

Environmental Model Question Pilot: General update

NHS NATIONAL PROCUREMENT

Feedback from first pilot tender exercise:

NP568 Urinary Catheters

General comments

What is coming through from the bid submissions is that some distributors currently have limited information on their offered products' value chain. This information will be critical as we go forward in our efforts to reduce environmental impacts of the products we buy.

Other observations

Some bidders did not answer the question, no reasons were provided.

Some provided general organisational level responses which would be scored zero as this does not answer the question.

Whilst we've tried to make the scoring as straightforward as possible, as its qualitative there is likely to be some level of subjectivity in the assessment, however we will make further adjustments to guidance to reduce this.

Some responses could have achieved a score of 3 - Fair but due to lack of clarity on whether an example was implemented within the last 3 years the score was marked down to a 1.

We welcome science-based targets being validated by SBTi, however the absence of a calculation specific to the submitted products(s) means that a score of 5 could not be awarded.

We recognise that organisational wide initiatives that will directly impact a product(s) value chain are indeed a valid example and the kind of initiative we are looking for, however to achieve a maximum score there has to be a quantifiable or externally validated reduction or avoidance in environmental impact from the offered product.

Some quantified reduction figures were provide, however these were not evidenced based, supported calculations - best way to describe this is when your maths teacher marks your test scores down even though you present the correct answer as you didn't show your workings!

For new suppliers to market, in line with the procurement regulations we don't discriminate against newly formed businesses. The question supports sustainably designed products and processes from the outset and new businesses who have approached the value chain in a sustainable manner i.e. they don't need to evidence improvements as they have started out with more environmentally beneficial packaging and products. What we would like to see though is this value quantified, e.g. the environmental benefits from a decision to develop a more sustainable product or process will have been recorded in the development process, which can be presented in response to the question.