



GOVERNMENT WHIPS' OFFICE  
HOUSE OF LORDS  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM  
020 7219 3778

Telephone 020-7219 3131  
[www.lordswhips.org.uk](http://www.lordswhips.org.uk)  
[holgovernmentwhips@parliament.uk](mailto:holgovernmentwhips@parliament.uk)

*Dr. Gill*

10 June 2019

Thank you for your contribution during the debate on Thursday 23 May, on increasing social value in public procurement. In particular, I am writing to respond to the outstanding points you raised about the steps Government is taking to create a standard definition of social value; how this will link to the public sector equality duty (PSED); and how the Government will instil social value across the marketplace and make Whitehall a leading partner in social procurement.

Officials in the Cabinet Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are working with supplier representative bodies to develop the social value framework which will be used by departments. This framework will help departments and suppliers to better understand what social value is. Indeed, it will help both parties to understand the potential of social value and encourage innovation rather than limit it to a narrow definition.

We intend to make a link between the social value framework and the requirements of the PSED, which will include guidance and training to prompt both buyers and bidders to consider their responsibilities under the PSED. For example, the proposed framework, subject of the current public consultation, includes diversity and inclusion policy outcomes for departments to consider.

As set out in the Civil Society Strategy, the Government's long-term vision is for the principles of the Social Value Act to be applied to the whole of government spending and decision-making, including goods and works, such as building projects, as well as services.

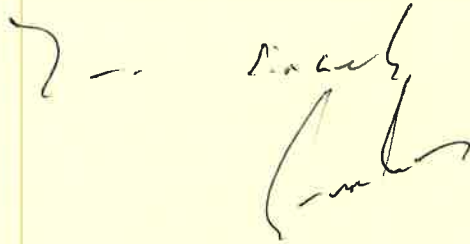
The social value framework will be mandated for central government departments, their executive agencies and non-departmental bodies for procurements subject to Part 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations.

We recognise that delivering wider policy through procurement risks creating barriers to participation, or making procurement more complex, less efficient and less accessible to SMEs and social enterprises. That is why we have worked with stakeholders throughout the development of the proposed social value framework, to produce a set of priority policy

areas and criteria against which we can take action to deliver social value.

The Cabinet Office and DCMS regularly engage with private and social sector representatives to encourage greater use of social value in public procurement in alignment with the Civil Society Strategy. This is a long-term strategy and we are focusing on central government leading by example. There will be markets that will be common to both central government and the wider public sector so we anticipate the central government programme making therefore a broader impact.

I trust the above responds to your questions but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further. I will also place a copy of this letter in the House library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Young of Cookham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM**