



Julia Lopez MP
Parliamentary Secretary
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Our reference: MC2021/12018

Baroness Andrews
Chair, Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

24 June 2021

Dear Baroness Andrews,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May regarding the Public Procurement Framework.

You asked for clarification on how the Liaison Group and the Concordat Working Group of the Procurement common Framework differ, the difference in membership and whether the same people would attend both groups.

In essence the Concordat Working Group meets monthly to discuss the specific public procurement policies brought to the group by each of the Parties. The attendees of this group will vary depending on the topics being discussed. In practice the two Concordat Working Group meetings held have been attended by a consistent core of procurement policy officials augmented by colleagues from trade policy areas when trade topics that involve a procurement element are discussed. Legal advisers may also attend if warranted by the items on the agenda.

The Liaison Group will meet biannually to monitor the parties engagement with the Common Framework. It is expected that the Liaison Group will consist of the same attendees as the Concordat Working Group, as well as senior officials whose responsibilities include the oversight of the Common Framework. After the Framework has been in place for a year the Liaison Group will review it and amend it if necessary. If amendment is required then the revised Common Framework will be subject to Ministerial clearance and Parliamentary scrutiny. Further reviews will take place every three years unless exceptional reviews are required.

You also asked whether any amendments made to the Common Framework as a result of reviews would be accompanied by an explanation of the changes, and if any other updates on the functioning of the framework would be published. It is expected that explanations will accompany the changes to ensure an audit trail is maintained on the Framework as well as making it clear to Ministers and Committees the reasons behind the changes. For other updates on the functioning of the Framework, the extent that these are published will depend on the outcome of decisions taken by all parties to the Framework.

With best wishes,

Julia Lopez MP

Julia Lopez MP