



Joint Statement of Demand

Circular Professional Clothing

As public and private buyers, we are committed to creating a circular economy, using our combined purchasing power to change markets. In a circular economy:

products, services, and infrastructure are designed, used, and operated to maximise value and minimise waste, reducing demand for primary resources, lowering carbon emissions, and allowing the regeneration of natural systems.

This will stimulate innovation and new business models, also creating economic and social impact opportunities.

The intention of this Joint Statement is to provide a set of commitments and 'asks' which will contribute to the development of a closed-loop system for professional clothing, specifically focussed on corporate wear and PPE. These are to be used by procurers in addition to any other criteria which they may use, including on other sustainability issues. Existing public procurement guidance, the EU Green Public Procurement Criteria for Textiles Products and Services, provides criteria around fibre sourcing; chemical restrictions; durability and lifespan extension; energy conservation during use; and design for reuse and recycling. The intention of this Joint Statement is to build upon that framework, providing 'asks' which will contribute to the development of a closed-loop system for clothing.

By 2028 we are committed to procuring circular professional clothing and therefore we will apply the following principles to our upcoming professional clothing tenders:

Procurer commitments:

- We will make use of a balance scorecard, allocating a minimum of 20% weighting to environmental sustainability aspects for clothing tenders, with an ambition to increase this.
- We will allocate at least 10% of the overall scorecard to 'circular' aspects, based on the 'asks' included in this Joint Statement of Demand.
- We will continue to explore lifecycle costing methods, factoring in costs across the product lifecycle such as disposal, replacement, and repair costs alongside unit price.
- We will be open minded to novel forms of clothing supply that are presented by the supplier e.g. clothing being provided through service contracts, or buying second hand product that meets our requirements, as an alternative to buying new clothing.
- We will use the EU Green Public Procurement Criteria for Textiles Products and Services, as a guide on the topics of fibre sourcing; chemical restrictions; durability and lifespan extension; and energy conservation during use, should we choose to apply criteria on these issues in tenders.
- We are dedicated to strengthening cooperation between us buyers, resellers and suppliers as well as relevant partner organisations, acknowledging that change can only happen through collaboration.

Corporate wear asks which we will include in future tenders:

- We ask that clothing is designed with circular principles in mind and that the supplier shows how, based on the use case of the clothing type that is being procured, they have selected which of the following circular principles to prioritise:
 - Designed for closed-loop (fibre-to-fibre) recycling.
 - Designed for longevity, repair, and reuse.
- We ask that clothing collection infrastructure is provided as part of the contract, to enable the take-back of clothing for reuse and closed-loop recycling as far as possible.
- We ask for reporting of end markets of returned product.
- We ask that measures are taken to reduce the number of new garments that need to be produced in order to fulfil the tender requirements.
- We ask that consideration is made as to how microfiber pollution can be reduced over the life of the garments.
- We ask that measures are taken to reduce energy use over the entire product lifecycle including in the fibre sourcing, manufacture, and transportation stages.

PPE asks which we will include in future tenders:

Acknowledging that PPE is a highly regulated clothing type, we set out the following asks:

- We ask that PPE clothing and equipment is designed with circular principles in mind and that the supplier shows how, based on the use case of the clothing type that is being procured, they have selected which of the following circular principles to prioritise:
 - Designed for closed-loop (fibre-to-fibre) recycling.
 - Designed for longevity, repair, and reuse.
- We ask that PPE collection infrastructure is provided as part of the contract, to enable the take-back of products for reuse and closed-loop recycling as far as possible. ◦ We ask for reporting of end markets of returned product.
- We ask that measures are taken to reduce the number of new PPE products that need to be produced in order to fulfil the tender requirements.
- We ask that consideration is made as to how microfiber pollution can be reduced over the life of the garments.
- We ask that measures are taken to reduce energy use over the entire product lifecycle including in the fibre sourcing, manufacture, and transportation stages.

Signatories

Signatories can be viewed on the ProCirc and Business in the Community websites. We welcome other buyers to become signatories to this Joint Statement. Please express your interest in becoming a signatory through the following webpage: <https://www.bitc.org.uk/joint-statements-of-demand/>

On behalf of the ProCirc project, this Joint Statement of Demand has been coordinated by:



The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network



In association with:



Background ProCirc

The Interreg North Sea Region ProCirc project is set up to experiment, implement and learn about circular procurement. It is coordinated by a partnership of eight public and three private sector organisations. For further information, see the ProCirc website: <https://northsearegion.eu/procirc/>