

Assembly Section

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Ms Stella McArdle
Clerk
Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development
Room 244
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

Our Ref OCQ23/11-15

27 March 2013

Dear Stella,

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee asked Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to co-ordinate a response from Government Departments and for the appropriate agencies/NDPBs on:

- The number of trees procured which were grown locally and the numbers which were grown elsewhere and imported in the last two financial years; and
- Whether the procurement process took account of the provenance issue ie locally sourced seed, with locally grown trees.

The information received is attached at Annex A.

The Committee also asked if “pre-contracts” had been used in the past and whether they could be used in the future. None of the respondees reported having used such contracts in the past. CPD advises that it is not possible to directly award contracts to local nurseries as this would likely breach the procurement legislation. However, the advance notice required for high value contracts provides an opportunity for suppliers to form a consortium, enabling them to compete for larger contracts. Buyers also consider breaking large contracts into lots as part of the procurement strategy. This may also help to facilitate participation by local suppliers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Finlay".

JUDITH FINLAY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

Table 1 Information request relating to the period 01/04/10 to 31/03/11

Centre of Procurement Expertise	Number of trees procured which were grown locally	Trees procured which were grown elsewhere and imported		
		Total	Grown from locally sourced seeds	Not grown from locally sourced seeds
Roads Service ¹	19,679	72,697	43,273	14,424
Health Estates Investment Group	0	250	0	250
CPD Supplies and Services ²	0	2,188,000	0	0
NI Housing Executive	0	1373	0	1373
Education and Library Boards	177	89	0	89
Totals	19,856	2,262,409	43,273	16,136

Note 1. During the financial year from 01/04/2010 to 31/03/2011 the source of the seeds for 15,000 trees was unknown.

Note 2. This is a contract for the Forest Service. All Forest Service planting stock is purchased from Coillte who grow the trees in their own nurseries in Ireland with either their own seed or imported seed from the UK or Europe.

Table 2 Information request relating to the period 01/04/11 to 31/03/12

Centre of Procurement Expertise	Number of trees procured which were grown locally	Trees procured which were grown elsewhere and imported		
		Total	Grown from locally sourced seeds	Not grown from locally sourced seeds
NI Water ¹	9175	0	0	0
Roads Service	11,851	168,285	28,659	139,626
Health Estates Investment Group	0	99	0	99
CPD Supplies and Services ²	0	2,240,000	0	0
NI Housing Executive	0	1056	0	1056
Education and Library Boards	490	62	0	62
Totals	21,516	2,409,502	28,659	140,843

Note 1. NIW did not have any Contract with local nurseries, but procured trees for the woodland creations at Dunore Point and Castor Bay through the Woodland Trust.

Note 2. This is a contract for the Forest Service. All Forest Service planting stock is purchased from Coillte who grow the trees in their own nurseries in Ireland with either their own seed or imported seed from the UK or Europe.