

New Zealand Government procurement and COVID-19

Summary

The GETS system publishes information on contract award notices for NZ government procurement. Only 59 contract award notices cover products and services for COVID-19 response or recovery (out of 4,576 notices since January 2020). Only 25% (15) of these contract award notices contain information on the value of the contracts.

Given the dominance of COVID-19 in government activity over the last two years, it is clear that procurement for covid response and recovery has been conducted almost entirely outside of public scrutiny.

Scope and methodology

This paper contains an analysis of the contract award data for Aotearoa/New Zealand government procurements published on GETS (Government Electronic Tendering System) on 5 April 2022. The data covers contract award notices published from 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2022 that are the outcome from requests for information, requests for quotation, requests for proposal and tenders (generically described as RFXID) issued by government entities.

The purpose of this report is to look at government procurement of products and services relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, both in support of the response to the pandemic, and recovery from the pandemic. **Response** is defined as activities to enable government entities to deliver public services (such as testing, vaccination, managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ), transportation and communications) to manage the impact of the pandemic. **Recovery** is defined as activities to provide support to people and businesses to move towards a post-pandemic state.

In the early stages of the pandemic, government entities made use of **emergency** procurement to enable the rapid procurement of essential supplies without the normal requirement to publicly advertise the specific requirements.

Government procurement rules require most government entities to publish information on contracts awarded including the name of the successful supplier and the value of the contract. The rules apply equally to emergency procurements.

Full details of the rules are published at

<https://www.procurement.govt.nz/procurement/principles-charter-and-rules/government-procurement-rules/>

Analysis

The data for this report, sourced from the [MBIE website](#), contained information on 4,576 award notices for RFxIDs issued by 185 government entities between January 2020 and March 2022.

The award notices were searched for presence of the word COVID, pandemic or emergency, and 117 included one or more of these words. Almost half of these referenced COVID as a reason for a delay in the procurement, or a requirement for suppliers to have suitable procedures in place. A total of 61 award notices were actually related to procurement of products and services related to COVID. These are analysed below.

Procurement related to COVID response

35 contracts were awarded related to COVID response, of which 19 were emergency procurements with no public advertising. Information on the value of the contract awards was published for 8 of these contracts.

Government Entity	Total	Emergency	Value
Canterbury District Health Board	2	2	2
Counties Manukau District Health Board	2	0	0
Department of Internal Affairs	5	4	0
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	9	8	0
MidCentral District Health Board	2	1	0
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	1	0	0
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	2	0	1
Ministry of Education	2	0	0
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2	0	2
Ministry of Health	3	0	2
Ministry of Transport	1	1	1
National Emergency Management Agency	1	1	0
NZ Health Partnerships Limited	1	0	0
University of Otago	1	1	0
Wairarapa District Health Board	1	1	0
Total	35	19	8

Information on the specific award notices is contained in the Appendix.

Procurement related to COVID recovery

Procurements classified as being part of the COVID recovery effort fall into two main groups:

- Supporting individuals recover from the impact of COVID
- Projects funded from the Government's Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund

24 contracts were awarded related to COVID response, and only seven of the contract award notices contain information on contract value.

Government Entity	Award notices	Value
Auckland Transport	1	1
Environment Canterbury	3	0
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	1	0
Mackenzie District Council	3	1
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	1	0
Ministry for Primary Industries	2	0
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	1	1
Ministry of Education	2	0
Ministry of Health	1	1
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	1	0
Ministry of Social Development	2	2
Queenstown-Lakes District Council	1	0
Tasman District Council	3	0
The Treasury	1	1
Upper Hutt City Council	1	0
Total	24	7

Information on the specific award notices is contained in the Appendix.

Laurence Millar
Member with Delegated Authority

5 May 2022

Appendix

Response contract award notices

Posting Agency	Title	Emergency	Value of award	RFx ID
Canterbury District Health Board	Rental of GeneXpert Analysers and purchase of associated testing kits	Yes	\$1,200,000	22537691
Canterbury District Health Board	Automated Pipette Robot	Yes	\$350,000	22786542
Counties Manukau District Health Board	Request for Quotations - Metro Auckland COVID-19 Community Testing Response			22962966
Counties Manukau District Health Board	Maritime Border Worker COVID-19 Testing			23187869
Department of Internal Affairs	COVID-19 New Zealand Emergency Line using the WhatsApp platform	Yes		22635700
Department of Internal Affairs	Award Notice for IT Hardware peripherals	Yes		23370753
Department of Internal Affairs	DIA Firewall Upgrades	Yes		23370165
Department of Internal Affairs	Award Notice for Secure Web Gateway service	Yes		23370429
Department of Internal Affairs	COVID-19 BLE Contact Tracing Card Prototype			23370285
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Direct sourcing and emergency procurement of Airfreight	Yes		22566803
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Print and distribution of material to support COVID-19 National Response	Yes		22838313
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Catering Services	Yes		22837313
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Advisor to National Crisis Management Centre	Yes		22837421
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Operations Command Centre	Yes		22838209
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Security Services	Yes		22836687
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Cleaning Services	Yes		22838413

