

Procurement Newsletter

August 2024

- Diversity & Inclusivity Fuels Innovation
- New Procurement Bill emphasis on SME



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We are the Post Office and there is no-one like us. From our travel and financial services, passports to postage, the Post Office network is serving communities across the UK. We have a network of more than 11,500 branches across the UK and every one of our branches is at the heart of its community.

We are introducing a series of quarterly newsletters to our Supplier partners to:

- Raise awareness of our values and the subjects that matter to us.
- Provide news, information and training that will help you to do business with us.
- Help you find opportunities to work with us as we grow and change for the future.

Diversity & Inclusion Fuels Innovation

In today's rapidly evolving world, inclusivity is no longer just a regulatory checkbox – it's a springboard for innovation. By considering the diverse needs of all individuals, including those who are, for example, disabled or neurodiverse, companies can unlock new opportunities and create solutions that benefit everyone, not just those they were originally designed for.



Consider the example of dropped kerbs on pavements. Originally created to assist those with visual impairments, these simple adjustments have since proven beneficial to a far broader audience – parents with pushchairs, users of mobility scooters, and even autonomous delivery robots. This is a powerful illustration of how designing with accessibility in mind can lead to innovations that serve all.

As suppliers, you have a unique opportunity to lead in this space. Beyond fulfilling compliance requirements or offering a nod towards corporate social responsibility, consider how your products and services can be inherently inclusive.

How can accessibility be woven into the very fabric of what you offer, bringing new ideas that resonate across different user groups?

As a multigenerational brand with customers from all walks of life, we encourage you to view inclusivity as a driver of creativity and innovation. By embedding accessibility into your offerings, you have the potential to enhance the experience for everyone.

Look at what challenges your products and services can address and what benefits they can bring to the wider community of consumers. Also consider your operations and the methods by which you communicate as an organisation. For example, how do your processes or client-facing systems and interfaces accommodate customers with ADHD or Dyslexia?

Ultimately, inclusivity should be seen as a core element of your innovation strategy. The future of business isn't just about meeting regulatory standards; it's about envisioning and creating products or services that are accessible to all, pushing the boundaries of what's possible, and leading the way in innovation.

We are actively developing relationships with postmasters, and commercial partners, creating value for them and for local communities across the UK. Please consider what innovation your company can offer and how can you illustrate this in your product offering to Post Office.

New Procurement Bill emphasis on SME

This is a reminder that part 2 of the new Procurement Bill 2023 (due to be implemented from Oct 2024) focuses on the principles and objectives that must underlie the awarding of a public contract. Under the new regulations all contracting authorities must have regard to delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, transparency and acting with integrity. The Act also includes a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the particular barriers facing SMEs, and to consider what can be done to overcome them.

The government is providing lots of resources for suppliers to increase awareness of the changes as they are being implemented. These can be found on YouTube as well as via the government website (see below). You can also sign up to be in the government mailing list.

Additional Resources

[Benefits for Prospective Suppliers to the Public Sector - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[The Procurement Act 2023 - a short guide for suppliers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Animations and videos - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Transforming Public Procurement Webinar 16 11 23 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)

Who do I contact for help?



Please read the guidance on our website <https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/our-suppliers/working-with-us/>

If you require any further advice please contact procurement@postoffice.co.uk