

procurement *matters*



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Catch our framework supplier events

Are you looking for events to network and hear the latest industry updates and insights? Keep up with the latest events and webinars from us and our awarded suppliers across our categories.

Dates for your diary:

LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2024

Harrogate
Tuesday 2nd-4th July

The LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition is a must-attend event for senior representatives working in local and central government as well as senior colleagues from other public sector bodies, charities and business.

[SIGN UP](#)

Emergency Services Show

NEC Birmingham
Wednesday 18th-19th
September

This event will connect buyers and suppliers in a dynamic environment, fostering engagement, idea exchange, and relationship building for a successful procurement journey, empowering delegates to fully benefit from the transition.

[SIGN UP](#)

HCSA Annual Conference

Telford
Wednesday 13th-14th
November

This event is centered around the theme of "One NHS Procurement and Supply Chain." The focus is on addressing the challenges faced by the NHS and explores innovative approaches to ensure the delivery of quality healthcare services.

[REGISTER](#)

The Procurement Pulse

Online video series

Stay tuned for upcoming videos featuring in-depth discussions on cutting-edge initiatives in public sector procurement.

[VISIT HERE](#)

The changing face of education in the digital age



Research from a recent McKinsey survey, conducted in partnership with Microsoft, currently shows that teachers are working about 50 hours per week, and spending less than half of this time in direct interaction with students. On top of this, in the UK 81% of teachers are considering leaving teaching because of their workloads, highlighting the extra support they require.

Technology, when used correctly, can facilitate good teaching, but it will never replace teachers. Recent research shows that existing technology can help teachers reallocate 20%-40% of their time to activities that support student learning.

Technology supporting teaching

A key area where teachers can use technology to help give them back time to focus on their students is around planning. The McKinsey survey also showed that teachers spend an average of 11 hours a week preparing activities, it has been estimated that the effective use of technology could reduce this time by 6 hours. For example mathematical software packages, or a collaborative teaching platform can support teachers in automating their processes. As well as this there are writing software solutions that can look at trends across multiple essays to provide targeted student feedback that teachers can review and tailor.

With the world of technology constantly evolving, it is important that your educational organisation is aware of the developments to ensure staff are using their time as effectively as possible.

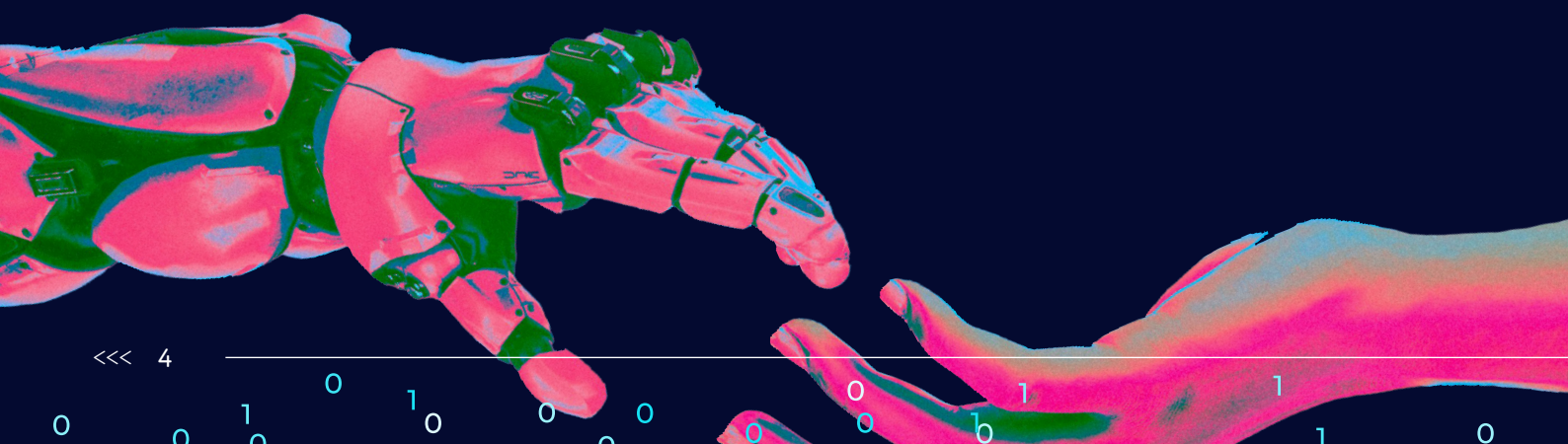
Using our **Education Management Systems framework**, we can ensure your school's core functions are running smoothly, so you can put your focus into the things which really matter and ensure your school isn't left behind in the digital revolution!

