

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 9

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

Question No. 608

MS JO CLAY MLA: To ask the Minister for Finance

1. How many ACT Government uniforms use textiles made in Bangladesh.
2. What is the value of the contracts referred to in part (1).
3. How are the suppliers referred to in part (1) complying with their obligations to eliminate modern slavery in their supply chains.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Using the data from the Notifiable Contracts Register, there are 24 current contracts that have been identified as being related to ACT Government uniforms. Information on the country of origin of the textiles is not collected centrally.
2. The total estimated value of these contracts is \$19.54 million.
3. Information on contract management is not held centrally. As a general proposition, suppliers are required to comply with relevant laws in performing their contractual obligations.

The ACT Government Procurement Framework incorporates requirements and tools which support Territory entities, as defined in the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, to address the risks of modern slavery throughout the procurement lifecycle. Relevantly:

- the *Government Procurement (Charter of Values Direction) 2020* codifies the ACT Government's commitment to creating fair and safe conditions for workers and ensuring that ACT Government procurement is transparent and ethical through the procurement values of "Fair and Safe Conditions for Workers" and "Transparent and Ethical Engagement";
- the *Government Procurement (Secure Local Jobs) Code 2020* (SLJC) is a regulatory scheme that strengthens the ACT Government's procurement practices so that contracts are only awarded to suppliers that meet the highest ethical and labour standards;

- suppliers who hold an SLJC certificate are required to complete a Labour Relations, Training and Workplace Equity Plan (LRTWE Plan) where the work is valued at more than \$25,000 for cleaning, traffic, and security services, and at more than \$200,000 for construction or other services or works that are primarily for labour. The LRTWE Plan is required to describe:
 - the systems and policies suppliers have in place to ensure their compliance with their SLJC;
 - certification and compliance of their subcontractors;
 - how suppliers have ensured their employees are aware of the SLJC and their obligations under the SLJC;
 - how suppliers minimise insecure working arrangements;
 - what support systems suppliers have to ensure the health and safety of their employees; and
 - what strategies and policies suppliers have in place to support workplace diversity;
- the Ethical Treatment of Workers Evaluation requirement under the *Government Procurement (Ethical Treatment of Workers Evaluation) Direction 2023 (No. 2)* is intended to ensure that the ACT Government only contracts with suppliers that demonstrate behaviour and business practices that align with to the Fair and Safe Conditions for Workers procurement values and remain compliant with their obligations under the SLJC; and
- the ACT Government's Guide to Addressing Modern Slavery and associated toolkit and the Understanding and Addressing Modern Slavery eLearning module provide important support and guidance to Territory entities to identify, assess, prevent and monitor modern slavery risks throughout the procurement lifecycle.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Finance

Date: 3/10/25

This response required 5hrs 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$592.03.