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PPN 03/21 – Case Study: Working Together to Build Supply Chain Resilience

Introduction

NI Water continues to strengthen resilience across its supply chain to ensure the ongoing delivery of essential water and wastewater services for its customers. Recognising the dependency on critical goods, we have embedded practices across procurement, contract management, and supplier engagement activities to mitigate, where possible, against supply chain disruption.

Embedding PPN 03/21

As NI Water embeds the principles of **PPN 03/21**, the management of critical goods within the supply chain continues to form part of standard operating practices. This approach ensures that supply chain resilience is not treated as a one-off exercise, but as an integrated and ongoing element of commercial activity.

Risk Management for Critical Goods

NI Water manages supply chain resilience across each phase of the contract management lifecycle. This includes early identification of supply chain risks at procurement stage, ongoing monitoring throughout contract delivery, and targeted engagement where critical goods have been identified.

Enhanced Supplier Insight

NIW have been trialling a dedicated dashboard through an external provider to determine if it can:

- provide visibility of supplier risk profiles;
- identify potential supply chain bottlenecks and single points of failure;
- highlight geopolitical, financial, operational, and geographic risks; and
- support prioritisation of supplier engagement and mitigation activity.

This data-led approach would enable NI Water to better anticipate potential disruptions and to focus resilience activity on areas of greatest risk or criticality.

Ongoing Review

NI Water continues to take a proactive and structured approach to managing supply chain resilience. By embedding PPN 03/21 into standard operating practices, managing risks across the contract lifecycle, whereby critical goods have been identified, and leveraging external expertise and trialling data-driven tools, NI Water is strengthening, where possible, its ability to anticipate, manage, and mitigate supply chain risks.

These measures support the continued delivery of safe, reliable water and wastewater services and demonstrate NI Water's commitment to resilience, assurance, and good supply chain governance.