

SEPTEMBER 2025

tussell^o

The Procurement Act Report

The first 6 Months.



Introduction

Welcome to the Procurement Act | First 6 Months | Report

Thank you for downloading the Procurement Act | First 6 Months | Report.

In this report, you'll see how the public sector has responded to the Procurement Act in the six months since it came into force. We highlight the key trends in notice publishing, procurement procedure usage, frameworks, social value, and SME, VCSE and local participation. Use these insights - and our actionable, data-driven tips - to ensure your organisation procures compliantly, strategically, and effectively in FY25/26 and beyond.

Want to understand the Procurement Act in practice?
Start here, with Tussell's market-trusted data.

Methodology

This report draws on two datasets. Opportunities, framework and contract data includes UK1 - UK16 notices (as well as PCR15 notices and others) published by authorities to inform suppliers about upcoming procurement activity. This data is sourced primarily from Contracts Finder and the Find a Tender Service, supplemented by a number of smaller local portals. Spend data is based on invoices published by over 1,000 distinct public sector buyers. Though the Procurement Act 2023 does not directly apply to all Scottish Authorities, the scope of this report is UK-wide. Data is accurate as of the date of download: 26 August 2025 for opportunities data, and 26 August 2025 for spend data. For more information, please contact contact@tussell.com.



Matt Waugh

Public Sector Lead
(Tussell)

"The Procurement Act marks the most significant shift in public procurement in over a decade. This report shows how public authorities are putting their new powers into practice - and how you can deliver better procurement under the new regime."



Ben Pollard

Marketing Executive
(Tussell)

"From social value to frameworks, public procurement is undergoing major change. Drawing on Tussell's best-in-class data, this report offers the first in-depth look at the six months since the Act came into force. Use it to stay compliant, benchmark your publishing, and build your plan for better, smarter procurement."

All of the analysis in this report was produced using

tussell

Discover why the public sector relies on our insights



National Audit Office



Cabinet Office



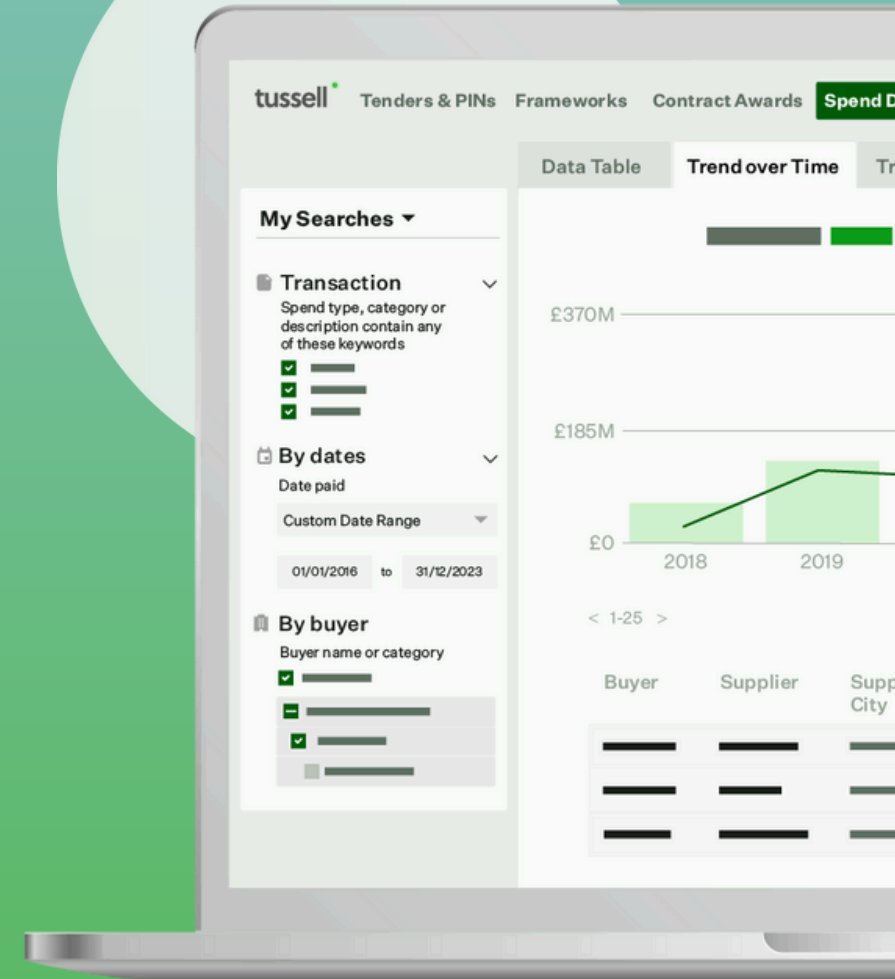
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Suffolk
County Council



