



University Hospitals Sussex

NHS Foundation Trust

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21 February 2025

Dear Supplier,

Central Digital Platform registration needed

I am contacting you as you have been a supplier of goods, services or works to our Trust, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UH Sussex), within the last 12 months and we have important changes to share with you about how you do business with our Trust including steps for you to take now to be ready for these changes.

You may have heard that public procurement is changing from 24th February 2025 which is the date that the Procurement Act 2023 (PA 2023) comes into force. The rules that shape how public bodies, such as UH Sussex, buy goods and services will change. The PA 2023 will improve and streamline the way procurement is done and benefit prospective suppliers of all sizes, particularly small businesses, start-ups and social enterprises.

If your business supplies goods, works or services to organisations in the public or utility sectors – or hopes to do so in the future – you need to know about the changes. This includes supplying to government departments, the NHS, local authorities, universities, schools, social housing organisations, police and fire brigades and utility companies.

Key benefits for suppliers include more standardisation and streamlining of procurement processes - but there are also additional benefits in the Act such as requiring better oversight of procurement decisions and strengthening payment terms. Please see the [PA 2023 - Knowledge drops for Suppliers](#) to learn more about the PA 2023 and the benefits of the new legislative regime.

As part of the PA 2023 changes, a new Central Digital Platform (CDP) will be used to facilitate the publishing of required notices and documents in accordance with the new regulations. The central digital platform will be an enhancement of the existing Find-A-Tender service and will make it easier to find and bid for contracts, and for buyers to meet their transparency commitments under the Act.

The ambition of the CDP is that it will:

- Feature a simple registration and identification for both suppliers and buyers.
- Store suppliers' core business details that can be used for multiple bids.
- Enable easy management and updating of core information quickly, and shared easily between suppliers, eSenders and buyers.
- Make public procurement opportunities visible making it easier to search at no cost and set up alerts for tenders of interest for suppliers.
- Allow for procurement noticing throughout the procurement lifecycle.
- Capture procurement data and eventually allow creation of dashboards to analyse that data.

From 24th February 2025, the CDP will go live for suppliers to register on the Platform through <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/>. Please read through the attached Central Digital Platform Factsheet which will tell you what information you will need to have ready when you register. To ensure that UH Sussex is able to continue to use your business as a supplier to our Trust, please make sure you register promptly to avoid any delays to issuing of contract awards or purchase orders as well as providing you an opportunity to take part in competitive procurement processes.

Separate to the CDP, UH Sussex uses Atamis as our e-commerce system which is an approved e-Sender that is integrated with the Find-A-Tender website. If you have engaged in a competitive procurement process with the Trust, there is a high likelihood is that you will already be registered on our Atamis portal. For clarity, the CDP is different to Atamis and you will still need to register on the CDP. However, Atamis has confirmed that they are working on functionality that will allow supplier to have an ability to use automatic pre-population into Atamis of your supplier details which you enter into the CDP to streamline the tender process for suppliers.

The attached Factsheet also includes a link to sign up for updates from the Government Commercial Function through the Transforming Public Procurement (TPP) newsletter and you can contact procurement.reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk for any queries regarding the TPP Project and Central Digital Platform registration in particular.

Please also refer to our internet page for UH Sussex Procurement which will include further information including the question set required for the supplier registration on the CDP. If you have any queries which are specific to UH Sussex Procurement, please do not rely to this email but raise your question following this link: [PA 2023 Supplier Question](#) for one of our team to respond to you. Please do not use this form if you are experiencing issues in your registration on the CDP as this is centrally managed and we will not be able to assist.

Thank you in advance for registering on the CDP and embracing the digital transformation of public sector procurement, which will be a benefit to both of our organisations. You are a valued supplier to UH Sussex and we look forward to working with you in future opportunities to together serve our patients and our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMace'.

Savita Mace
Chief Procurement Officer
University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust

Attachment:
Central Digital Platform Factsheet