

*The Government must protect the health and well-being of UK citizens. The COVID-19 outbreak is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) as declared by the World Health Organisation on 30 Jan 2020. The WHO Director General characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 Mar 2020.*

*COVID-19 is serious and its consequences pose a risk to life. Cabinet Office published [PPN 01/20: Responding to COVID-19 on procuring with extreme urgency](#) in March 2020 which states that contracting authorities may enter into contracts without*

*competing or advertising the requirement where certain tests are met.*

*1) There are genuine reasons for extreme urgency as there is a significant public health risk requiring immediate action as a result of COVID-19*

*2) The COVID-19 situation is novel and the Contracting Authority could not have reasonably foreseen these events*

*3) It is not possible to comply with the timescales of another procedure due to the urgent requirement to obtain the [supplies] being contracted for. Additionally, there are many buyers competing for the same supplies. It is imperative that security of supply is maintained. Demand for equipment is high and there is little or no incentive for suppliers to participate in competitive procurement procedures.*

*4) The situation is not attributable to the contracting authority.*