

ERSA Supply Chain Management Forum Terms of Reference

The Employment Related Services Association (ERSA) has set up a forum of its membership dedicated to discussing issues concerning the wider supply chain (not solely supply chain management). The proposed purpose of this is to:

1. Provide an opportunity for members to share experiences, raise questions, discuss issues affecting the supply chain and consider solutions, focused on the development of best practice
2. To build up a strong body of evidence about the supply chain to feed into a wide range of potential workstreams.
3. To provide evidence for ERSA's representation to the DWP in relation to the supply chain, especially where the actions of DWP or others may impact the ability of the prime contractors to manage their supply chains in the most effective way - and to the highest possible standard.
4. In particular, to provide feedback on the operation of the Merlin Standard which would help inform the ERSA representative on the Merlin board and feedback to the DWP
5. Build up a body of best practice, focused on what lessons could be learned from other sectors outside the welfare to work market
6. Compare and contrast the approach of different government departments to supply chain management/operations
7. Maintain some focus on the work of Jobcentre Plus in terms of diagnosing customer needs and making appropriate referrals to supply chain partners.
8. Consider whether there is a mediation role for the forum.

Composition

Membership of the Supply Chain Forum is open to all ERSA full and associate members and is intended to be relevant to all organisations, whether prime or subcontractors. The forum should not be afraid of encompassing different views. In addition, it is not intended that this forum is sector specific, in that it will not focus wholly on the experience of the voluntary and community sectors within contracts. However, it may be that this is a workstream the forum may wish to develop.

Forum governance

The Supply Chain Management Forum is a formal body of ERSA and, as such, reports to the ERSA Board. The first meeting would be chaired by a volunteer approached by the ERSA staff team. It is then suggested that there should be two rotating chairs (or potentially a chair and vice chair), one representing a prime organisation and one representing a non-prime. In addition, Workpays Ltd has kindly offered to help facilitate the forum operating in an advisory capacity.

More information

Any member wishing for more information or to register their interest in joining the Forum is asked to contact Anna Robin, anna.robin@ersa.org.uk / 020 7960 6808.