City of
Westminster



Our key findings:

1

Low publishing rates could point to non-compliance

Low publishing rates across some verticals - and of Tender Notices - could point to non-compliance or buyer confusion.

2

Large contracts and frameworks are driving use of the CFP

The Competitive Flexible Procedure accounts for 6% of tenders by volume, but 27% by value.

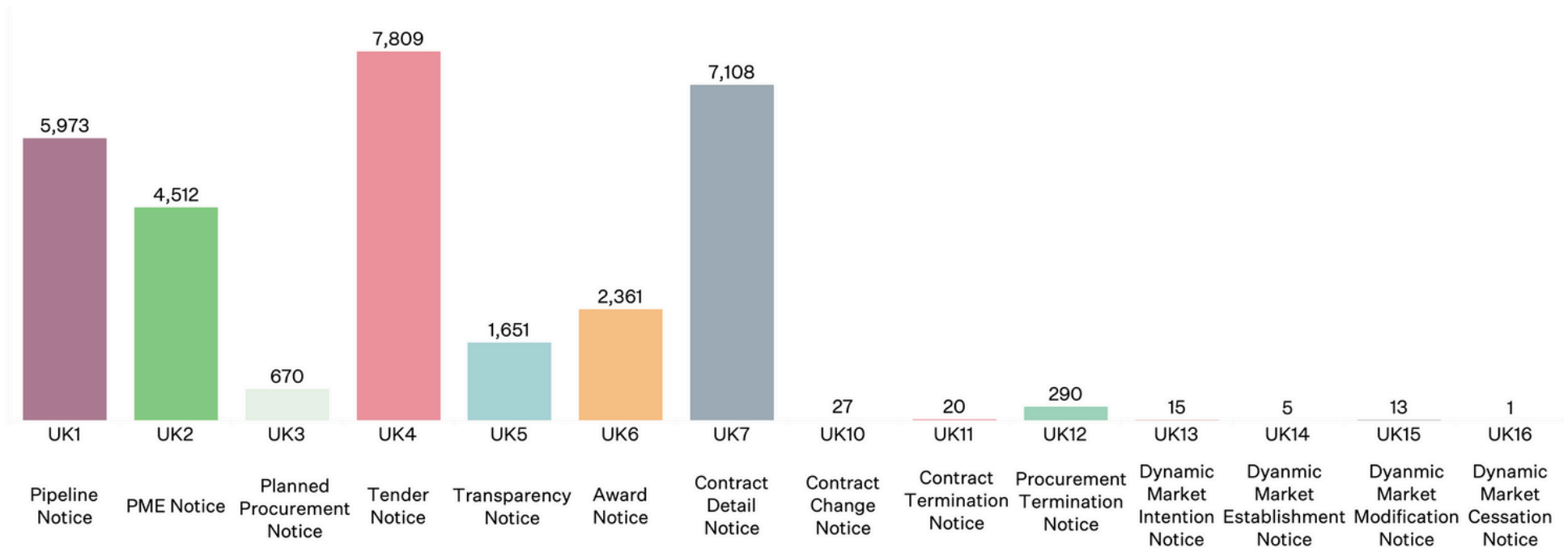
3

The public sector is embracing new tools for social value

Buyers are increasingly reserving contracts for SMEs, VCSEs and local firms - though uptake varies widely by region.

