

Westminster Business Forum policy conference:
Next steps for public procurement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Timing: Morning, Monday, 16th November 2026
*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Latest developments and lessons learned from implementation of the Procurement Act 2023**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Evaluating procurement outcomes - assessing performance and value for money**
Simon Reason, Director, National Audit Office
- 9.40 **Assessing next steps for public procurement - embedding reform, supporting growth and improving outcomes**
implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 | priorities following the response to the Public Procurement: Growing British Industry, Jobs and Skills consultation | balancing economic growth objectives with competition, value for money and international procurement obligations | prioritising UK capability in strategic sectors including steel, shipbuilding, AI and energy infrastructure | supporting SME and VCSE participation through revised public sector spending targets and reducing barriers to market entry | strengthening supply chain resilience and supporting domestic capability | implications of wider supplier relationship reform, including prompt payment and SME protections | improving commercial capability, consistency and effectiveness across contracting authorities
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, advisory
Senior representative, SME
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **'CMA's work in procurement'**
Juliette Enser, Executive Director, Competition Enforcement and Markets, Competition and Markets Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 **Industry perspective on procurement reform - supporting infrastructure delivery, supply chains and economic growth**
Senior representative, industry
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Strategic approaches to digital transformation, embedding social value and managing evolving responsibilities**
embedding new transparency, reporting, supplier management and contract performance requirements | adapting procurement processes, systems and governance arrangements to meet revised obligations | definition of social value and stronger opportunities for the VCSE sector | practicalities of prioritising domestic sourcing throughout the procurement process | interpreting new duties and guidance, including proportionality, transparency and supplier engagement expectations | new requirements for public spending to support British jobs, skills and employment opportunities | managing transition from existing frameworks and procedures to new procurement arrangements | developing commercial capability, skills and organisational readiness to deliver effective implementation
Senior representative, social value
Senior representative, supplier
Senior representative, business
Senior representative, technology
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for procurement going forward**
Lindsay Maguire, Deputy Director, Procurement Reform, Cabinet Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum