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The UK's approach to Public Procurement; Procurement Reform & Digitalisation

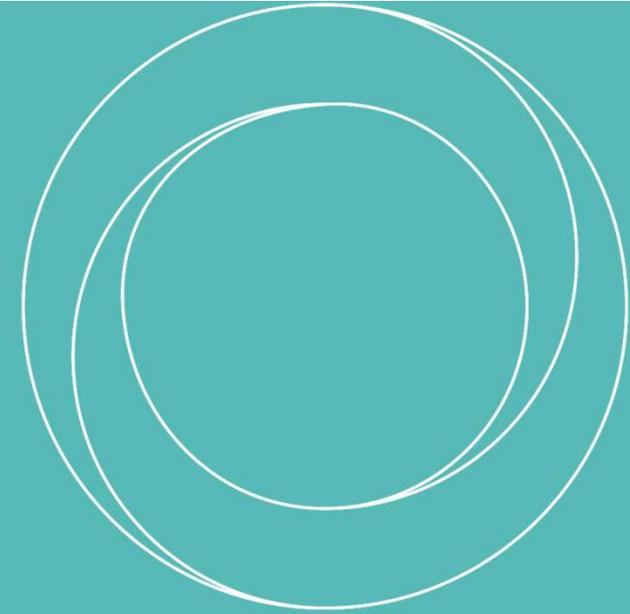


July 2025



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Overview of Public Procurement



UK Public Procurement: Overview

- The UK spends approximately **£385 billion on public procurement a year** and this accounts for **around a third of all public expenditure annually**.
- This significant spending power provides lucrative contract opportunities for both UK and international suppliers. Spending through these contracts includes public infrastructure such as schools, railways and roads; as well as essential public services ranging from supporting our justice system to enabling our welfare and tax systems.
- The UK public sector is made up of **central government and sub central government bodies**.
 - **Central Government** includes ministerial departments (such as His Majesty's Treasury, Ministry of Defence, Department for Education) and arms length bodies and executive agencies (such as Government Property Agency).
 - **Sub central UK government** consists of regional and local authorities that provide public services such as housing, education and transport (e.g. schools, universities, utilities etc). There are 418 local authorities across the UK.



Procurement is partially devolved: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have procurement regimes

UK Public Procurement: Overview

- The **Government Commercial Function** is a network of 6,000 procurement professionals and we cover;
 - **Commercial capability** for procurement teams with learning and development programmes
 - **Procurement policy** - on topics such as for Net Zero, enhancing spend with small businesses, buying steel, payment policies.
 - **International trade** - technical exchanges and market access for UK suppliers
 - **Strategic supplier management** - 39 key government strategic suppliers (e.g. Microsoft, AWS, KPMG etc)
- There are different routes to procurement:
 - Individual competitive procurements
 - Purchasing off established frameworks - this is where Crown Commercial Service is important



£37.1 billion
spend through our commercial agreements

20,000
Suppliers

We help 3000 organisations across the UK public sector save time and money buying everyday goods and services. We do this by:

- *using our commercial expertise*
- *bulk buying power*
- *providing an assisted procurement service*
- *developing digital tools which further simplify and improve the procurement process.*

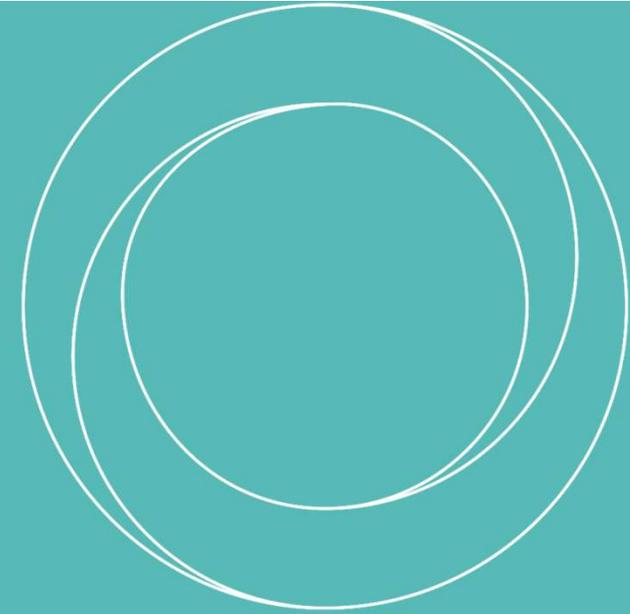
*In 2023/24, customers achieved commercial benefits worth more than **£4.9 billion**, compared to current market comparators*