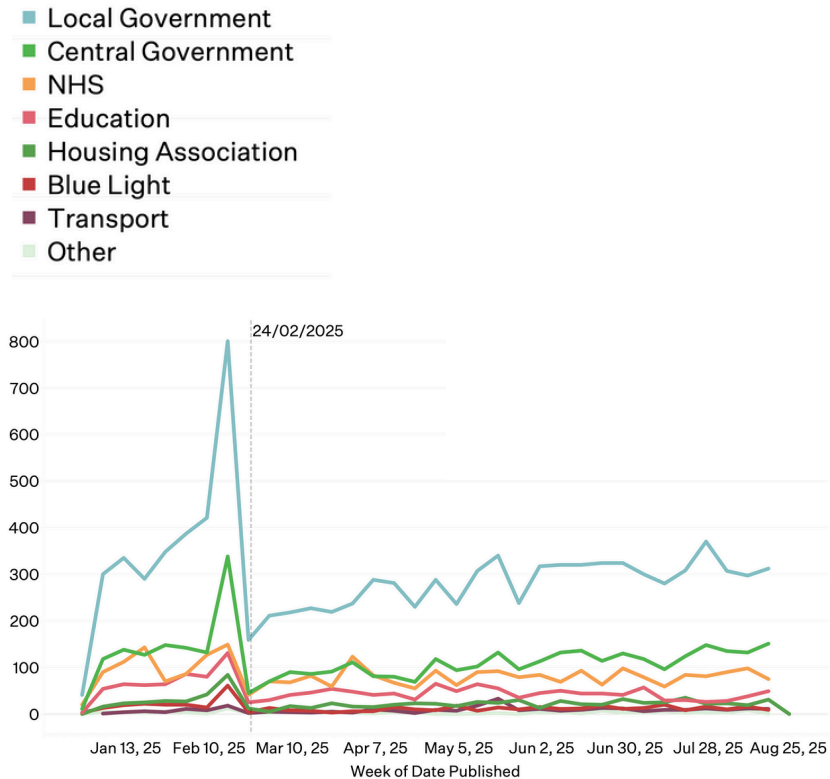
PROCUREMENT ACT - GENERAL ADOPTION

Buyers are making use of all new notice types - particularly early engagement notices. *Over 11,000 UK1, UK2, and UK3 notices have been published so far.*



Volume of FTS notices published, by UK notice type, 24th February - 24th August 2025

PROCUREMENT ACT - GENERAL ADOPTION



Volume of all notices published each week by
buyer type, 1st January - 24th August 2025

Some verticals are publishing fewer notices than before the Procurement Act

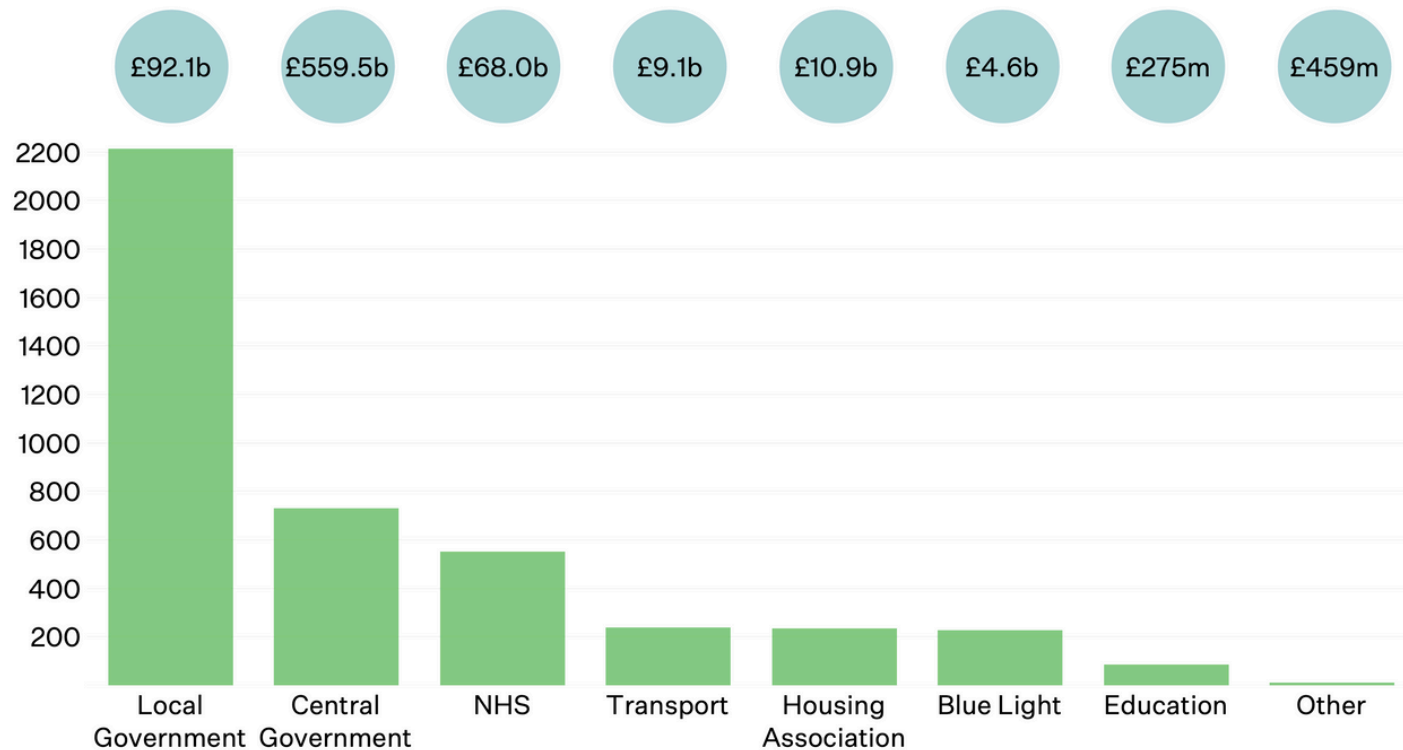
With more than a dozen new notice types, the overall number of published notices should be rising. Yet in some verticals - such as education - fewer notices are being published than before the Act went live.

