

UKUPC

UKUPC Update

October 2024

UK Universities Purchasing Consortia

General UKUPC Activity

Board

With summer a fond but distant memory, we look forward to a busy and productive autumn. UKUPC continues to drive value for our members through collaboration in all that we do.

UKUPC Strategy

The UKUPC Board met recently and made excellent progress in the development of our new Strategic Plan. Input from key stakeholder groups over recent months has provided clear direction of travel for UKUPC in the coming years. We want to:

- ensure that we target our resources to deliver a first-class service to our members;
- focus on the delivery of the best framework agreements, responsible procurement, value-added services including systems and data, and CPD opportunities.
- strive to be agile and listen to our members;
- ensure that we are there when you need us, now and in the future.

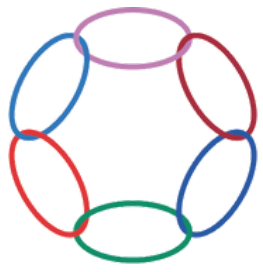
The sector is facing a challenging future and UKUPC has a role to play in how our members respond to those challenges.

Procurement Act 2023

We have been working on preparedness for the Procurement Act go live date. The recent announcement of the delayed implementation date to 24 February 2025 has given us all some breathing space. We are, however, still powering on with multiple projects to align our documentation and resources to ensure compliance, for us and for our members.

Staff update

We will be saying goodbye to Frank Rowell, NEUPC's CEO in November. Frank has been a key player in the success of UKUPC and will be greatly missed by us all. We wish him a long and happy retirement. We look forward to welcoming Rebecca Baxter who will be joining NEUPC as their new Managing Director in October.



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Joint Contracting Group (JCG)

The JCG has been discussing the pipeline progress of their key projects for the year ahead and for wider matters arising linked to recent PA23 delays.

It is positive to note that improvements linked to JCG's data quality for projects has improved over the summer period where 'milestone reporting', and 'timescale accuracies' have been enhanced by our UK teams.

Currently the group is hoping to meet and discuss their 'ways of working' protocols so that JCG members can align and refresh their approach once more. This work should also connect with future discussions covering how we continue to engage and communicate effectively across our current network.

The group chair Helen Dodd-Williams (NWUPC) and deputy chair Claire McCallum (APUC), have both stepped down from their current JCG roles, we would like to thank them both for their leadership and support in this important HE group, they will of course continue to attend and contribute as required. The new Chair and Deputy are now confirmed as Lorraine Whelan (NEUPC) and Jasbinder Sandhu (LUPC).

Systems

The main focus for the UKUPC Systems group is currently the migration of the English and Welsh Consortia from HEC to the Hunter Buyers Portal.

All framework data has been transitioned with documents loaded, accessibility permissions set and checked for all consortia, and ongoing work to check relevant supplier contact details are in place, and that information for snapshot reports and quick reference guides is available.

Testing has taken place by consortia staff on User Level 1 (Framework information only) and end user testing is currently being carried out by members on Level 2 (Procurement Staff level with reporting capability).



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Introductory Webinars for the new Hunter Buyers Portal

We are hosting two introductory webinars for all UKUPC Members designed to provide an overview of the portal and its key features. Each webinar will cover the following:

- Background and purpose of the platform
- Overview of the Hunter Buyers Portal system
- Explanation of the different user levels
- How to register for the Portal and access data
- Short Q&A section. Any questions not answered on the day will be replied to after the session.

We are offering two webinars to accommodate your schedules. You are welcome to attend either, regardless of your affiliated consortium.

- **Wednesday 16th October, 10:00 AM** – Co-hosted by NEUPC & NWUPC
[Register here](#)
- **Tuesday 22nd October, 2:00 PM** – Co-hosted by LUPC & SUPC
[Register here](#)

Each session will last no longer than 30 minutes, including a brief Q&A at the end. We recommend attending one of these sessions to familiarise yourself with the portal ahead of its official launch.

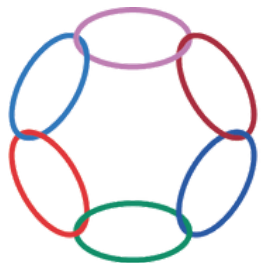
Hunter Training

Videos will be produced to cover any training alongside the user guide.

HE Contracts will run until end of December 2024 to allow a cross over period with Hunter.

HESCET & Scope 3

A further meeting with HEPA is planned but for 2023/24 reports the current dataset is to be used with updated conversion factors.



