

**REPORT TO : ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
– 20th November 2000**

**REPORT ON : PURCHASE OF A HIGH PRESSURE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY
SYSTEM**

REPORT BY : DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

REPORT NO: 739-2000

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for Scientific Services to purchase a High Pressure Liquid Chromatography system (HPLC).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The offer from Agilent Technologies UK Limited be accepted.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Total tender costs of £27,104.94 can be met from the department's capital budget for 2000/01.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Purchasing this equipment will assist in ensuring access to good food and water at a reasonable cost.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 Our present HPLC systems are twelve years old, use outdated technology and spare parts are becoming difficult to source.

6.2 The proposed new HPLC system includes an auto sampler and a modern ultra-violet detection system. The use of the auto sampler will release staff time to carry out other work and the detection system will enable the laboratory to expand the range of analysis in the food, water, environmental and consumer safety fields.

6.3 Tenders were received from five companies and are detailed below.

Waters Limited, Watford, Herts £33,790.00

Dionex (UK) Limited, Camberley, Surrey £28,630.00

NOTE: The tender price was £27,741. This included a temperature control

module (£1,365) which is not required. A second year's warranty (£2,254) has been added to make the tender comparable with other manufacturers.

Agilent Technology UK Limited, Stockport, Cheshire £27,104.94

NOTE: The tender price was £30,743.48. This included a pc and printer (£2800.54), which is not required. A prompt payment discount (15 days from invoice date) has also been deducted.

Varian Limited, Walton-on-Thames Surrey £27,091.35

NOTE: The tender price was £28,614.15. This included a temperature control module (£1,522.80) which was not required.

Thermoquest Limited, Manchester £26,639.00

NOTE: The tender price was £26,462. This included a temperature control module (£1,796) which was not required. A second year's warranty (£1,973.00) has been added to make the tender comparable with other manufacturers.

- 6.4 Agilent Technologies are the recognised instrument leaders in this field. We are at present using other Agilent instruments in the laboratory to our complete satisfaction. The tender also includes 3 days software training. For the above reasons despite not being the cheapest tender, acceptance of this tender is recommended.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive
Director of Support Services
Director of Finance.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

Signed

Date

Director of Environmental & Consumer Protection

25.10.00