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Accommodation and catering for OCC staff	Yes		22838487
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Printing Services for the Unite Against COVID-19 public information campaign			23683985
MidCentral District Health Board	Emergency Procurement for Renal Central Water Processor	Yes		22475872
MidCentral District Health Board	Self-contained primary healthcare vehicle			24314239
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	Communications, Marketing, Media and Production Provider – for our Pacific COVID-19 campaign			23971750
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	MIQ Air Charter Services			23701849
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Wellbeing Pilot		\$250,000	25176245
Ministry of Education - School Infrastructure	CO2 Monitoring Devices			25330062
Ministry of Education - School Infrastructure	Portable Air Cleaners / Air Purifiers			25367066
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	PPE Stockpile for the Pacific – Distribution, Storage and Management of PPE Equipment		\$247,856	22943811
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	COVID-19 - Pacific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		\$262,975	22945825
Ministry of Health	COVID-19 Saliva Testing Services		\$60,000,000	24082212
Ministry of Health	COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme – CVIP Consumables		\$717,000	24602604
Ministry of Health	HDSR Transformation Programme and COVID-19 Policy Response			25149854
Ministry of Transport	International Air Freight Capacity (IAFC) Scheme	Yes	\$75,000,000	22790928
National Emergency Management Agency	Consultancy Services - COVID-19 Response	Yes		23749525
NZ Health Partnerships Limited	Emergency procurement Ventilation improvements			25054657
University of Otago	On-line Examination Software	Yes		22499850
Wairarapa District Health Board	Ventilators and associated equipment	Yes		23567161

Recovery contract award notices

Auckland Transport	302-21-103-PS - Northwestern Bus Improvements – Detailed Design Package 1	\$2,847,725	23731998
Environment Canterbury	2384_20_21 Rangitata River Flood Scheme Reinstatement 2021		23996494
Environment Canterbury	2423_20_21 Waiau Stopbank Construction and Remediation		24137895
Environment Canterbury	2677-21/22 Rangitata River Erosion Protection		24680927
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	Request for Quote -Deer Fencing Gillies Bush		24917338
Mackenzie District Council	Support to Deliver Substantial Capital Works Projects 2020-21		23011753
Mackenzie District Council	Twizel Watermain Renewals - Package 1	\$7,000,000	23741227
Mackenzie District Council	Twizel Watermain Renewals- Package 2		24217643
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	Toloa In-work Support Programme		23546854
Ministry for Primary Industries	Connecting Food with New Zealanders		22685514
Ministry for Primary Industries	22162 Consultancy Services for accelerating Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures investments		23371589
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	COVID-19 and the Building System: Research to understand its impacts on system actors	\$150,000	23817431
Ministry of Education	Counselling Services for Student Wellbeing in Primary and Secondary Schools		23859109
Ministry of Education	Evaluation of Covid-19 Pacific Education Response & Recovery Funds		23953487
Ministry of Health	Longitudinal study of the impact of COVID-19 on people in Aotearoa New Zealand	\$1,180,000	24192329

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Invitation to Partner for the Sustaining Tenancies Service Providers' Panel		22547082
Ministry of Social Development	Career Support for Creatives	\$3,723,000	23282540
Ministry of Social Development	Akonga Youth Development Community Fund Strengthening Akonga Resilience to Achieve Better Education Outcomes - RFP	\$10,000,000	23630033
Queenstown-Lakes District Council	Key Talent Retention and Community Leadership Programme RFP		22904573
Tasman District Council	C1218 Wilding Conifer Control Mount Richmond MU 2020-2025		23653800
Tasman District Council	C1228 Fish Passage Remediation Team		24544143
Tasman District Council	C1231 Teapot Valley Restoration		24857691
The Treasury	Contract for services relating to NEMA and CDEM sector debriefing the COVID-19 Response (1st wave)	\$120,500	24198106
Upper Hutt City Council	UHCC SIA- Maidstone Community Sports Hub		23533429