

Procurement

Supplier Information & Guidance

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Supplier Information & Guidance

Our Approach to Procuring Goods and Services

We procure a diverse range of goods, services and works, with spending ranging from large to smaller projects. Below is information on how we allocate our funds and how potential suppliers can submit bids for opportunities.

Our goal is to achieve value for money, which means balancing quality, cost and social value over the life of a purchase.

We strive to collaborate with suppliers in:

- An open and transparent environment
- Clear communication of expectations and objectives
- Establishing clear standards for all parties involved.

Our Procurement Process

The type, value and complexity of a contract determines the appropriate tender process. We ensure all necessary information is provided for the procurement process and allow suppliers sufficient time to prepare their bids.

For high value or complex contracts, we encourage suppliers to work in partnership through collaborative and joint bids. This collaborative approach can enhance their chances of securing work. Whenever possible, we prioritise working with local and Welsh suppliers. This approach aims to support local business, foster skills development, and deliver additional benefits to the community.

Spend Thresholds

Contract decisions typically follow these competition guidelines:

Estimated Contract Value (inclusive of VAT)	Our Approach
Up to £3,000	Obtain 1 quote
£ 3,001 - £5,000	Obtain 2 quotes
£ 5,001 – £29,000	Obtain 3 quotes
£ 30,000 - £139,688	Formal tender via Sell2Wales / Framework
£139,688 and above	Formal tender via the Central Digital Platform on Sell2Wales

Work With Us

Social Care Wales welcomes bids from all suppliers, including SMEs and local businesses.

As a Government Sponsored Body within the Welsh Public Sector, we operate under the guidance of **The Procurement (Wales) Regulations 2024** and adhere to **The Wales Procurement Policy Statement (WPPS)**. Additionally, we comply with the **UK-wide Procurement Act 2023**, which takes effect on 24 February 2025.

In accordance with these regulations, all contract opportunities valued at £30,000 or more (inclusive of VAT) are always publicly advertised on the Sell2Wales platform.

Contracts Register

Please follow this link to view our contracts register:

Frequently asked questions

What is Sell2Wales?

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An information source and procurement portal set up by the Welsh Government, for further details please see <u>About us – Sell2Wales</u>. Following the introduction of the Procurement Act Sell2Wales will more widely be referred to as the Welsh Digital Platform (WDP).

How can I search for and bid on contract opportunities with Social Care Wales?

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To receive tender alerts and proceed to bid on opportunities of interest suppliers must be registered on both the Welsh Digital Platform (Sell2Wales) and the Central Digital Platform (CDP). The CDP is a UK Government platform introduced on 24 February 2025 in line with the Procurement Act 2023.

Who should I contact if I have a question about a Social Care Wales tender opportunity listed on Sell2Wales / WDP?

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All necessary details regarding the tender specification and submission instructions will be provided in each individual tender pack, which suppliers will be able to download from Sell2Wales/WDP after registration.

If you have any questions after reviewing the tender pack, you can submit them through the Sell2Wales/WDP question and answer portal designated for that tender and a member of the Social Care Wales procurement team will respond to you.

Please note that any question submitted will be anonymous but visible to all other suppliers who have expressed interest in the opportunity. This is to ensure a transparent and fair process, so sensitive or confidential information should not be included.

Can you provide assistance with creating our tender bid?

To maintain fairness and avoid giving any supplier an unfair advantage, we are unable to provide support or guidance on creating your tender bid. However, we recommend contacting <u>Business Wales</u>, which offers free services of this nature.

If I'm bidding on a Welsh tender opportunity within Sell2Wales/WDP, why do I also need to be registered on the UK Central Digital Platform (CDP)?

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Sell2Wales/WDP is integrated with the CDP, which serves as a central repository for all public sector procurement notices across the UK. Tender opportunities on Sell2Wales/WDP are often automatically fed into the CDP to ensure a unified and accessible procurement framework. By registering on the CDP you streamline the submission process for tenders that may require interaction with both platforms. Suppliers will also need to register on the CPD to obtain a Unique Supplier ID and to upload their "core supplier information" (further details on these below).

What is a Unique Supplier ID, and why do I need one? Show

The Unique Supplier ID (USID) is a critical identifier that facilitates a streamlined and efficient procurement process for suppliers and contracting authorities. Contracting authorities must publish the winning supplier's USID on the Contracts Details Notice upon award of a contract identifying them across all UK public procurement activities, eliminating duplication and ensuring consistency in supplier records.

What is required under "core supplier information", why do I need to upload this to the Central Digital Platform (CDP), and how will it be used?

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Basic information will be required such as company details, economic and financial standing, connected persons and exclusion grounds. The requirement for suppliers to upload this information was introduced with Procurement At 2023 and allows buyers to extract supplier's information from the CDP. Once registered, suppliers can reuse this core information across multiple bids, streamlining the procurement process.

This new process will relieve suppliers from repeatedly completing lengthy Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) for each tender opportunity they bid on. Please note this process will only be used for above-threshold contracts. In Wales, PQQs will still be utilised for regulated below-threshold contracts.

Where can I learn more about the Procurement Reform?

We highly recommend watching the <u>Government-issued "Knowledge Drop"</u> <u>videos</u>, including the versions specifically tailored for suppliers and SME/VCSEs. These videos will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the upcoming changes in bitesize chunks.