

UKUPC NEWSLETTER

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Collaboration Updates from the UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC)




Welcome to your latest UKUPC Newsletter, with updates on national consortium activity and resources to support your procurement team.

UKUPC is a unique partnership that maximises investment from members through cooperation and collaboration. By working together, we reduce duplication across the sector, and build resilience and specialist insight to serve all universities and other UKUPC members across the UK better.

UKUPC MEMBERS





How Is UKUPC Supporting Supply Chain Management?

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

While we continue to see the impacts of Brexit and Covid on supply markets, we have also been assessing the impact of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. We are working closely with our supply base to assess continued disruption. UKUPC Partners have:

- Confirmed that no framework suppliers are registered in Russia or Ukraine.
- Recognised that there may be links further down the supply chain, and we continue to work with our suppliers to assess potential impact. The Market Insight document captures all our category knowledge and will be invaluable to anyone in a member organisation who may be affected by these topics. For a copy of the latest document, contact your consortium.

Both the UK and Scottish Governments have published Procurement Policy Notes in relation to handling supply chains impacted by the war in Ukraine.



Click here for more information:
**Scottish Government PPNs and
UK Government PPNs.**

ENERGY MARKETS

The Energy Consortium (TEC) and the APUC Estates Team continue to offer advice to anyone who has concerns about their current energy provider, including any supply agreements with Gazprom. A recently delivered UKUPC webinar on energy supply addressed concerns across supply, pricing and sustainability issues.



You can watch the recording **HERE**

A RECOVERING TRAVEL SECTOR

We have worked closely with our suppliers to put action plans in place to improve service from suppliers on the national **Travel Management Services Framework**. Travel Management Companies (TMCs) are all experiencing largely the same issues:

- Increased demand for bookings.
- Changes in travel policies due to COVID-19.
- Changes in restrictions and regulations globally.
- Requirements for more offline assistance and support for supply chains (hotels, airlines, car hire etc).
- Recruitment and training of service personnel to meet increased demand.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also had a major effect with TMCs working to extract travellers from the area. There have been increased bookings from humanitarian organisations to put aid workers on the ground. In addition, the closure of airspace over Russia has resulted in flights being diverted and many journeys being delayed and or cancelled.

As always, communication and collaboration are key. While we meet monthly, communication between your Joint Contracting Group occurs daily. New information gained through discussions with our members always helps us develop advice and inform guidance to support all.

Please get in touch with your regional consortium if there is any further information you need.



Read more about how you can support your bookers and travellers [HERE](#)

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: YOUR SAVINGS AND SUPPORT THROUGH UKUPC

Through collaborative working, UKUPC partners avoid needless duplication across the UK, build resilience and deliver measurable value to members. Our latest Impact Statement shows how our collaboration has delivered tangible value to members in the last year.

Here are some highlights:

- Members spent £1.3BN through consortia frameworks and achieved £76M in cashable savings and £104M in non-cashable/process savings.
- Members had access to over 100 agreements covering a wide range of strategic spend areas for your institution.
- Members accessed **risk assessments and best practice guides, along with guidance and support** to address significant challenges such as thriving in a new normal, managing major disruptions to the supply chain and supporting sustainability.
- Members had access to **180 SMEs** through UKUPC frameworks – SMEs make up just over 60% of our awarded suppliers across all frameworks.



£1.3BN TOTAL SPEND
THROUGH AGREEMENTS



£76M CASHABLE
SAVINGS



£104M NON-CASHABLE
SAVINGS

The report covers not only spend and savings figures, but also value-added benefits such as how we've supported members to adapt to the new normal, insight to help assist members in making the best decisions, guidance documents for members working towards a sustainable future, and more.



Find out more and read the full statement [HERE](#)



ADOPTING AND EMBEDDING RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT: RESOURCES FOR YOU

Your UKUPC Responsible Procurement Network has a range of resources to help members improve their sustainable procurement practices, including:

- **Carbon reduction plan for SMEs** supplying the HE Sector. The guidance has been shared with all awarded frameworks suppliers and covers areas such the benefits of having a carbon reduction plan; ways to reduce your carbon footprint; and steps to develop a plan. The guidance aims to help minimise the impact of the sector's activities on the environment.
- **Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct.** We are committed to carrying out procurement activities in an environmentally, socially, ethically and economically responsible manner and to entering into agreements and contracts with suppliers that share and adhere to our vision. The standards in this Code are derived from established global

conventions and standards, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), ETI base Code and International Labour Organisation Conventions. To demonstrate this commitment, current and potential suppliers are asked to commit to responsible/sustainable procurement within their organisations and to acknowledge their compliance with the principles of the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct. **This code has also been adopted by the HEPA Responsible Procurement Group** as the recommended standard for UK HE institutions.

- A webinar on the **Circular Economy** in the latest UKUPC webinar series.



Learn more about the Circular Economy and how our society can re-think progress **HERE**



- An update on the impact of the **Plastic Packaging Tax** within the UKUPC supply chain and our approach to identifying and working with these suppliers.
- A webinar and guidance on the **Must-Haves for Sustainable Travel in the Higher Education Sector**.



You can catch-up on the recording **HERE**



You can view insights on creating an impactful Sustainable Travel Policy **HERE**

We are also reviewing external due diligence tools to understand what members are using and how consortia can have a consistent approach around supporting members with external tools.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Our upcoming projects include a modern slavery webinar series for suppliers, as well as reviewing and updating the SDG's set of questions and answers to include more questions around Scope 3 and carbon reduction.

If you would like any further information on the work of the group, please contact your regional consortium or the Chair of the Responsible Procurement Network, **Marisol Bernal**, LUPC.

You can also visit the UKUPC website **Responsible Procurement** section where you can find a range of resources and links to useful content to help you in your responsible procurement journey.



RESOURCES FOR YOU ON THE UKUPC WEBSITE

The UKUPC website hosts the latest news and resources from across UKUPC, the UKUPC Strategy 2020-2025, responsible procurement updates, and up-to-date contact details.

You will notice a few changes to the site to help make it easier for you to find the information you're looking for.



You can access the UKUPC site **HERE**

UKUPC JUST A CLICK AWAY

Don't forget
UKUPC
are on Twitter!



Follow us **@UKUPC** for the latest updates. Have a question for us? Just drop us a tweet!

And now, we're on **LinkedIn** too – take a look!

UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2021/22, UKUPC offered a series of hot topic webinars that drew over 700 members from all UKUPC partners. Keep an eye out for next year's line-up coming soon! If you have suggestions for content, please email your consortium.



Missed one of the great UKUPC webinars below?
Access On-Demand content [HERE](#).

Cyber Security Webinar
Environmental, Social, and (Corporate) Governance Webinar
Addressing and Mitigating Supply Risks in Challenging Times
The Circular Economy Webinar
Mental Health Awareness: Loneliness and Connection Webinar

For all events, we recommend double-checking before you book whether the event is restricted to local consortium members or open to non-members.

For support and enquiries, please contact your local consortium

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Please get in touch with **Marion Hutchins**, Head of Marketing and Communications for the SUMS Group and UKUPC Communications Group Chair, if you would like to feedback on any content or have suggestions for future editions.