

# Procurement Act & Delta – FAQs for Customers

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## Key information

- Official name of the Act is ‘Procurement Act 2023’.
- Go live date is now 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Act includes two main changes which form the CDP:

- Buyer/supplier registration
- New forms/notices

## Delay

### What's happening with the delay?

- Procurement Act implementation date delayed
- 28th October 2024 -> 24th February 2025
- No other changes
  - Any procurements intended to use new rules will have to wait until the new date
  - Alternatively, authorities can continue up until then with the current rules

### What does this mean for Delta?

- We will be moving forward with compliance changes, as planned
- We have an opportunity to implement additional features (quick call awarding, data re-use etc.)
- Details of plan and revised timelines to be shared soon

## Supplier/Buyer Registration

### Do my organisation or my suppliers need to do anything with the CDP?

As part of the Procurement Act 2023, all suppliers to the public sector and buying authorities will be required to register with the buyer/supplier register part of the Central Digital Platform (CDP). Suppliers will be required to do this before they respond to any opportunities. When suppliers and buyers register their information within the CDP, they will be able to share this data with Delta.

### How will the new Buyer/Supplier information service interact with Delta?

Within Delta, suppliers will use a unique code to pull their information from the CDP into Delta when responding to an opportunity. This links the supplier in Delta to the supplier's CDP information and populates their basic information in Delta eSourcing. As of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, all suppliers and buyers must be registered on the CDP. This is mandatory.

### What about the new debarment list?

The government is also introducing a new debarment list which will contain information about whether a supplier has been 'debarred' – meaning that they have been barred from public procurement for a period (mandatory debarment) or that contracting authorities can exclude the supplier at their discretion (discretionary debarment).

This system will exist separately from the CDP, and therefore a supplier's debarment status will not be able to be automatically populated within Delta.

## New Forms/Notices

### What is changing regarding forms/notices and how will this impact Delta?

A selection of new forms/notices are being introduced as part of Procurement Act 2023. These will be used for new procurements that start on or after 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. These cover a lot of the same information that was required for the current PCR 2015 forms, However, there are differences and new steps in the procurement process. In general, there are fewer forms under the Procurement Act, but each form requires more detail. Contracting authorities in Scotland with devolved functions will continue to use the current forms

### Should I be using the new Procurement Act 2023 forms, or the current forms?

- Current forms in the UK are known as PCR 2015.
- These will continue to be used for any procurement started before 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- Any procurement started on or after 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 will use the new Procurement Act 2023 forms.

### Will the new forms replace the Standard Questionnaire?

Buyers and suppliers must register their details on the Central Digital Platform to participate in public sector work. This data will mostly (but not entirely at first) replace the current SQ. Immediately following 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 there will be a temporary SQ to be used alongside the new CDP integration. This is government mandated.

### Will the current PCR 2015 forms still be available on Delta?

Yes – these will continue to be available. They may need to be used for procurements that started before the Procurement Act came into force, or for procedures such as PCR or non-public sector work and by Scottish contracting authorities with devolved functions.

### How will the new forms/notices link to the new enhanced FTS?

Similarly to how Delta currently works with FTS. Forms/notices will be completed within Delta and published on FTS via an API, if the user selects to do so.

### What forms will be available and when?

The rollout of the new notices is in multiple phases, as set by the government.

#### **Forms available from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 are as follows:**

- UK2 preliminary market engagement notice
- UK3 planned procurement notice
- UK4 tender notice
- UK5 transparency notice
- UK6 contract award notice

- UK7 contract details notice
- UK10 contract change notice
- UK11 contract termination notice
- UK12 procurement termination notice
- UK13 dynamic market intention notice
- UK14 dynamic market establishment notice
- UK15 dynamic market modification notice
- UK16 dynamic market cessation notice

**Forms available at a later date are:**

- UK1 pipeline notice
- UK8 contract payment notice
- UK9 contract performance notice
- UK17 payments compliance notice

## Will the new notices be linked?

Where possible, notices will re-use information that has already been input in previous forms to reduce duplicate work. The system will guide users where possible into the correct order in which forms should be used through the stages of the procurement process and make this as easy as possible.

## What about Contracts Finder after 25<sup>th</sup> February?

Contracts Finder will remain available to be used for below threshold notices for PCR 2015 procurements started before 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Existing API connections will remain available. For Procurement Act 2023 procurements, whether above or below threshold, will be done through FTS. The login system for FTS is being updated as part of the changes so all users will need a new login.

## Delta System Changes/Readiness

### Is Delta making progress in our development?

The Delta team is making good progress in preparing for the CDP's implementation. We are building all available new forms/notices into the system so that they are available to users when the Procurement Act comes into force.

We are also using the new API that is provided by the government to integrate our system with the buyer/supplier registration service. This will allow Delta to pull information into the system from the CDP quickly and easily.

## What system changes will affect Delta?

System changes will be made for both the new forms/notices, and the CDP supplier and buyer registration service integration. Further details of these changes will be shared in due course and there will be support through webinars and other helpful communications. There will also be system changes to enhance the user experience and make the transition as easy as possible for our users.

## Will Delta suffer downtime while these new changes are being activated?

Downtime will be required to make these changes; however, we do not anticipate this to be significant and, where possible, we will do this outside normal business hours.

## Training/Support

### Will there be a sandbox system available for all customers?

There are plans to provide early access to some of the new features that will be available in September 2024, with further access and features coming later in the month and into October. These early previews are not the finished product and therefore will be limited in their scope and purpose but will give customers an idea of how the new system and forms will work.

Details of this will be shared in due course.

### Will a sandbox be available after the go-live date?

There are no plans currently for a sandbox system to be available post go-live, however training materials and support will always be available.

### Will training be provided on the changes to the system?

Yes – this will be provided in the form of webinars and help materials. Technical support through the Delta helpdesk via phone and live chat will also be available as always.

## Frameworks

### How will Open Frameworks work?

Open Frameworks are being introduced as part of Procurement Act 2023.

- They can run for a maximum of 8 years.
- They must be re-opened throughout the term of the framework. It must be re-opened at least:
  - Once during the first three years proceeding the first framework award of the scheme.
  - **And** within five years starting from the award of the second framework of the scheme.
- There is no limit on the number of times they can be re-opened.

- There is no limit by law to the number of suppliers that can be added but contracting authorities may wish to impose their own limit.
- For the full flexibility of the framework to apply, there must be at least two suppliers.