So what?

Low publishing rates may signal non-compliance. Alternatively, are buyers deterred by the complexity of the new regulations, and holding back from publishing voluntary or below-threshold notices?

UK1 - PIPELINE NOTICES

Local Government has published the most Pipeline Notices, while Central Government leads on value.



Volume and value of pipeline notices, by buyer type, 24th February - 24th August 2025

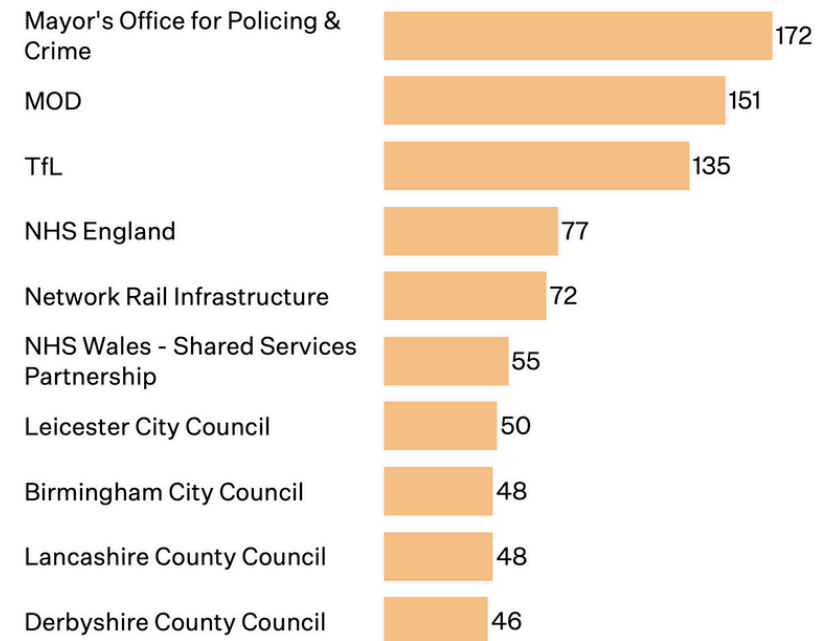
Ten buyers have each published over 45 distinct Pipeline Notices

The top Pipeline Notice publishers span multiple verticals - including Blue Light, Transport, Central and Local Government, and the NHS - serving as strong examples of cross-government compliance.

So what?

