New EU laws mean procurement rules for housing associations and public bodies are changing. Find out how Procurement For All can solve your compliance conundrum before it’s too late.
Countdown to compliance

Procurement rules for housing associations and public bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are changing.

From April 18, 2016, public sector bodies and housing associations will need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 under new European Union legislation.

It has been described as the biggest change to procurement law for 10 years, with the UK government adding its own changes to the new EU rules.

The new rules will apply to low-value work in the public sector that could be worth billions of pounds.

What’s New?

The new legislation at a glance:

- Contracts over the value of £25,000 are required to be published through the Government’s Contract Finder website.

- Contracts over the value of €200,000 (benchmarked against the pound every two years) will need to be published through the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU).

- Suppliers are now able to self-declare in the pre-qualification stage, with only the successful bidder tested for capacity and strength.

- The directives have also put a spotlight on conflicts of interest and have made it harder to exclude previous, poor performing contractors from the bidding process.

The law is designed to make public sector procurement faster, cheaper and more accessible, particularly to smaller businesses and voluntary or charitable organisations – however, it will also present significant challenges for the sector.
Why comply?

Procurement is becoming increasingly important in demonstrating VFM. The new EU directives were announced after 160 associations were warned by the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) to improve the way they demonstrated value for money (VFM).

It is important that housing associations are compliant with the new EU legislation when the law comes into effect in April 2016. Ineffective management of risk in procurement may lead to regulatory challenges over governance.

Let’s get you compliant

In response to the new legislation Procurement For All has launched its free procurement health check.

We will work with housing associations and public sector bodies to ensure you have processes in place to meet the new requirements in time.

For more information call our team on 0300 555 0304 or email info@procurementforall.co.uk

How will the new rules affect housing associations?

One benefit should see housing associations getting better value from their contracts by advertising them more widely.

But there will be more paperwork and more pressure on procurement teams and back office staff at a time when resources are already being stretched.

Under the old procurement rules small contracts could be awarded to preferred suppliers that organisations had been using – in some cases for decades. Under the new legislation, housing associations or other public-sector contracts worth more than £25,000 will have to be advertised through the Government’s Contracts Finder website.

That means many associations are having to re-evaluate their procurement processes, which could require a major investment in new staff and working practices for in-house teams.

How can we help?

Increasingly, housing associations are turning to consortia such as Procurement For All to solve their compliance conundrum.

All of our frameworks comply with the new legislation, giving you access to hundreds of suppliers from across the sector.

We currently offer a wide range of OJEU compliant framework agreements, covering asset investment, servicing and maintenance contracts.
About Us

Founded in 2005, Procurement For All is a dedicated procurement solutions provider.

We pride ourselves on providing value for money for our members, working closely with them to ensure they get the most from our services and our collective purchasing power.

Over the last ten years we have saved our 21 social housing members in excess of £36 million and delivered more than 70 contracts across our national frameworks.

We currently provide OJEU compliant frameworks, covering property and construction related services:

- Cyclical Decorations
- Materials Supply Chains
- Day to Day Reactive Maintenance (Supply and Labour)
- Day to Day Reactive Maintenance (Labour Only)
- Gas Auditing
- Gas Servicing and Maintenance
- Lift Maintenance
- Water Hygiene
- Asbestos Surveys and Removal
- Communal Mechanical and Electrical
- Domestic Electrical
- Planned Improvements
- General Build

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