

INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY HUB

1PM 30th July 2026

Item	Speaker	Time
1. Welcome – Focus of the Session	Paul Chivers (GHC)	1pm
2. Linen Decontamination	John Herbert (Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS FT)	1.05pm
3. Environmental Decontamination Issues	Michael Rollins (Envirosmart Technologies)	1.20pm
4. Instrument Cleaning - Approaches and Carbon Reduction	Chris Helson (Tiny Air)	1.35pm
5. Updates from a National Level – IPC/Supply Chain and Associated	Paul Chivers (GHC)	1.50pm
6. Questions & Discussions	NS/PC	2.05pm
7. Areas for Future Focus, Feedback & Next Session	NS/PC	2.20pm
Close		2.30pm



FEEDBACK PLEASE!

Introduction

Focus of the session

- Raise awareness and utilisation of GHC
- Inform about innovative products and processes
- Inform wider community of ways to reduce environmental impacts
- Accelerate adoption of innovative, sustainable products and processes
- Share breaking news and opportunities –
 - Oct 22nd Leeds Living Lab SUSTAIN

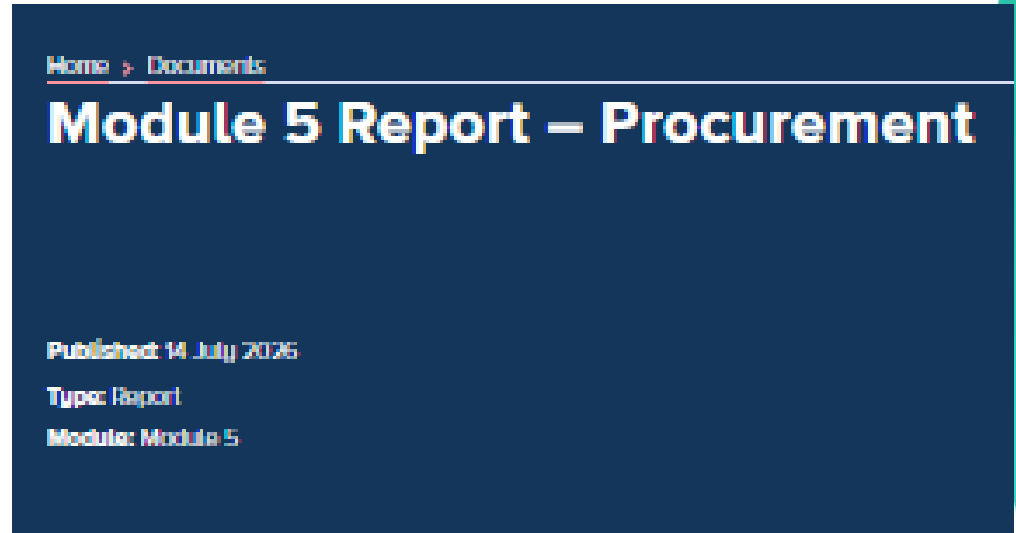
£10bn

of the £14.9bn the UK spent on PPE during Covid-19, almost two-thirds, was wasted, the Inquiry found



Nothing Learned?

The Covid Inquiry's verdict on single-use PPE, set against what NHS Supply Chain is procuring right now, (in my opinion) supports this, what are your thoughts?



Source: Covid-19 Inquiry – Module 5 Procurement <https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/documents/module-5-full-report/>

Reusable PPE was ready. It was turned away.

Before the pandemic

Around 20% of NHS surgical gowns and drapes were already reusable, laundered and recirculated as standard practice.

DHSC's own team

The Department of Health and Social Care had already set up a Reuse, Innovation and Sustainability Team to grow reusable PPE use.

April 2020

The Textile Services Association offered to scale up reusable gowns and sterile laundry capacity, and worked with UK Make, Cabinet Office and NHS England officials on design, materials and compliance for months.

The outcome

No contract was ever placed. Single-use PPE was prioritised throughout, despite a full reusable gown supply chain, laundry network included, already existing in the UK.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Within 12 months, the pandemic stockpile must better reflect the shape and size of the health and social care workforce, aligned with fit-testing, and must hold a minimum three-month supply.

Recommendation 7

A national emergency industry strategy must fund domestic manufacturing capacity and R&D for advanced healthcare equipment, so the UK is not left relying on a single overseas source again.

The Inquiry also states plainly that government should back research and investment specifically into reusable PPE, including new materials and cleaning technologies.

Source: UK Covid-19 Inquiry, Module 5: Procurement, Appendix 3, and para 4.81

Net Zero Enshrined in Public Procurement Act 2023 – Applies to New Contracts Post 24 Feb 2024 (or does it?)

- The UK legally committed to Net Zero in **2019 by amending the Climate Change Act 2008**, setting a target of at least a 100% reduction in the net UK territorial carbon account by 2050 [chamberlowcarbon.co.uk+1](https://chamberlowcarbon.co.uk). This target is binding and forms the foundation for government strategies and sectoral decarbonisation plans chamberlowcarbon.co.uk.
- **Integration into Procurement**
- While Net Zero itself is not a standalone procurement law, it is **embedded in public procurement practices** through a series of **Procurement Policy Notes (PPNs)**:
- **PPN 006** requires suppliers bidding for major government contracts (typically above £5 million per year) to commit to achieving Net Zero by 2050 and to publish a **Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)** service.gov.uk.
- **PPN 016** and related guidance provide a **Carbon Reduction Contract Schedule**, which includes standard terms and conditions for monitoring and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout the life of a contract [www.gov.uk+1](https://www.gov.uk).
- These PPNs apply to **central government departments, executive agencies, and non-departmental public bodies**, with other public sector authorities encouraged to adopt similar approaches [www.gov.uk+1](https://www.gov.uk).