CCS operates in c.80 categories of goods and services. These categories are currently grouped into four pillars: people, technology, buildings, corporate services



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Transforming Public Procurement



Procurement Reform: Key objectives

Leaving the EU meant the UK has the opportunity to overhaul its procurement regime. **The key aims:**

- Creating a **simpler and more flexible, commercial system** that better meets our country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations.
- Opening up public procurement to **new entrants such as small businesses** and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.
- Taking tougher **action on underperforming suppliers and excluding suppliers** who pose unacceptable risks.
- **Embedding transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle** so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised and **integrating procurement into effective digital systems.**

Changes in regulations required wholesale reform for people, processes, systems and governance



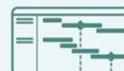
Policy & Legislation

Goal: Design the policy and set the legal framework for the new public procurement rules, taking the legislation and regulations through Parliament.



Learning & Development

Goal: To support practitioners and others to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and confidence to operate effectively within the new public procurement regime and exploit its flexibilities appropriately.



Planning & Preparation for Implementation

Support to contracting authorities to help them prepare to operate in the new regime.



Platform & Systems

Goal: To embed transparency by default throughout the procurement lifecycle, and simplify our existing systems by creating a single digital platform for public procurement.



Procurement Review Unit

Goal: to establish a new mechanism for monitoring and investigating legal compliance with the new regime, including a central debarment list for suppliers.

Procurement Reform: Changes and benefits

Key changes will make procurement better for both suppliers and procurement teams across the country;

- New “**Competitive Flexible**” procedure allows procurement teams to design their own procurement processes and work with suppliers to deliver innovation
- More focus on **pre-market engagement and visibility of pipelines** is useful for suppliers
- Allowing frameworks to be **opened to let new suppliers join** is good for market dynamics
- More options for **collaborative procurement**- different entities buying against one agreement
- **Better supplier feedback** - requirement on public bodies to provide assessment info for final tenders aims to provide greater consistency of information
- Strengthened **prompt payment provisions** are good for cash flow
- Clearer **exclusion measures** and **investigative powers** for poor performance from suppliers



Introducing more innovation into procurement

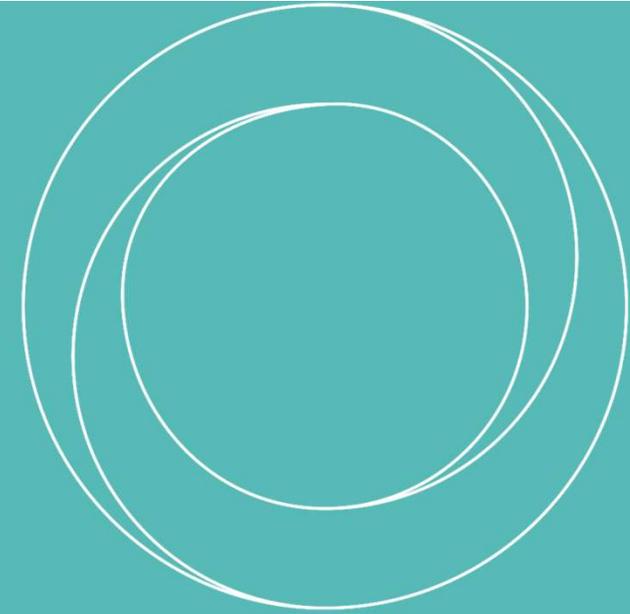
- New Competitive Flexible Procedures allows design of procurement process from concept stage
- *Important to set out plan with the marketplace AND publish outcomes*