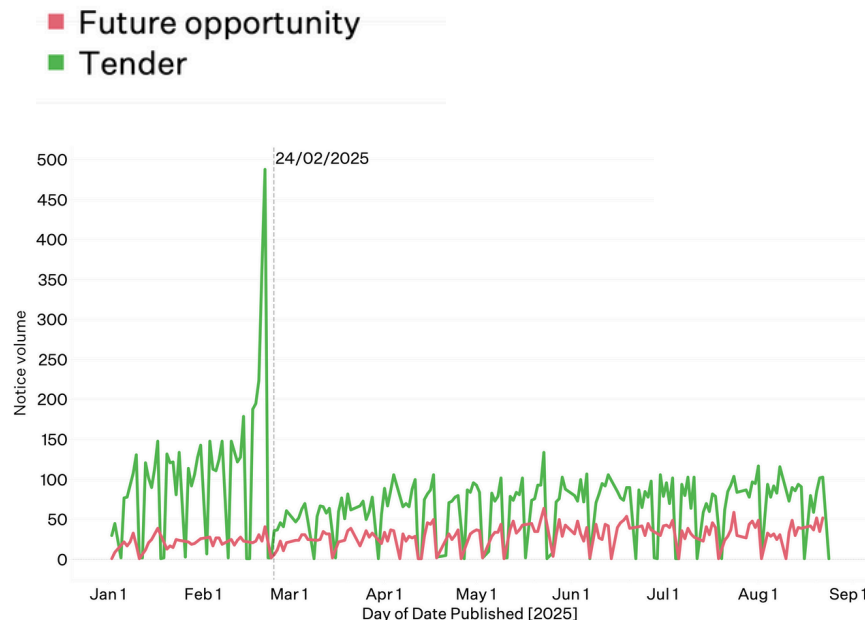
For buyers, these authorities set the benchmark. For suppliers, they highlight priority accounts. *Want to attract stronger bids?* Engage the market early - just as these buyers do.

UK1 - PIPELINE NOTICES



Top 10 contracting authorities by volume of pipeline notices, 24th February - 24th August 2025

UK2/3/4 - TENDERS AND PRE-PROCUREMENT



Volume of all notices published each day by notice type, 1st January - 24th August 2025

**Future opportunity is measured as the combined total of UK2, PIN, and UK3 Notices published*

The volume of tender notices remains below pre-Procurement Act levels

After a sharp spike in tender notices ahead of the Procurement Act's go-live date, volumes crashed - and are yet to fully recover. Is this down to rising framework use, greater service bundling, or another factor entirely?

So what?

While tender notices have fallen, the volume of future opportunity notices has risen - a positive sign of increased transparency for prospective suppliers.

The Competitive Flexible Procedure is being used in 6% of tenders

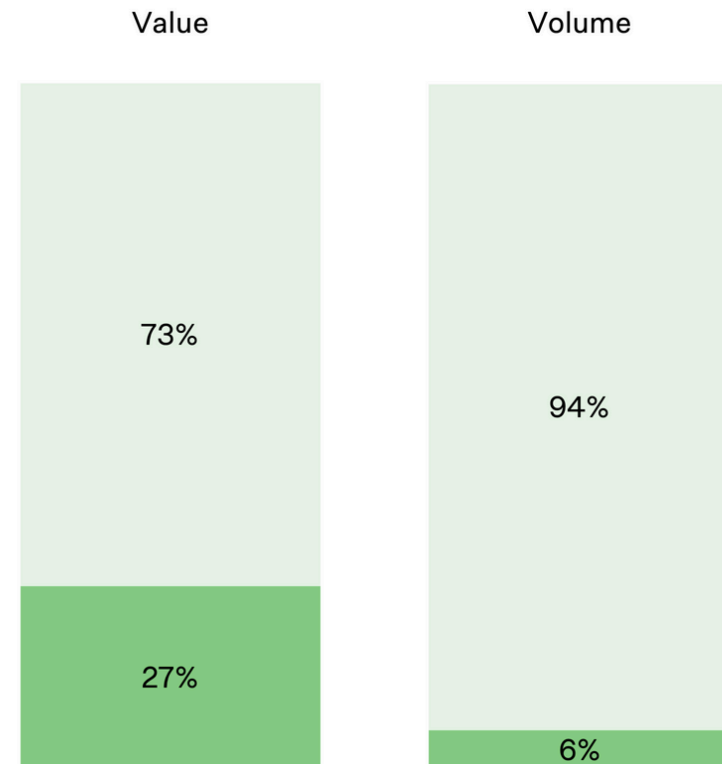
By value, however, the share jumps to 27%, driven by outsized use in large procurements and framework awards.

