risks of the particular procurement. So, clothing is considered to be a more higher risk—

**MR BRADDOCK:** Yes.

**Ms Mirzabegian:** —area in terms of modern slavery. So the due diligence that we were taking was not just a supplier words but was also evidence from them to demonstrate to us how they had met those requirements.

**MR BRADDOCK:** And what sort of evidence would that be?

**Ms Mirzabegian:** I have to take that on notice.

**CHRIS STEEL MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Whole of Government Uniform Arrangement offers a general catalogue of goods and services, including protective footwear and clothing (including some personal protective items such as steel capped shoes).

Throughout different stages of the procurement the ACT Government required a range of information from tenderers to address modern slavery and ethical sourcing.

At the request for tender stage, the statement of requirements referenced sound ethical commercial practices required tenderers to demonstrate third-party certification for ethical goods, with reporting in relation to modern slavery and ethical goods/sourcing practices.

The weighted evaluation criterion required tenderers to “demonstrate and provide details of ethical sourcing, including but not limited to, a policy or policies in place to deal with

modern slavery considerations, and visibility/review of its supply chain (third party verification by an independent organisation, such as <https://www.sedexglobal.com/> or others, is desirable to demonstrate ethical practices throughout the supply chain).”

Following the selection of the preferred supplier, the Deed of Standing Offer - Goods and Services (Territory Uniforms Supplier Panel) (Ref. GS001112) included the following provisions in Schedule 2 [Goods and Services]. Contract management is the responsibility of each Territory entity using the panel:

- Clause 2.1.1(d): “The Supplier must [e]nsure the Goods as ordered by the Territory ... are produced and sourced ethically”
- Clause 2.2.i.(i): The Supplier must [e]nsure [t]he Goods are to be supplied ... in accordance with.... [s]ound and ethical commercial practice”
- Clause 3.8.1: “The Supplier where possible will offer third party certified ethical Goods and demonstrate an intention to continually improve ethical and sustainable practices within their supply chain.”
- Clause 5.1.1: Requires supplier compliance with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)*
- Clause 5.2.3: “A Supplier and its supply chain must adhere to ethical sourcing requirements.”
- The Work order raised under the Deed required quarterly (or on request) Supplier reporting related to clause 3.8.1 and 5.2.3 of Schedule 2 in relation to modern slavery.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date:

27/6/23

By Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State