

2. Public procurement portals

Public sector buyers use online portals as vehicles to advertise their needs to suppliers. These procurement portals advertise not only current procurements but also:

- Future / pipeline requirements.
- Early engagements (exercises where a buyer is engaging with suppliers to help shape future needs and defined procurements).
- Contract awards, where details of contracts awarded are shown, along with details of the supplier to which a contact has been awarded.

How should my business use portals so that we can become a supplier?

Critically, you should register with the key portals. These are:

- Contracts finder <u>https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder</u>
- Find a tender <u>https://www.gov.uk/find-tender</u>
- YORtender <u>https://www.yortender.co.uk/</u> which collates public sector opportunities from buyers across the Yorkshire / Humber region (and also includes some third sector and private sector buyers).

Once you have registered, information about opportunities that are relevant to your business activities will automatically be sent to your inbox. You then simply need to sift through these to determine which are the most appropriate for your business.

Guidance for using Contracts Finder / Find a Tender to search for opportunities

(Note – Contracts Finder and Find a Tender have identical structure and their search function/facilities are therefore the same)

You can use the search facility to narrow down search results for opportunities in the local region. Using construction opportunities within the Yorkshire and Humber region as an example, simply complete the Search as below.









BETA This is a new service - your <u>feedback</u> will help us improve it.	<u>Register</u> <u>Sign</u>
Find a contract	
Explore and search business opportunities	
Keywords Can include contract title, description and buyer Different contract advanced search?	If you have any concerns about procurement practices, including la payment, you can contact the <u>Public</u> <u>Procurement Review Service</u> .
Construction	You can find details of <u>recent</u> procurement reforms, including Contracts Finder, on GOV.UK.
Search by all regions, preset regions or by postcode All locations	Contract information posted prior to 26 February 2015 will not appear or this site. You can view this data on th <u>Contracts Finder archive</u> .
Region Postcode	This is a <u>beta service</u> that launched 26 February 2015.
Region	Service support team If you have problems using the Contracts Finder service, <u>contact</u> or <u>service support team</u> .
England North East North West Yorkshire and the Humber	
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You can further refine this into current opportunities and / or future opportunities and / or Early Engagements (where the buyer hasn't finalised a specification and is scoping the market / potential suppliers):

() Postcode	20.000,20.00.
Region	Service support team
	If you have problems using the Contracts Finder service, <u>contact our</u> <u>service support team</u> .
West Midlands	
Which types of notices do you wish to view?	
✓ Opportunity	
✓ Future opportunity	
Early engagement	
Search Reset	

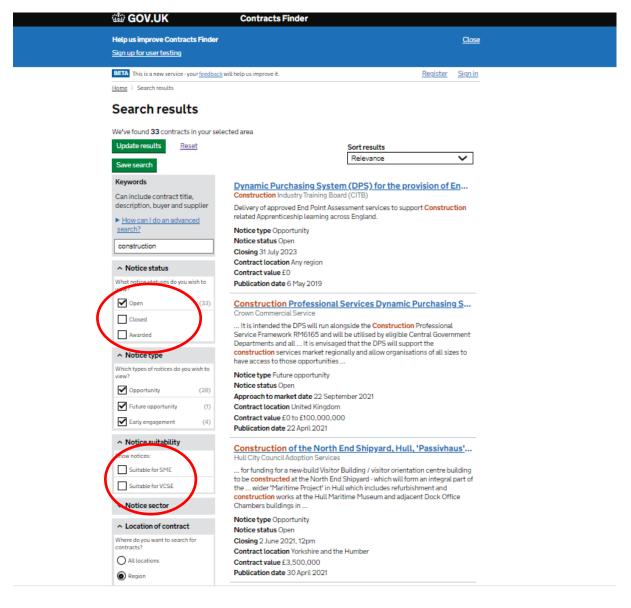








When you get the search results, you can refine them further again using the range of search criteria:

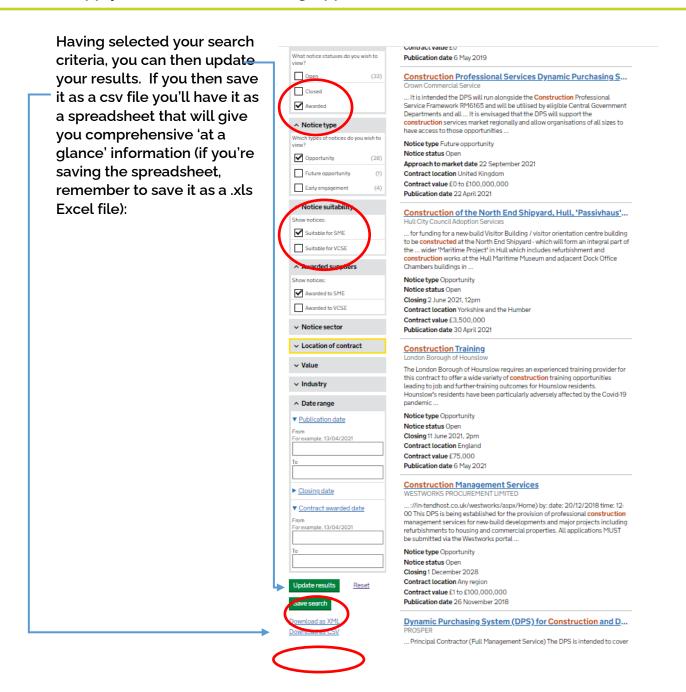












This search, as an example of Contracts Finder's search facilities, shows a search for all construction contracts that have been awarded to SMEs in the Yorkshire and Humber region. This would be a good search for any construction company to use if they were looking to identify competitors in the York and Humber region. The named awarded suppliers might also provide consortium / joint venture or sub-contractor opportunities for companies seeking to gain experience in public sector work.









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