So what?

The Competitive Flexible Procedure (CFP) offers buyers the ability to add a negotiation stage to procurements - a potential game-changer for cash-strapped buyers. ***Want to negotiate from a position of strength?*** [Tussell](#) helps you benchmark spend and understand the market inside-out.

PROCUREMENTS & AWARD CRITERIA

Other
CFP



Volume and value of tender notices published on FTS, by procedure type, 24th February - 24th August 2025

Meet our research team.

The brains behind Tussell - and the latest asset to your procurement team.

Trusted by government departments, leading think tanks, and major suppliers, our in-house data analysts **know the UK procurement landscape inside out.**

Their expertise is your advantage.

Whether it's custom reporting, exportable dashboards or data-driven insights, they're here to help you **act with confidence - saving you time, money and risk.**

[Get in touch with our team](#) to learn more.

"It's really great to work with a supplier who is so responsive to our queries. We love working with Tussell" **Senior Policy Adviser @ UK Central Gov't Department**

Tussell is trusted by:



National Audit Office



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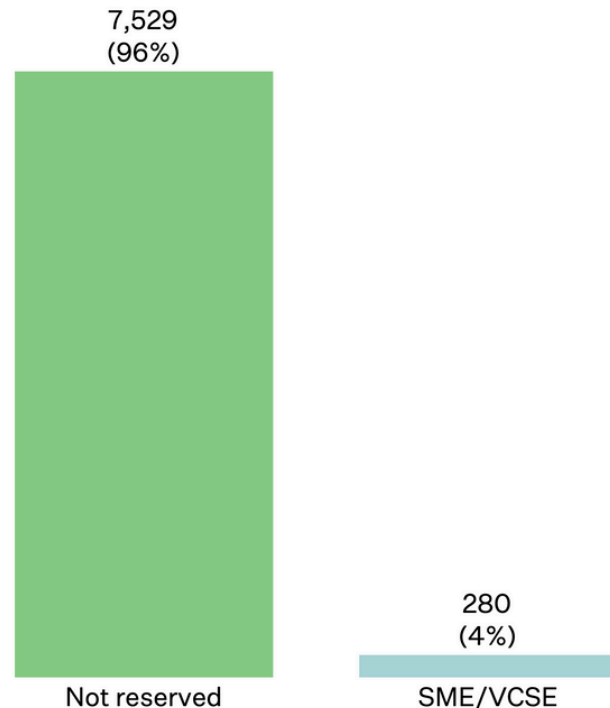
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SOCIAL VALUE



Volume of FTS notices reserved for SMEs or VCSEs, 24th February - 24th August 2025

4% of procurement notices are set aside for VCSEs or SMEs

Buyers are beginning to make use of powers to reserve contracts for SMEs and VCSEs.

So what?

Since 2019, Central Government and NHS SME spending has stagnated. Set-aside contracts could be the key to meeting new SME and VCSE targets. *Want to benchmark your own SME and VCSE spend?* [Book a chat with the Tussell team.](#)

Contracts are being reserved for local firms - particularly in Yorkshire.

2% of notices relate to contracts or opportunities set aside for firms based in specific regions. Increased use of this mechanism could be a powerful industrial strategy for regional development.

