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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2016 No. 274**

**The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016**

**PART 2**

**RULES APPLICABLE TO CONTRACTS**

**CHAPTER 3**

**Conduct of the procedure**

*SECTION 1*

*Preparation*

**Preliminary market consultations**

**58.**—(1) Before commencing a procurement procedure, utilities may conduct market consultations with a view to preparing the procurement and informing economic operators of their procurement plans and requirements.

(2) For this purpose, utilities may for example seek or accept advice from independent experts or authorities or from market participants.

(3) Such advice may be used in the planning and conduct of the procurement procedure, provided that it does not have the effect of distorting competition and does not result in a violation of the principles of non-discrimination and transparency.