

The Supply Chain Network – Making Opportunities, Visible, Accessible and Winnable!

How to find public sector contract opportunities

Government and the wider public sector buy a huge range of goods and services. In 2020 the Government awarded 40,000 contracts to 20,000 suppliers worth £101bn. Some 13,000 of those suppliers were SMEs. The Government isn't just spending on big-ticket items like prisons or jet fighters. Public sector opportunities can range from ground maintenance contracts for schools to specialist scientific equipment for the nuclear industry to the supply of sandwiches for councils - opportunities across a range of sectors and business areas that are well-suited to SMEs. But where can you find out about them?

Opportunities in England

Public sector business opportunities in England are advertised on Contracts Finder – <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> Here, all opportunities over £10,000 (central government) / £25,000 (local government, the blue light services, and the NHS) are listed. Some major government contractors also use Contracts Finder to advertise sub-contracts in their supply chains.

You can use Contracts Finder to:

- Search for contract opportunities
- Find out what's coming up in the future
- Look up details of previous tenders and contracts including award details

You can create an account to get email updates and save your searches, but can also still search and apply for contracts without an account.

Opportunities outside England

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own dedicated public contract portals:

- Scotland: [Public Contracts Scotland](#)
- Wales: [Sell2Wales](#)
- Northern Ireland: [eSourcing NI](#) and [eTendersNI](#)

Find a Tender service for higher value contracts

At the end of the Brexit Transition Period, the government launched the Find a Tender service (FTS). FTS is now the e-notification service for all high value notices (usually above £118,000) published in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It can be found at: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk>

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Notices on FTS should also appear on Contracts Finder as a 'catch all'. Note: If you're registered with Contracts Finder you'll be able to use the same log in details for FTS.

Free to use, FTS replaces Tenders Electronic Daily, the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU/TED) for UK procurements. All UK tenders (or contract notices) that previously would have been published via OJEU, will now be published on the new FTS portal.

What other changes can you expect in procurement following Brexit?

Aside from the introduction of FTS, you should find things fairly similar in terms of the procurement process itself. This is because the UK is broadly continuing to follow the same procedures as it did while it was a member of the EU - for the time being at least. A recently issued Government Green Paper on public procurement reform is currently under consultation, so watch this space for updates...!

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