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Central Digital Platform

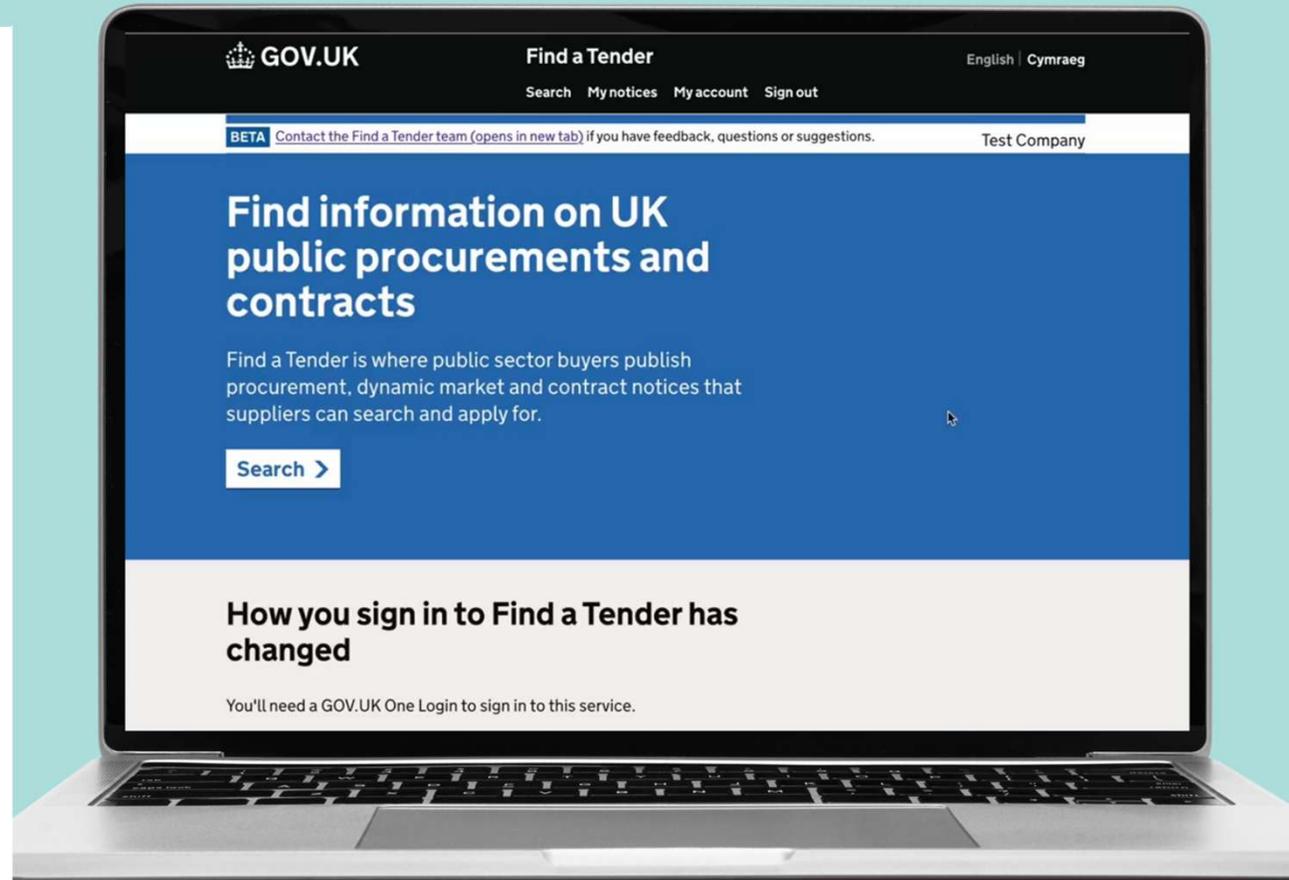


Central Digital Platform for Procurement: Introduction

A more open and transparent public procurement regime

- New procurement notices
- Registration service for suppliers to store details
- Unique identifiers
- Standardised information and future-proof

