

CT 5001/2014

Contracts Circular N° 06/2016

Department of Contracts
Notre Dame Ravelin
FLORIANA

To Permanent Secretaries
Directors General
Directors
Heads of Public Sector Organisations

28 April 2016

DURATION OF CONTRACTS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY, CLEANING, CLERICAL AND CARE WORKER SERVICES CONTRACTS

Reference is made to Contracts Circular 04/2016 and the Procurement Policy Note #25 which focused on the award criteria to be adopted for contracts relating to cleaning services, care worker services, clerical services and security services.

Further to the contents of the said circular and procurement policy note, Contracting Authorities are also being instructed to ensure that any contract issued for these services shall not be for a period of less than one (1) year.

The current situation is that tenders are being awarded to the cheapest technically compliant offer and economic operators bid with exactly the same prices and consequently contracts are being subdivided between a number of economic operators for the same contract. Hence for example situations wherein a one year contract is divided between 4 contractors for 3 months each will no longer be permissible. Adopting the recommended Best Price Quality Ratio (BPQR) award criteria should eliminate such circumstances as the price will not be the sole criterion for award. This will enable the Contracting Authorities to select an offer which is of a higher technical quality.

Additionally, working conditions of the employees are being emphasised in the BPQR criteria so as to ensure that the obligations laid down to curb precarious employment are given significant weighting. Essentially the Government's policy is aiming at strengthening the working conditions of the employees.

Contracting Authorities are instructed to implement the guidance being given in these circulars and procurement policy note.

Procurement Policy Note #25 and the BPQR criteria (Annex A) issued on 25th April 2016 are being updated concurrently with this circular. Contracting Authorities are to ensure that the updated versions are utilised as guidance.

Contracting Authorities are encouraged to submit any queries with the Department of Contracts' customer care service on info.contracts@gov.mt or +356 21220212.

Anthony Cachia
Director General (Contracts)