

NMRN Letter to Suppliers- RE: Procurement Act 2023

The NMRN wish to inform suppliers about the Procurement Act which will become effective from 24 February 2025. This is an important piece of legislation which will significantly change the way all the public sector buys goods and services.

As a business which supplies goods, works or services to organisations in the public sector you need to know about these changes and our plans to prepare for go-live. The existing rules will continue to apply for contracts that are already in progress, however from 24 February 2025 the way that we procure and manage new contracts from this date will change.

For suppliers there will be new features which should make it easier to do business with us:

- A central digital platform for suppliers to register and store their details so that they can be used for multiple bids and see all opportunities in one place.
- Simplified bidding processes to make it easier to bid, negotiate and work in partnership with the public sector - including a new 'competitive flexible' procedure.
- Commercial frameworks will be more flexible, so prospective suppliers are not shut out for long periods of time.
- A new duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the particular barriers facing SMEs and VCSEs, and to consider what can be done to overcome them throughout the procurement lifecycle, helping level the playing field for smaller businesses so they can compete for more contracts.
- Strengthened provisions for prompt payment throughout the supply chain - enabling SMEs to benefit from 30-day payment terms on a broader range of public sector contracts.
- A stronger exclusions framework will take tougher action on underperforming suppliers.

These changes will drive innovation, deliver better outcomes and embed transparency right through the commercial lifecycle, so everyone can access procurement data and see how money is spent.

The Government Commercial Function has been working with leading business groups and trade associations to make guidance and support available for the suppliers. There is already a range of information and resources about the new regime on the [Transforming Public Procurement landing page](#) including a series of short 'Knowledge

Drop' instruction videos with tailored versions designed specifically for suppliers, including SME and VCSE suppliers.

In the lead up to go-live on 24 February 2025 there are actions you can start to take to prepare:

- Familiarise yourself with the Act - check out the summary documents and short videos on the [Transforming Public Procurement landing page](#).
- Sign up for regular Cabinet Office updates [here](#).
- Start to prepare the information that will be needed for you, as a supplier, to register on the new central digital platform. The Cabinet Office has said they will be issuing specific guidance for suppliers in early 2025 but in the meantime we suggest you look at the details that suppliers need to register on the platform set out in regulations 9 to 12 in [The Procurement Regulations 2024](#)
- Discuss the changes with us - we are now thinking about our forward pipeline and which procurements might benefit from the new flexible approaches and would be happy to discuss our preparations and timelines with you.
- Watch the dedicated official Knowledge Drops available via the link above, with guidance, procurement reform events and supplier communications.

Here at the NMRN we are preparing by reviewing our pipeline, training our staff and exploring how our requirements can benefit from the flexibilities of the new Act. Dedicated information for suppliers, particularly around the Procurement Review Unit and Central Digital Platform will be issued by the Cabinet Office in early 2025.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspect of the new Act please contact us at procurement@nmrn.org.uk

With best wishes,

Dave Hartley

Procurement Officer