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search>



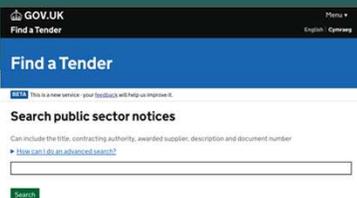
Central Digital Platform: Core functionality

Central Digital Platform

Procurement Noticing

Buyers publish information about their procurements throughout the lifecycle (as per the Procurement Act)

- Pipeline
- Pre-market engagement
- Tender Notice
- Contract Award
- Contract Change
- Contract Performance
- Payments
- Termination



Sign-in and registration

Buyers and suppliers are validated onto the system and given a trackable unique identifier, which will be used in every notice.

Once registered, suppliers can access the supplier information service and bid on available contracts and buyers can access Find a Tender to publish opportunities.

Create a GOV.UK One Login or sign in

You'll need:

- an email address
- a way to get security codes - this can be a mobile phone number or an authenticator app

You can also [use GOV.UK One Login in Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#).

[Create a GOV.UK One Login](#)



Supplier information

Suppliers are able to upload and store key information and then reuse in multiple procurements with different contracting authorities. This includes tax information, ownership information and financial accounts.

They are given a share code when they want to bid on opportunities through the system.

Declaration submitted

Your download code is:
HDJ2123F

We have sent you a confirmation email.

You can now [download the file](#).

[Download file](#) v

What happens next

Your declaration has been successfully submitted. You can now download the file, or go back to the start to submit another declaration.

Other systems

Individual catalogue and Dynamic Markets

Third party procurement providers

Financial systems and payment providers

Central Digital Platform: Showcase

Publish

Contracting authorities can register as a buyer after signing in to publish notices about their contracts.

Supplier information

Register as a supplier after signing in and complete your supplier information to be able to bid for contracts.

Public procurement legislation

[Find out about UK public procurement legislation](#)

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[Get advice on concerns about procurement practices](#)

About Find a Tender

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Search results

We've found 117 notices

Keywords

Search titles, descriptions, identifiers and organisation names

[Help with keyword search](#)

Procurement stage

[What are the procurement stages?](#)

- Open opportunities only
- Pipeline
- Planning
- Tender
- Award
- Contract
- Termination

Notice type

[What are the different notice types?](#)

[Procurement Act 2023](#)

- [Select all](#) [Deselect all](#)
- UK1: Pipeline notice
 - UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice
 - UK3: Planned procurement notice
 - UK4: Tender notice
 - UK5: Transparency notice
 - UK6: Contract award notice
 - UK7: Contract details notice
 - UK10: Contract change notice
 - UK11: Contract termination notice
 - UK12: Procurement termination notice
 - UK13: Dynamic market intention notice

Sort results

Hardware and Associated Services

LONDON & QUADRANT HOUSING TRUST
 The procurement of Hardware and Associated Services

Notice type UK1: Pipeline notice
Contract location UK - United Kingdom
Publication date 23 May 2025, 1:46pm

Electronic Payment Solutions

CRESCENT PURCHASING LIMITED
 CPC will be tendering for suppliers who can provide electronic/cashless payment solutions to members, primarily based in the education sector, but also the wider public sector via Crescent Services Limited. The current framework agreement can be viewed at: <https://www.thecpc.ac.uk/services/> ...