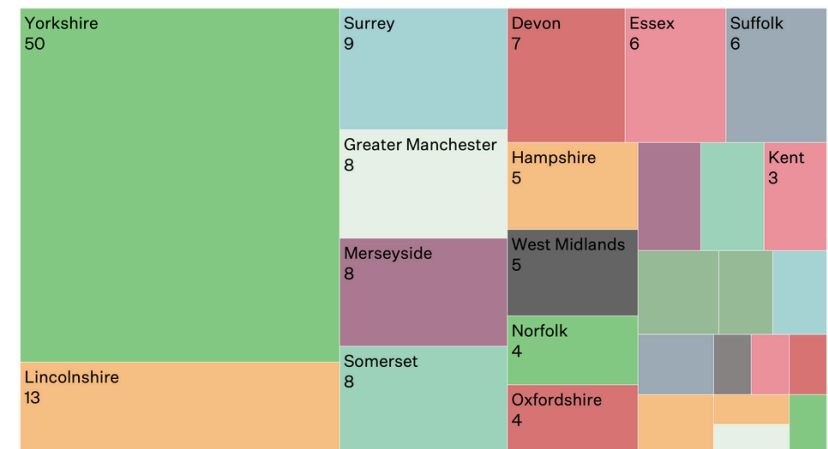
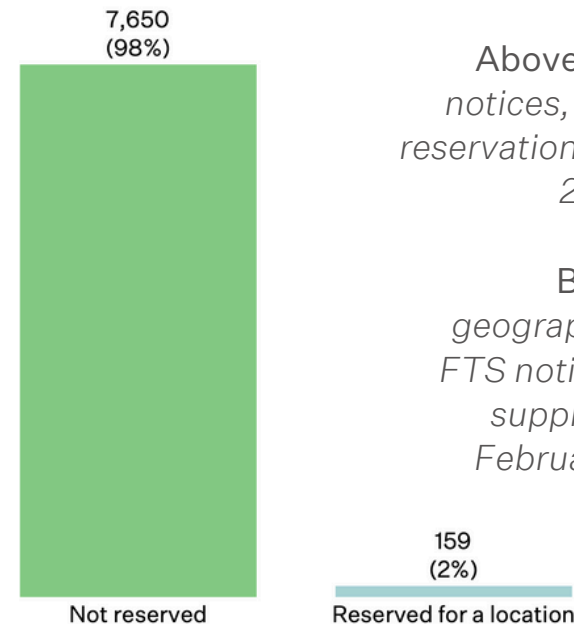
So what?

In the UK, 43% of local authority spend goes to locally based firms. Expanding set-asides could boost in-region procurement in lagging areas such as the East Midlands.

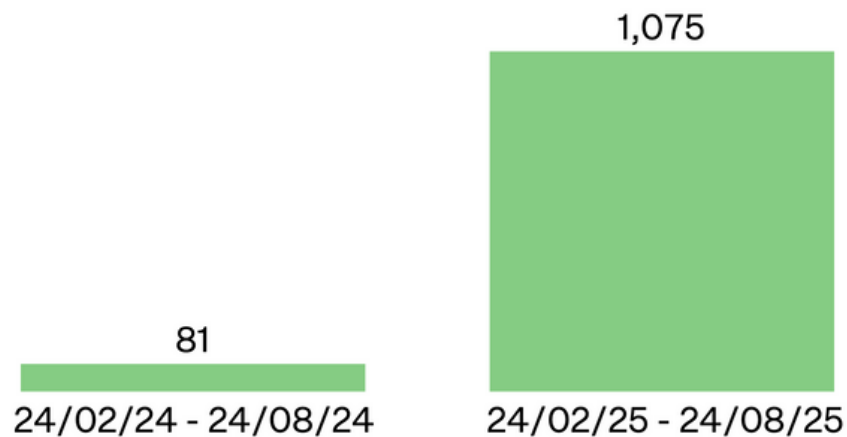
SOCIAL VALUE

Above: Volume of FTS notices, by geographical reservation, 24th February - 24th August 2025

Below: Volume of geographically reserved FTS notices, by reserved supplier location, 24th February - 24th August 2025



SOCIAL VALUE



Volume of notices that mention 'social value' in the award criteria section on the tender notice, 24th February - 24th August 2025 vs same period in 2024.

Social value is a growing priority

The National Procurement Policy Statement and the new Central Government Social Value Model have put social value back at the centre of procurement discussions, after the term was omitted from the Procurement Act itself. In the first six months since the Act went live, mentions of social value in the award criteria section on tender notices have risen more than tenfold compared with the same period last year.

So what?

Social value matters: use [Tussell](#) to benchmark your social value spending, and build actionable plans to improve.

