CIPS Principal Marker (External) Report

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*These reports are designed to help tutors and learners understand the common trends presented by both strong and weaker answers in relation to the module for the given exam series.*

**Learning outcome 1:**

The question addressed learning outcome 1: Demonstrate the application of the procurement cycle.

The command word used was: *Explain* - Give reasons for/account for something so that it is clear and easy to understand in relation to a given situation.

This question was based on the procurement cycle and required an explanation of one of the aspects of the cycle concerning the case provided. Good answers explained the required element's importance and included specific details for the case to support their answer. However, it was clear that several candidates misunderstood the question and provided a discussion of the whole procurement cycle rather than an explanation of one of the aspects that was asked for.

**Learning outcome 2:**

The question addressed learning outcome 2: Demonstrate the application of the key stages of the sourcing process.

The command word used was: *Explain* - Give reasons for/account for something so that it is clear and easy to understand in relation to a given situation.

This question was based on the sourcing process and asked for an explanation of one of the aspects of it. The answer required candidates to consider the case's information and then explain how these aspects could relate to the contract. Stronger answers demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the relevant aspects of sourcing and applied appropriately to the case.
provided. Answers that did not attract high marks were either very brief or failed to make the connection between the aspects mentioned in the case and the contracting process.

Learning outcome 3:
The question addressed learning outcome 3: Demonstrate the application of whole-life asset management.
The command word used was: Explain - Give reasons for/account for something so that it is clear and easy to understand in relation to a given situation.
This question required explanation of some of the key elements of whole-life asset management concerning the case provided. Answers that attracted higher marks recognised the issues and context of the case and applied the elements fully explaining each. Answers that did not attach high marks either provided a very brief answer with a limited explanation and limited use of examples or, in some cases, applied the wrong concept to the case, for example, the procurement cycle. However, overall, this question was generally answered well.

Learning outcome 4:
The question addressed learning outcome 4: Demonstrate the application of ethical and responsible sourcing within an organisation.
The command word used was: Explain - Give reasons for/account for something so that it is clear and easy to understand in relation to a given situation.
This question was based on ethical codes and required an explanation of how these aspects could relate to the case study provided. Good answers identified and explained the required number of elements and considered the practical implications for the organisation when using the relevant code. Answers that did not score high marks on this question either provided answers that were too brief, or they just included the relevant ethical code without considering the command word used in the question or reference to any issues in the case study.