Notice type UK1: Pipeline notice
Publication date 29 May 2025, 4:17pm

End User Compute (EUC)

Post Office Limited
 Managed service for the support, of POL's Colleague devices, peripheral devices and platforms. Plus, the Branch Counter Point of Sale (PoS) devices, peripheral devices, management solutions and Field Engineering services. Services include: Architecture? Cloud/Infrastructure Management and ...

Notice type UK1: Pipeline notice
Total value including VAT £72,000,000
Contract location UK - United Kingdom
Publication date 14 May 2025, 3:56pm

Building Fabric and Maintenance Services

West Northamptonshire Council
 Framework to cover repair and maintenance services for all capital and revenue projects for West Northamptonshire Council, full details will be in the specification

Notice type UK1: Pipeline notice
Publication date 12 June 2025, 2:55pm

Roofing & Estate Works

London Fire Commissioner
 This is a Pipeline Notice, not a call for competition Roofing & Estate Works in the LFB Estate

Notice type UK1: Pipeline notice
Total value including VAT £2,500,000

Tender

Biowaste training - Aerobic and anaerobic treatment

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)
 Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-032370
 Procurement Identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0548c2
 Published 13 June 2025, 3:58pm

Watch this notice

Contents

- Scope
- Lots (2)
- Participation
- Submission
- Award criteria
- Procedure
- Contracting authority

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- [OCDS release](#)
- [OCDS record](#)

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Scope

+ Description

Aerobic and anaerobic treatment training biowaste activities can play a key role in providing energy security for the UK. The EA's ambition is to provide a programme of training which supports EA officers in their biowaste capability journey. We have formal learning interventions in place, Operational Instructions which detail process, on the job coaching and mentoring in respect to assuring compliance within the biowaste sector, and tools which are used to provide a consistent and risk-based approach to regulation.

Total value (estimated)

£171,200 excluding VAT
 £205,440 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

26 August 2025 to 25 August 2028
 Possible extension to 25 August 2030
 5 years

Description of possible extension:

+1 year +1 year

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Management Discretion

Main procurement category

Services

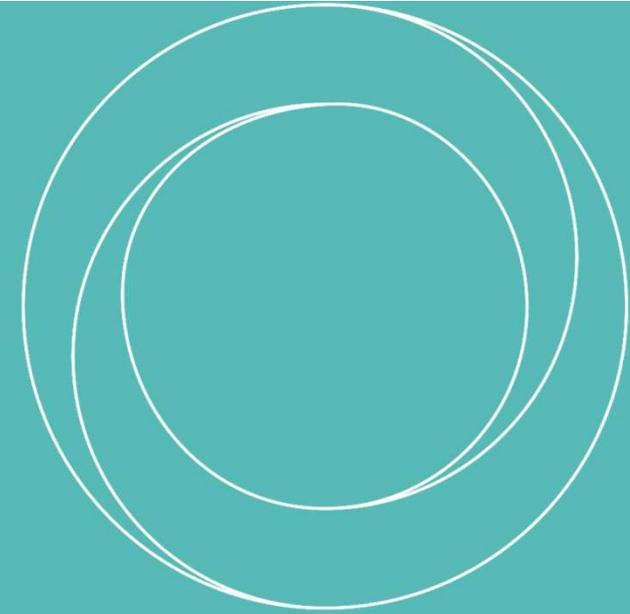
CPV classifications

- 80510000 - Specialist training services



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Reflections and recommendations



Procurement Reform: Reflections and recommendations

- Many different **user requirements** for individual procurement teams. **Standardisation** was essential for this.
- User testing and detailed scoping required
- Need to balance of burdens vs benefits- perceived burden for noticing
- Procurement teams lack of understanding of digital systems integration led to challenges in implementation
- Investment in **capability building** required alongside digital change. **Learning and Development** programme for public procurement professionals
- Clear narrative around **long-term benefits established** to drive forward change
- **Supplier communications** are critical to delivery of the Central Digital Platform- emphasis on time savings and standardised information
- **Political support** for overarching goals for programme
- **Understanding of trade agreements** and benefits for UK public procurement