FRAMEWORKS

Notice Title	Contracting Authority	Date Published	Notice Value
G-Cloud 15	CCS	15/08/2025	£9.6b
FM Minor and Renewals Works and Services Framework	TfL	07/03/2025	£240m
Framework for Applied Science Technology Engineering Requirements (FASTER)	Met Office (DSIT ALB)	13/05/2025	£32m
Training & Development	East Of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub	03/03/2025	£10m
Connect to Work	Lincolnshire County Council	25/02/2025	Null
Market Engagement Event for Building Works Open Framework	Wythenshawe Community Housing Group	11/03/2025	Null

Examples of UK2 (PME) notices that refer to 'open frameworks' or 'dynamic markets'

PME Notices are being used to signal new frameworks

Frameworks are often criticised for shutting SMEs, VCSEs and newer firms out of the market. However, the Procurement Act introduces new mechanisms to reduce this risk:

- Dynamic Markets and Open Frameworks create more entry points for suppliers - especially valuable for fast-growing, smaller firms.
- PME notices can be targeted at SMEs and VCSEs to gather input on new framework agreements, helping shape them in ways that reduce exclusion and encourage wider participation.

Turning these insights into action

What have we learnt about the first 6 months since the Procurement Act 2023 went live?

- Since the Procurement Act came into force, some sectors have published fewer notices - raising questions about compliance and buyer confidence. To stay compliant, **make sure you know exactly what to publish, and when.**
- Tender volumes fell sharply after the Act and remain below pre-Act levels - the key question is why. Remember: buyers can still voluntarily publish tender notices, even when not required. **Greater transparency attracts more bids, giving procurement teams more leverage to negotiate** and secure the best contractor possible.

- Large contracts and frameworks are driving adoption of the Competitive Flexible Procedure, now cited in 6% of tender notices. As teams gain confidence with this new approach, **consider adding a negotiation stage** to secure the best possible deal from suppliers.
- Social value is rising up the agenda - from reserved contracts for SMEs, VCSEs and local firms, to explicit mentions of social value in FTS notices. Tip: **The first step in boosting spend with SMEs and VCSEs is benchmarking your current position.** *Not sure how? [We can help.](#)*
- Preliminary Market Engagements (PMEs) are increasingly being used to shape frameworks. Remember: **buyers can restrict PMEs to SMEs only** - a powerful but often overlooked tool to help you consult smaller suppliers and design frameworks that SMEs are more likely to bid for.

[Make smarter procurement decisions with Tusnell.](#)

Make smarter procurement decisions with tusnell^o

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Compare every framework, dynamic market, and DPS

Find live frameworks in your category you can use right now

Discover how others are procuring in your category

Benchmark your SME, VCSE and local spending, and make data-driven plans to improve it

Benchmark your spending against neighbouring authorities

Find opportunities for joint procurement with your neighbours

Gain deep market insight, and demand better deals from suppliers

Discover SMEs, local firms, and VCSEs to work with

Turn complex data into clarity with fast, visual insights

Download Tusnell's market-leading data, or stream it directly into your favourite tools

Get expert support and tailored training from a hands-on team

The screenshot shows the tusnell Spend Data dashboard. The top navigation bar includes 'Tenders & PINs', 'Frameworks', 'Contract Awards', 'Spend Data' (highlighted), 'Buyers', 'Suppliers', 'My Hub', and 'My Account'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Data Table', 'Trend over Time' (selected), 'Trend by Buyer Type', 'Buyer Ranking', and 'Supplier ranking'. The 'Trend over Time' view displays a bar and line chart showing spend from 2018 to 2023. The y-axis ranges from £0 to £370M. The x-axis shows the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. A line graph shows a steady increase in spend over time. A 'DOWNLOAD SPEND DATA' button is visible. Below the chart, there is a table with columns: Buyer, Supplier, Supplier City, Supplier Country, Total transactions, and Total value. The table shows three rows of data.

Buyer	Supplier	Supplier City	Supplier Country	Total transactions	Total value
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What procurement teams say about Tussell

"We've just done in 10 seconds what we would've spent half a day researching."

Head of Commercial Infrastructure @ County Council

"I have been using the Tussell platform a lot recently - specifically to research frameworks - and I have found this tool to now be invaluable."

Senior Procurement Officer @ District Council

"It's like a crystal ball, having all this information in one place."

Assistant Procurement Manager @ County Council

"It's really great to work with a supplier who is so responsive to our queries. We love working with Tussell"

Senior Policy Adviser @ UK Central Government Department

Discover why the rest of the public sector are already using Tussell's market intelligence

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