



## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 14 May 2021

**Date of response:** 8 June 2021

### Access to Public Information request regarding PPE

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**Request:**

I've heard Guernsey States experienced problems with piracy/theft of PPE at the time there was a worldwide shortage in early 2020.

The following questions all relate to the calendar year 2020.

Please could you provide details of the PPE ordered by Guernsey States during 2020– including quantity, type and value.

How much PPE (quantity, type and value) did Guernsey States actually receive?

How much PPE was lost in transit?

How much was Guernsey States able to recoup financially from orders which were lost in transit?

Which supply chains did Guernsey States experience problems with?

**Response provided by the Committee *for* Health & Social Care:**

The States of Guernsey was aware of issues regarding piracy/theft of PPE and, as a result shipments from China were routed based on a risk profile of areas where piracy/theft were most common – in order to minimise the risk. This meant that the States of Guernsey experienced no problems with piracy/theft of PPE at the time there was a worldwide shortage in early 2020 or at any time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local community was extremely generous during the pandemic; not only through donating surgical masks, producing face coverings etc but also by designing and producing essential visors for use in the hospital.

HSC has benefitted from an exceptional level of support from procurement colleagues within the States of Guernsey who have worked tirelessly to source, stock and distribute throughout the global crisis. The pandemic created two main issues: significant extra demand, and difficulty in the marketplace / general volatility of supply; both of which have been successfully worked through. In overview, this effort has meant that at all times, HSC had available on island required stocks of the following core PPE items:-

- FFP3 respirators (either duckbill or cone according to fit)
- Surgical mask
- Visors
- Disposable surgical gown
- Non-latex gloves
- Overshoes
- Disposable medical cap

In addition, key consumables were sourced and available at all times, including the following product lines:

- Hand sanitisers - both standard and clip on for individual use
- Hand soap
- Tuffie wipes
- Mikrozooid wipes (used for electrical equipment)
- Chlorclean

At the height of the pandemic, staff distributed essential PPE to 130 different operational locations including the private and third sectors who needed support. This ensured that all health and care providers could continue their operations at an extremely difficult time.

The sources of PPE can be summarised across 5 separate supply routes, as follows:

- 1) Department for Health & Social Care / NHS Supply Chain
- 2) China
- 3) Existing suppliers
- 4) Other new suppliers
- 5) Community

The sum of all the efforts of a great number of people within and beyond the Bailiwick was that nearly 3 million items were sourced and delivered, at a cost of c. £900,000.

It is not possible to provide details of the cost, type and value but we can provide you with the following information:

Surgical Masks	822,000 units
Visors/masks/goggles	50,980 units
Gloves	384,000 pairs
FFP2/3 masks	136,240 units
Face mask IIR	17,000 units
Gowns	14,000 units
Caps	3,000 units
Reusable gowns	900 units
Aprons	1,290,000 units

No PPE was lost in transit and, therefore, the States of Guernsey was not required to try and recoup any financial loss in this regard.

As you can see, the States of Guernsey used a number of supply chains to ensure vital supplies of PPE were received in the Bailiwick. the Supply chains direct from China were more complex and, therefore, more difficult to manage. However, all supplies ordered through the various supply chains arrived.