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Responsible Procurement

Responsible Procurement Network (RPN)

The RPN is working to further develop our strategic themes:

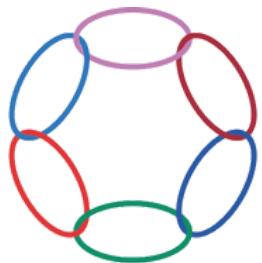
- *Social Value/Community Benefits*
Working on agreeing a standard methodology for identifying opportunities for social value/community benefit realisation in framework tenders, and supporting delivery at call-off.
- *MSMEs and 3rd Sector*
Reviewing UK policy requirements on access to opportunities for small and third sector businesses and initiatives already underway in the sector to support the development of a UKUPC MSMEs and Third Sector strategy.
- *Carbon Reduction*
Working on guidance and a comprehensive template to support suppliers in developing Carbon Reduction Plans.
- *Circular Economy*
Conducting research on sectoral use of circular economy aspects (Baseline and Gap Analysis).

Risk Matrix Review (Joint Project with HEPA & EUAC NRP)

Leads have been appointed for the task and finish groups for each of the four pillars:

- Social Compliance
- Working Environment and Terms
- Environmental Compliance
- Ethical Compliance & Economic Development.

The deadline for completing the risk classification is **20 December 2024**, with a view to releasing the updated matrix in the new year. Opportunities will be covered in the second phase.



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Electronics Watch

- UKUPC endorsed the Electronics Watch statement on the formation of the Apple, CISCO and Freedom of Association working groups to which we provide representation. This is a display of our ongoing commitment to actively advocate for and improve the rights of workers in our ICT supply chains. [Read the statement.](#)
on how public bodies are collaborating on supply chain responsibility in the ICT sector.
- UKUPC will participate in the Electronics Watch and Circular and Fair ICT Pact (CFIT) structured dialogue between public buyers and ICT hardware resellers on supply chain due diligence running between October 2024 to November 2025. The first event takes place online on 22 October from 13:00 – 15:00. Participation is open to public buyers.
- The Electronics Watch conference takes place 6-7 November 2024.
- A webinar was held on the Human Rights Due Diligence Maturity Matrix, a recording of the webinar and the model itself will be available for affiliates to access on the Electronics Watch website.

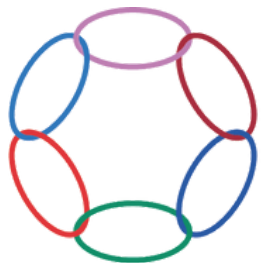
Communications

Main activity for the group includes collating and distributing this regular UKUPC Update, ensuring individual consortium communications applicable across UKUPC are communicated, and managing the UKUPC webinars.

UKUPC Quarterly Market Insight Documents - September 2024

The latest quarterly market insight documents were issued to members last month. The full detailed report, provided by the professional category leads across the university purchasing consortia, contains insight on what is happening in national and international supply chains. The summary report provides a high-level view of the key issues affecting each category. The summary may be read, and shared internally, alone or in conjunction with the full detailed market insight document.

Please contact your individual consortium for access to these reports.



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Webinars

We are in the process of putting together the next set of UKUPC webinars for our members. Upcoming webinars include:

Introductory Webinars for the new Hunter Buyers Portal (full details in the Systems section above)

Members are welcome to attend either session, regardless of your affiliated consortium.

- **Wednesday 16th October, 10:00 AM** – Co-hosted by NEUPC & NWUPC

[Register here.](#)

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UKUPC Training Webinar: Assessing Supply Chain and Procurement Risk

14 October 2024 13.00-17.00

Delivered by CIPFA, this webinar will cover:

- Basics of risk management
- Understanding the different types of Supply Chain & Procurement Risk
- Risk Identification
- Risk Assessment
- Using a Risk Matrix
- Analysis of Risk

[Register here](#)

UKUPC Training Webinar: Managing Supply Chain and Procurement Risk

16 October 2024 13.00-17.00

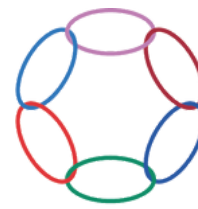
Delivered by CIPFA, this webinar will cover:

- Determining when risk may materialise
- Managing Risks - Before, During & After the Procurement Process
- Contract Monitoring & Enforcement
- Risk Mitigation
- Supplier Risk Management
- 'Break glass' crisis planning

[Register here](#)

Deputy Chair – UKUPC Comms Group

David McIntyre, Communications Manager at NWUPC, has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Comms Group to work alongside the current Chair, Suzanne Picken, Head of Membership, Marketing and Communications at LUPC



Transforming Public Procurement Activity

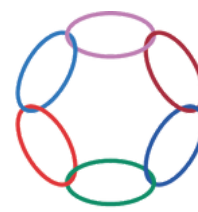
Process

On 12 September 2024 a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) was published in Parliament announcing that the new regime will go live on 24 February 2025, a short delay of four months from the previous go-live date of 28 October 2024. Existing legislation will apply until the new regime goes live and will also continue to apply to procurements started under the old rules.

