

# Notes on the use of BG 6/2018 with the RIBA Plan of Work 2020



In March 2020, the RIBA published an update to their Plan of Work. This latest version represents an evolution of the version published in 2013, with amendments to reflect changing practices in the construction industry, as well as experience gained from its use on projects.

The main changes in the 2020 version from the previous one can be summarised as follows:

- The biggest addition is the sustainability strategy, which focuses on sustainable outcomes from the start of a project, reviewed and tested throughout and into operation.
- Improved guidance on the planning process, procurement and information requirements at each stage has been added.
- Detailed stage descriptions and new guidance on core project strategies have been included.
- A number of modifications have been made to the titles of the RIBA Stages. These are shown below:

RIBA PoW	STAGE 0	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7
2013	Strategic Definition	Preparation and Brief	Concept Design	Developed Design	Technical Design	Construction	Handover and close out	In Use
2020	Strategic Definition	Preparation and Briefing	Concept Design	Spatial Coordination	Technical Design	Manufacturing and construction	Handover	Use

Although most of the changes to the titles are minor, the most significant difference is Stage 3. This title changes from **Developed Design** in the 2013 version to **Spatial Coordination** in the 2020 version. This change has been made to better describe the purpose of this stage, and the definitions in the Glossary section of the RIBA Plan of Work 2020 Overview document state:

*'The core goal of Stage 3 is a design that is Spatially Coordinated.' '...it allows each Building System to be developed independently at Stage 4.'*

*'Defining Spatially Coordinated is difficult; however, it is fundamentally about ensuring that every space in a building is conclusively defined, from the client's functional spaces, such as living rooms, classrooms, operating theatres or departure lounges, to the spaces required for building services including plant rooms and risers. Simply put, if all of a building's spaces are not determined during Stage 3 it can cause a great deal of disruption during Stage 4, as designers discover that areas of a building are in a state of flux precisely when they are undertaking the detailed design of every Building System.'*

Given that coordination of building services is usually accepted as being carried out at Stage 4, this may cause some concern. However, the intention within the 2020 Plan of Work is that the spatial coordination referred to is between the disciplines – architectural, structural and building services – and NOT between the individual building services systems. The zones for building services will be defined and agreed at Stage 3, and coordination of all individual building services systems will still happen during Stage 4 as part of the detailed design. Therefore, this change is 'business as usual' and so has no affect on what is normally done by the building services designers. BG 6/2018 was written based on the RIBA Plan of Work 2013. It can continue to be used on projects where the RIBA Plan of Work 2020 is followed. However, in all locations in BG 6/2018 where **Stage 3 Developed Design** is referred to, this should be read as **Stage 3 Spatial Coordination**.

BG 6/2018 users can add activities and deliverables to the Appendix A proformas to accommodate any changes to the usual scope of services due to the adoption of the RIBA Plan of Work 2020 in a project environment.

Although there are no plans at present to publish a new edition of BG 6, the situation is kept constantly under review.