

PROCUREMENT POLICY OFFICE

Directive No 55 (issued pursuant to section 7 of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

Procedures for dealing with contracts affected by the Covid-19 pandemic

1. The purpose of this Directive is to provide for procedures which public bodies will have to follow in dealing with requests for extension of time for on-going contracts resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Request for extension of time for works contracts, resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and impacting on the delivery of a contract, must be considered by the public body. Such request for extension of time should be clearly demonstrated and justified to the satisfaction of the public body. The extension of time shall be granted without any additional cost.
3. For contracts other than works, public bodies may consider requests for extension of time, provided that they are fully justified.
4. Request for extension of time for contracts affected by the Covid-19 pandemic will be entertained up to 30 September 2021 and the public body must inform the PPO of any agreement on extension of time with the revised programme of work and completion date.
5. Under the prevailing circumstances, termination of contract may be considered as a measure of last resort by the public body.
6. This Directive takes effect immediately and supersedes Circular No. 5 of 2020.

**Procurement Policy Office
08 June 2021**