A new National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) will now be developed. It is important the new regime commences with a statutory NPPS aligned to the Government's strategic priorities - creating a mission-led procurement regime which builds on the transformative powers within the Act, and which meets the challenge of applying the full potential of public procurement to deliver value for money, economic growth and social value. The Cabinet Office has released a **4-question survey** (2000 words max. per question) that will help shape the new NPPS. [Access the survey here](#). The survey closes on **midday 4 November**. Once completed, this new NPPS will replace the [National Procurement Policy Statement](#) which was laid in Parliament by the previous government on 13 May 2024 and which will now be withdrawn.

Framework Templates

UKUPC has continued to work with Brodies through the LUPC Legal Services Framework to produce new tendering templates and Framework Terms under the Procurement Act '23. These tendering templates will be for use by certain UKUPC partners in its framework activity. A scoping meeting has been held with all parties concerned where we await initial drafts and early discussions towards the end of October. Due to delays linked to PA23 the work will be phased around more sensible timelines to ensure that the most effective and updated set of templates are produced in line with the new legislation and practical application of the forthcoming policy statement.



People

Procurement Pathway Toolkit

The Cabinet Office (CO) has built a new tool, co-designed with central government departments, that brings together Procurement Policy Notes (PPNs), Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR), Procurement Act 2023 (PA23), commercial Playbooks and a suite of standard procurement templates; aligned to commercial stages across the end-to-end lifecycle.

[The Procurement Pathway toolkit is available here](#)

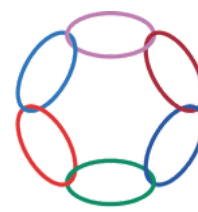
The Procurement Pathway (the 'tool') will be public-facing and signpost to existing commercial information, for which CO is responsible, published on GOV.UK. The tool is designed to complement, not replace, existing departmental toolkits.

Systems

Updates from the Commercial Government team have said the forthcoming Central Digital Platform continues to be developed with good progress being made supported by lots of testing.

We note that several Procurement portal providers are also beginning to engage proactively to run through their PA23 plans and share the progress that they have all made on their own portals.

The Central platform team have discussed the registration process recently where all contracting authorities will need to register on the enhanced 'Find a Tender' section before they can share any notices or update any tender information. They will be issued with their own unique Public Procurement Organisation Number PPON, suppliers in turn will also need to register before they can respond to bids, they will also be issued with their own unique. There will be more than one administrator allowed for each registering organisation so that you will have cover as the system rolls out. We have been advised that digital testing is taking place and roll out of the registration process will be phased to ensure mass registration does not occur in one tight timeline, but more likely to be over a number of weeks.



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Suppliers

UKUPC is working on a suite of guidance documentation to support our collective supply base. The guidance that will be made available includes:

- Transforming Public Procurement - The Changes and Benefits (including terminology)
- Transparency Through Notices
- Ensuring standards – Exclusion Grounds and Debarment
- Practical Application of the new Procedures, How to Tender
- Support for SMEs & VCSEs, How to Tender
- Contract Management

The first step we are taking is to write to our suppliers to introduce the topic and explain the reasons for the changes. This email will include links signposting suppliers to the Cabinet Office guidance that is available to them as well as to the resources on the consortia websites.

The guidance materials will be made available to members to utilise through this UKUPC update over the coming months and, should you wish, you can use [this letter template](#) to send to your non-framework suppliers, modified for your own purposes.

Communications/Events

Due to the postponement of the implementation date for the new Procurement Act 2023 to 24 February 2025, the final webinar in the UKUPC Procurement Act Webinar Series, Social Value in the Procurement Act, has been postponed until 11 December 2024. **[Register here](#)**



Webinar	Date	Delivered by	Booking link or recording
The Procurement Act 2023: Planning for the main impacts	18 March	CIPFA	Access the recording Download the Slides
Procurement Pipelines and Contract Management Requirements in the new Procurement Act 2023	30 April	Browne Jacobson LLP	Access the recording Download the slides
The new Notices regime in the Procurement Act 2023 – obligations, risks and opportunities for Authorities	14 May	Mills & Reeve	Download the recording
Procurement Act 2023: Spotlight on the selection stage	27 June	Eversheds Sutherland	Access the recording Download the slides
Balancing direct award and transparency under the Procurement Act	11 July	Veale Wasbrough Vizards	Access the recording Download the slides
Social value in the Procurement Act 2023	11 December	Weightmans	Register here