



PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

**Via Round Robin October 22 2021
Thursday**

An urgent meeting of the PPC was requested by the Ministry of Health and Wellness on October 20th 2021 to consider the emergency purchase of Covid19 Lateral Flow Test Kits to be used amongst school children and the general population, in the continuing fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Due to the urgency of the request, the Chairman of the PPC agreed to review the procurement via "Round Robin". Papers were received by the PPC on 21 October 2021 via e-mail. These consisted of the submission checklist, business case, evaluation report, and quotations from 4 suppliers.

There was a discussion amongst the PPC members via e-mail and questions related to the urgency of the emergency and pricing. These were emailed to the Ministry, with responses received on 22 October 2021.

The Ministry stated that the Lateral Flow Tests met their expected requirements and they were currently looking to order 500,000 units at a cost of CI\$1.3M urgently before the stock was entirely depleted.

The PPC determined that, as an emergency procurement, this submission was exempt from the Procurement Act as set out in section 3(1)(b). Consequently, the Ministry could address this procurement directly, as long as value for money could be ensured.

The PPC supported the recommendation to award the contract to Crown Agents for \$1,264,651, and were satisfied that the Government would be receiving value for money on this procurement and advised the Ministry of Health and Wellness accordingly.

Subsequent to the PPC recommendation on October 22nd 2021, the Ministry of Health and Wellness advised the PPC on 1 November 2021 that, in the meantime, Crown Agents increased their price from KYD 1,264,651 to KYD 1,388,038.75: an increase in price of KYD 123,387.75. The Ministry provided the PPC with the quotation from Crown Agents dated 27 October as well as an e-mail dated October 28th 2021 with the increased costs.

The Ministry advised the PPC via e-mail that, due to this price increase, the value for money preferred bidder was now Bluewater Medical Supplies Limited and, based on Section 3 (1) (b) and 3 (2) of The Procurement Act 2016, had proceeded to place the order with Bluewater Medical Supplies for a cost of KYD 1,275,000. The Ministry provided tables and commentary in the e-mail demonstrating the reasons for the award to Bluewater Medical Supplies Limited, including the revised cost from Crown Agents comparison costs between all 4 bidders.

The PPC noted the e-mail from the Ministry and did not feel a reason to respond, as value for money had been achieved. The contract was awarded to Bluewater medical Supplies due to the emergency nature of the requirement for the Lateral Flow Tests.



Arek Joseph
Chairman
Public Procurement Committee