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Procurement Reform Team  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

26 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**SMI Response – Part 1 Consultation on draft regulations to implement the Procurement Bill**

I write as Chief Executive of the Society of Maritime Industries (SMI) to respond to the Cabinet Office’s consultation on draft secondary legislation that will be required to implement the new regime introduced under the Procurement Bill.

The Society of Maritime Industries (SMI) is the trade association for the UK’s maritime engineering, science and technology community – looking to enable maritime organisations and businesses of all sizes to thrive. This we do in various ways including annual conferences, overseas events, and trade missions. We help our members raise their profile and enjoy meaningful collaborations. As a trusted advisor to the UK Government, we look to create new momentum and progress for the whole industry, and create new levels of maritime innovation within our own member community and beyond.

The majority of the feedback from SMI members on this consultation has focused on the section pertaining to Light Touch Contracts and – more specifically – the list of codes for services that will require such arrangements, along the lines of the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV).

**Q1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that CPV codes set out in the draft SI accurately capture those services which can be supplied via a light touch contract under the new regime?**

SMI members have pointed out that certain relevant categories within the list such as ‘Provision of services to the community’ and ‘Support and auxiliary transport services’ are too generic and would benefit from greater specification.

**Q2: If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate which services should be included or excluded, or clarify any other perceived issues with the list such as inconsistencies with other areas of the Bill or draft SI.**

The CPV code for military defence services (75221000) is one such example. By way of comparison, alarm monitoring services (79711000) has a CPV code of its own and – in this case – the top level CPV code should perhaps be investigation and security services, under a ‘Public Security’ category. Another solution would be to create Military Defence Services as a standalone category subdivided by relevant CPV codes.

**Chief Executive: Tom Chant MBE**

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**Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the draft SI accurately captures those services which should be 'reservable' to public service mutuals under the new regime?**

According to SMI members, the answer to this specific question hinges on whether the reservable status in the draft secondary legislation will be similar to long-term prime contracts such as the Marine Systems Support Partner (MSSP) status. With the Ministry of Defence (MoD) awarding long-term contracts swept up into super lots, we wonder whether the Government may not find it more congenial to dedicate a specific section within the statutory instrument on these types of contracts.

**Q4: If you disagree or strongly disagree, please indicate which services should be included or excluded, or clarify any other perceived issues with the list such as inconsistencies with other areas of the Bill or draft SI.**

SMI members have highlighted that the status quo currently requires a supplier to tick as many CPV codes which they believe apply to them and their businesses potentially warrant. We would like to point out, however, that this approach ends up generating a significant number of unsolicited bulletins each day, which are often not necessarily relevant to the businesses or organisations in question.

We hope that you found SMI's contribution to the consultation valuable and we look forward to engaging with Part 2 of the Cabinet Office's consultation process on the Procurement Bill over the coming weeks. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with SMI's Policy and Research Manager, Giorgio Buttironi, at [Giorgio.Buttironi@maritimeindustries.org](mailto:Giorgio.Buttironi@maritimeindustries.org).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chant', written in a cursive style.

Tom Chant MBE  
Chief Executive, Society of Maritime Industries (SMI)