

In this our June 2025 bulletin we cover the latest developments and news about public sector procurement and contract management in the UK. This brief is designed to help public procurement professionals to keep abreast with current practice, recent court decisions and changes in the law. We hope you find it useful.

PA2023.org training

On Monday 9 June 2025 we held our second PA2023.org training session. We looked at the tricky area of excluding suppliers under the Procurement Act 2023. Exclusion is much more than the Debarment regime. Understanding the many circumstances (we looked at 10 specific sections in the Act over-and-above Debarment) when the Act requires you to consider exclusion, is challenging enough but the greatest difficulty comes in those areas that require Contracting Authorities to exercise discretion and judgement ... this is the hardest part.

A summary of the technical & news matters we discussed during the training on Monday 9 June are:

1. Siderise Insulation Ltd v Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

Siderise Insulation Ltd has launched judicial review proceedings against the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea following a decision on 11 December 2024 that excludes its products from construction projects in the borough. The exclusion is based on criteria linked to the Grenfell Tower fire. Our assessment is that Kensington and Chelsea will find it very difficult to justify their decision to exclude Siderise. Will be an interesting case to watch..

2. Using dynamic markets below threshold - Find a Tender

A welcome confirmation that Schools and most FE Colleges are permitted to use Dynamic Markets for below threshold procurement. The Welsh and Northern Ireland exceptions including.

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3. VAT Reverse Charge for Building and Construction Services Manual - HMRC internal manual - GOV.UK

For those involved with works contracts this guide is useful. A complex area, the domestic reverse charge for building and construction services is a measure designed to counter criminal attacks on the UK VAT system. It applies to supplies that are reported within the Construction Industry Scheme.

4. NATO corruption probe 'reminder' of defense boom risks – DW – 05/19/2025

Revelations of an unfolding corruption investigation involving staff and ex-staff at the NATO Support and Procurement Agency have continued to emerge, with a total of five detentions — two in Belgium and three in the Netherlands — made public so far.

5. New HS2 fraud allegations as cost could pass £100bn and further delays expected

A labour supplier has been suspended from the West Midlands section of the rail project and a senior manager has resigned. The allegations are that an HS2 sub-contractor has been falsely declaring self-employed workers as PAYE (Pay as You Earn) salaried staff and charging an inflated rate for them, then submitting “fake” payslips, it is claimed. This is linked to the Construction Industry Scheme and will be of interest if you deal with works contracts.

6. Getting the best value from schools non-staff spend

Useful guidance and tools for schools published 2 June 2025

7. Buying for schools: find an approved framework agreement

A tool to help schools find the right framework for their needs. Schools are urged to use a Department for Education (DfE) approved framework agreement when buying goods and services. Interesting to see that some of the more questionable (but popular) frameworks are not included in the tool.

8. Good practice guidance for colleges and academy trusts on novel, contentious and repercussive transactions

Updated guidance to help academy trusts and colleges deal with novel, contentious and repercussive transactions. Remember you may need DfE preapproval!

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9. **Equality Qualities in Public Procurement Law Elior Korem – Public Procurement Law Review**

This Public Procurement Law Review paper deals with the principle of equality in public procurement. Focused on the EU, but with references to the new Procurement Act it expands the discussion on what treating suppliers the same means. A long read ..

10. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Model Clauses – Australian Digital Transformation Agency**

AI model clauses from our friends down-under that you may find useful. Note that there has been some discussion that they may prove too onerous and place to much risk on suppliers. Still welcome examples in this fast-moving new area...

11. **Sign in – Grants Centre of Excellence**

A new report issued by the Grants Centre of Excellence. This is a helpful website for those involved with grants.

12. **Independent patient choice and procurement panel review CR0013-25 and CR0014-25**

Intermediate Minor Oral Surgery Services for Yorkshire and the Humber. The PSR Panel has advised that the commissioner return to their review of the unsuccessful bidders' representations, and re-visit their response to the unsuccessful bidders' requests for information.

13. **Independent patient choice and procurement panel review of a proposed contract award CR0015-25**

The Panel's advice is that STW ICB should proceed with awarding the contract for the Targeted Lung Healthcare Checks for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin as originally intended.

14. **Independent patient choice and procurement panel review of a proposed contract award CR0018-25**

Primary Care Partner (GP Services) for Urgent Treatment Centre at University Hospital Lewisham. The Panel's advice is that LGT return to an earlier step in the provider selection process.

PA2023.org Network

Our **PA2023.org Network** offers helpdesk advice and regular training in UK public procurement. If you would like to know more please visit [Join – In2 the bargain](#) or write to walter.akers@in2thebargain.com