Single-Use Contracts - England (Not Wales/Scotland) £4.65bn

Find a Tender (NHS Supply Chain) · green rows contain a reusable product, device, or reprocessing element within the same contract

Contract / Notice Title	Product(s) in Scope	Single-Use / Reusable Element	Total Est. Value (incl. VAT)	Start	End (+ extension)	Duration	Pub. Date	Notes / Reusable Opportunity
Total Surgical Instruments Solutions	Single-use & reusable instruments, packs, scalpel blades; decontamination/sterilisation services	MIXED – Lots 2, 4–7 reusable; Lots 1, 3, 8 single-use	£2.4bn	15 Aug 2026	14 Aug 2028 (ext. 2030)	4 yrs	19 Jun 2025	Dedicated reusable & reprocessing lots — key entry point
Single Use Theatre Protective Wear	Gowns, drapes, headwear, accessories	Single-use only	£750.4m	23 Feb 2026	23 Feb 2029 (ext. 2030)	4 yrs	19 May 2025	No reusable gown/drape option — clear gap
Masks, Gowns, Visors, PAPRs 2027	Masks, gowns, visors, PAPRs, fit-testing	MIXED – PAPR hardware reusable; rest single-use	£917.6m	8 Jul 2027	7 Jul 2030 (ext. 2031)	4 yrs	8 Dec 2025	PAPR reusable hardware within mostly disposable framework
Respiratory Solutions 2026	Therapy, anaesthesia, diagnostic/monitoring devices, N2O destruction	MIXED – devices/maintenance reusable; consumables single-use	£157.17m	1 Aug 2026	31 Jul 2028 (ext. 2030)	4 yrs	29 Sep 2025	Lot 5 device replacement/maintenance route
Polymer Products 2026	Waste/laundry bags, single-use aprons	Single-use only	£80.64m	31 Oct 2026	30 Oct 2028 (ext. 2030)	4 yrs	2 May 2025	Apron lots — reusable substitution
PME – Hand Hygiene & Associated Products	Hand rub, wash, wipes, dispensers	MIXED – dispenser hardware reusable; refills single-use	£87.6m	12 Jun 2027	11 Jun 2031	4 yrs	17 Jun 2025	Reusable 'Universal' dispenser hardware Disposable personal wipes - flannels
Procedure Consumables 2027	Procedure packs (drapes, gowns, swabs, blades) + Medical Hollowware (bowls, trays, pots)	MIXED – hollowware is single-use AND reusable (steel/plastic); packs single-use	£254.9m	1 Apr 2028	31 Mar 2032	4 yrs	1 Apr 2026	Named reusable hollowware lot inside single-use framework — direct route

£765 million, single-use, through 2031

£764.6m

estimated framework value, excluding
VAT
(£917.6m including VAT)

Contract term: 8 July 2027 to 7 July
2030, with a possible extension to 7
July 2031

IN SCOPE, DESCRIBED BY NHS SUPPLY CHAIN AS “SINGLE-USE”

- Facemasks: Type IIR surgical masks and FFP3 respirators
- Gowns: category III isolation gowns and dignity gowns
- Eye protection: full-face visors
- Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) and accessories
- Fit-testing equipment: qualitative and quantitative kits
- Cape hood type PB 6B

Market engagement opened January 2026, the same year the Inquiry sat examining exactly this failure. No reusable lot appears anywhere in scope.

Let's compare and contrast

THE INQUIRY SAYS

A reusable gown supply chain already existed and was passed over

Almost £10bn was wasted on the linear, single-use model

Government should fund R&D specifically into reusable PPE

Stockpile fit and sizing failures must be fixed within 12 months

NHS SUPPLY CHAIN IS DOING

A single-use theatre wear framework just launched, running to 2029, extendable to 2030

A further £765m is being committed to single-use masks and gowns, through 2030 or 2031

No reusable lot appears in the new framework's scope

The new framework procures more fit-testing kits, not fit-avoiding reusable respirators

The tender is still moving. The evidence is clear.



Timing

Supplier engagement on the 2027 framework closed in Q1 2026, but the formal tender was expected 9th June 2026. It went live on 23rd July on <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/>



The argument

A statutory public inquiry has now made the argument, in public, under oath, with £10bn wasted.



The ask

Push for reusable and improved fitting alternatives, including transparent half-face respirators, and reusable transparent surgical masks to be inclusive, and sustainable.
Contact NHS Supply Chain.
Buy direct in the meantime.

What can you do?

- Email Abey.gibson@supplychain.nhs.uk and customer.services@supplychain.nhs.uk to request new, reusable products be procured by NHS Supply Chain.
 - Include a reference to the Covid Inquiry's verdict on Procurement and single-use PPE.
- Attend October event in person, in Leeds 22nd Oct:
 - Hands on reusable products
 - How to safely and quickly clean and disinfect
 - Meet the manufacturers and suppliers
- Buy direct – support and guidance available from GHC – IPC, Microbiology, LCA, SOP creation, effective cleaning and disinfection or laundry advice
- Pilot alternatives to 33m 4 litre pulp wash bowls per year:
 - 1m if using a reusable biopolymer
 - Old bowls collected, reprocessed into single use environmentally friendly products
 - Leasing equipment could be an option



Any questions?

Topics for discussion?

Suggestions for future sessions? – Not August

Feedback forms please

