



# Procurement Reform Bill - Consultation<sup>1</sup> Transform Scotland response

15 October 2012

## 1 About Transform Scotland

- 1.1 Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance. We campaign for a more sensible transport system, one less dependent on unsustainable modes such as the car, the plane and road freight, and more reliant on sustainable modes like walking, cycling, public transport, and freight by rail or sea. We are a membership organisation bringing together rail, bus and shipping operators; local authorities; national environment and conservation organisations; local environment and transport campaign groups; and individual supporters.

## 2 General views

- 2.1 Transform Scotland is concerned that the original focus of this bill, to achieve more sustainable procurement, has been sidelined. This change can be seen through the current title which has been changed from 'Sustainable Procurement Bill' to the 'Procurement Reform Bill'.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government has recognised the role sustainable procurement can play in delivering a number of its objectives, including the move to a low carbon economy whilst encouraging innovation and stimulating opportunity for local businesses.<sup>2</sup> Both the National Performance Framework and the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for Scotland include outcomes and provide details on how these objectives can be achieved. However, the critical question for Transform Scotland is whether government's stated intentions and plans to deliver sustainable economic growth will see environmental and social provisions properly and meaningfully embedded in the procurement process or pushed aside. Given our remit our particular interest is with regards to the delivery of sustainable transport.

## 3 Responses to the consultation questions

***Q27 Do you support our proposals to stimulate new business opportunities and inward investment in facilities to provide new, sustainable products and services for the public sector?***

Yes    **No**    Don't know/No view

- 3.1 Whilst the provisions on recycling are welcome, the Bill should be used as an opportunity to enable action in other policy areas, in particular, transport (the second largest sector for carbon emissions). In the transport sector, an opportunity exists to use the Procurement Reform Bill to:
- Specify the purchase of lower emission vehicles: The Scottish Public Sector should provide a role model in the uptake of low emissions vehicles. The Scottish Government, in alliance with private sector bodies, should take advantage of Scotland's bus operations and manufacturing capacity to establish Scotland as a centre of excellence in sustainable technology for public transport.
  - Reduce food miles by putting in place measures to ensure more local purchase of food: Greater focus needs to be given to encouraging small-scale, local, Scottish companies and public bodies to buy food more locally. Reducing food miles would provide greater local economic benefit whilst reducing carbon emissions from transport.

- 3.2 Forthcoming research from Transform Scotland will demonstrate there is still a long way to go in encouraging the Public Sector to act sustainably in regards to their transport behaviour. This Bill could be usefully amended to include provisions, such as those specified in §3.1, above, which would drive greater sustainability in the transport sector.

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## References

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/08/3295>
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/sspap#a3>

Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance, campaigning for a more sustainable and socially-just transport system. Our membership includes bus, rail and shipping operators; local authorities; national environment and conservation groups; consultancies; and local transport campaigns. Transform Scotland Limited is a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).

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