

National Ambulance Uniforms framework includes range of diverse garments



NHS Supply Chain has completed its retender of the National Ambulance Uniform framework, offering a range that is fit for purpose and ensuring value for money for the NHS.

The new framework agreement, led by NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services, has built on the success of the previous framework following close consultation with key stakeholders. The range of garments available is fit for purpose for a variety of ambulance staff roles, high quality and reflects the communities served by the ambulance services.

Elisa Lamb, Category Procurement Specialist for the National Ambulance Uniforms Project, said, "We're delighted we've got the project to this stage, it has involved a lot of commitment and hard work. We're very grateful for the engagement of our stakeholders who have supported us to develop a framework that is reflective of the ambulance workforce requirements, and the range of garments are of good quality and represent value for money. This is a great example of collaborative working across the NHS achieving positive outcomes."

"The new framework includes a range of diverse garments, including new operational trousers, maternity wear, hijabs, and turbans. We've welcomed input from equality and diversity leads, which has helped us to develop garments that represent an inclusive framework agreement for the ambulance service."

Built on success

NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services has worked to build on the success of the framework put in place by NHS Commercial Alliance, which was created in collaboration with the National Ambulance Procurement Board, and the National Ambulance User Group.

The new framework is split into two lots; Lot 1 covers core uniform garments, items such as high visibility jackets, shirts, and trousers, which will be supplied by Cooneen at Work. Lot 2 is for general workwear for items such as footwear, belts and kippah. There are multiple suppliers awarded to Lot 2.

Kevin Childlow, Category Tower Director for NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services, said, "We're pleased to have got the framework to the award stage and are confident we've selected great suppliers who bring their broad expertise in the market. We still have a few months of work ahead of us, but I want to thank everyone who has supported the category team to get us to this point."

Ryan McClintock, Business Development Manager at Cooneen At Work, said, "Everyone here at Cooneen At Work is delighted to be awarded core uniform garments for the National Ambulance Uniform Framework"

agreement. All of our team were dedicated to this procurement to give us the best opportunity to win what is a very well-respected framework agreement within the emergency services network. We look forward to working closely and collaboratively with the NHS."

Smart and practical

The next stage of the project includes a period of change from the existing uniform options and the introduction of the new items, which are due to be available from Autumn 2022. The new agreement has had extensive input from key stakeholders across the sector, including Ambulance Trust Head of Procurement, and the National Ambulance Uniform User Group; which is made up of frontline paramedics and operational staff from across the UK.

Mark Ainsworth, Director of Operations at South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, said, "As Chair of the National Ambulance Uniform User Group, I am extremely proud of the work that the user group has completed, along with our NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services team, to deliver a new contract which will supply a fit for purpose uniform for its duration. Ambulance staff are extremely proud when they don their uniform each day and we want to ensure that they feel comfortable in a uniform that is both smart and practical to use. We'll continue to work with Cooneen and NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services over the coming months to ensure a well-established national ambulance uniform is implemented."

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Fire Standards Board – what's coming up

A further seven Fire Standards (including three Leadership Fire Standards) are currently in development by the Fire Standards Board. These include Safeguarding, Fire Investigation, Emergency Planning and Data, as well as three Leadership Fire Standards.

The Safeguarding consultation has now closed and will be presented to the Fire Standards Board in December. This standard is scheduled for publication in January 2022.

Consultation for the Fire Investigation standard is due to close in December. Quality assurance is set to take place in January, with expected publication in March 2022.

A peer review took place for the Emergency Planning Fire Standard in November, with consultation set to take place in January. The Data Fire Standard is currently in development, with a peer review set to begin soon, while the three Leadership standards are currently at the peer review stage.

All of these standards are in addition to the eight previously published fire standards – Protection Fire Standard; Prevention Fire Standard; Emergency response driving; Operational Preparedness; Operational Competence; Operational Learning; Code of Ethics; and Community Risk Management Planning – which are all accompanied by an Implementation Tool.

Each Implementation Tool has been created to assist a fire and rescue service in the planning, delivering and reporting on their implementation of Fire Standards. A service may also wish to use them to provide useful evidence for HMICFRS inspections.

Fire Standards are effectively developed by services, for services. Engagement with fire and rescue services is essential to ensuring that the developed standards are meaningful and will achieve positive outcomes for the communities served.

www.firestandards.org

More information about the previously published standards and to download the available Implementation Tools, visit the Fire Standards website.

