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Ref: Procurement Act
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Dear Suppliers

You may already be aware of the upcoming changes to public procurement rules and procedures for the Public Sector. The new regulations have been approved and the new Procurement Act 2023 will be launched on Monday 24th February 2025 and focuses on simplifying public procurement for public benefit, transparency, scrutiny and value for money.

This new legislation will change the way Swindon Borough Council and the wider public sector undertake the procurement of works, goods and services.

The existing Public Contract Regulations rules will continue to apply for existing contracts and for tender opportunities that are already in progress, however, for all new procurements commenced from the 24th February 2025 (excluding call offs from existing framework agreements), it is important that you understand the changes.

The Cabinet Office, who are leading the Transforming Public Procurement programme that is implementing the Procurement Act, will also be providing regular updates, therefore if you have not done so, we encourage you to check in to the dedicated gov.uk page.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-official-transforming-public-procurementknowledge-drops>

A key objective for the Procurement Act was to make it easier for suppliers to do business with the public sector, as such there are some core benefits for suppliers once the new regime goes live in February, including:

- A central place (known as the Central Digital Platform) to register and to store your core business details, such as company registration details, so that they can be used for multiple bids.
- Embedding transparency throughout the procurement lifecycle and access to information, with all public procurement opportunities in one place via [Find a Tender](#), making it easier to search for and set up alerts for procurements of interest to your business.

- Improved visibility of Public procurement plans.
- Greater visibility for large public sector contracts above £5 million, and the details of those public contracts.
- A range of new procurement procedures available including a new 'competitive flexible' procedure.
- Opportunities for the Public Sector to create more flexible Frameworks.
- A new duty on the Public Sector to have regard to the barriers facing SMEs and VCSEs, and to consider what can be done to overcome them.
- Strengthened provisions for prompt payment throughout the supply chain.
- A stronger exclusions framework will take tougher action on underperforming suppliers.

The Cabinet Office will continue working with leading business groups and trade associations to make sure information is available for suppliers.

There is a range of information and resources about the new regime on the Transforming Public Procurement [landing page](#).

If you have not already, we strongly recommend you watch the ['Knowledge Drop' videos](#) with dedicated versions designed specifically for suppliers, including SME and VCSE suppliers which will provide you with a better understanding of the changes.

We would also encourage all suppliers to register on the Central Digital Platform as soon as this is made available by Central Government as suppliers should ensure they are registered on this system prior to submitting tenders.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspect of the new Procurement Act please contact the dedicated Transforming Public Procurement helpdesk at; procurement.reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Corporate Procurement Team

Swindon Borough Council