To find out more, click here:

[VISIT HERE](#)

Sources:

How AI can transform education for students and teachers | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)
Artificial intelligence in education: How will it impact K-12 teachers | McKinsey



Explore Sharp's new Virtual Showroom

Technology supplier Sharp has recently launched their new Virtual Showroom which lets you visit their interactive education and business 360-degree environments. Take a step inside and learn more about their products and solutions like IT services, audio visual equipment, managed print services, and much more.

The Virtual Showroom utilises augmented reality for enhanced product evaluation, allowing you to view their products in your own space.

Working collaboratively with Sharp, we have our very own Virtual Showroom, you can visit the products and services on our frameworks here.

[VISIT HERE](#)

Sharp is an awarded supplier on our [Audio Visual Solutions frameworks](#) and [Multi-Functional Devices & Digital Solutions frameworks](#).



OUR NEW SOFTWARE PRODUCTS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FRAMEWORK HAS LAUNCHED

This means that all public sector organisations can continue to compliantly procure a wide variety of software related products and services via our framework.

The framework covers the provision of a full range of software (including open-source software), essential hardware and associated services as well as support and maintenance for cloud based, on premise and hybrid solutions.

There are a variety of software products and associated services such as:

- Accounting systems
- Bespoke software solutions
- Commercial off the shelf software
- Microsoft products
- Operating systems
- Security software
- End user support
- Training

For more information about what the framework covers and how you can procure through our framework:

[VISIT HERE](#)





Is your organisation protected against ransomware?

Ransomware is one of the more insidious tools cybercriminals are using to compromise the public sector - now more than ever, it's vital to defend your business against attacks.

With our solution, you'll access the technology to proactively detect, react, and respond to threats, and recover with your data and reputation intact. Find out why over 500 public sector organisations decided to protect themselves with Ricoh's unique solution, [click here](#) to learn more.

Ricoh Cybersecurity experts are ready with intelligent solutions aligned to your hybrid working practices.

For a friendly chat and expert guidance, why not speak to our public sector cybersecurity lead via [Procurement Services](#)

We're here to help!

Ricoh is an awarded supplier on our

Multi-Functional Devices & Digital Solutions and Records Information Management frameworks.

RICOH
imagine. change.

Schools are paying thousands of pounds to meet the rising costs of contracts with private firms

According to a report from BBC News, some Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schools are locked into 25-30 year contracts with private sector investors, and charges are rising.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schools were introduced during the 1990s, with the primary idea behind PFI schools being that the private sector would fund the construction and maintenance of school buildings. In return, the private sector would operate under a long-term contract, typically spanning 25 – 30 years. The goal was to provide schools with new facilities and improve educational standards.

Under a PFI contract, the private contractor is responsible for building or refurbishing school facilities. The contractor also takes on the maintenance of these facilities over the contract period. PFI schools are subject to strict non-disclosure agreements, leaving headteachers with limited negotiation power. Charges for PFI schools can increase based on the Retail Price Index, a measure of inflation no longer used as an official government measure.

The challenge is that PFI schools are locked into lengthy contracts, making it difficult to negotiate terms or control costs, and when the contract ends, the maintenance responsibility shifts to the school. If the contractor hasn't fulfilled their obligations, the school can face financial consequences, and services provided by the contractor (e.g cleaning, catering, IT) can stop after the contract expires.

Since 2010, PFI charges have surged by 25% in real terms, leading to cuts in essential services and staffing.

Multiple schools are being impacted in high-pressure ways, by not being able to afford maintenance and essential practices that keep their school running and their students healthy and learning.

The Department of Education said they are increasing support for schools in PFI contracts by 10.4% in the coming financial year.

If your school is looking to compliantly procure goods and services to help meet budgets and standards for your staff and students, check out our frameworks:

OUR POPULAR FRAMEWORKS FOR SCHOOLS

Audio Visual Solutions (DfE approved)

Books, Downloads & Associated Services

Catering, Vending Machines & Water Cooler Solutions

Cleaning Services

Communications Solutions and Associated Telephony Services (DfE approved)

Education Management Systems (DfE approved)

Grounds Maintenance & Associated Services

IT Hardware (DfE approved)

Multi-Functional Devices and Digital Solutions (DfE approved)

Software Products and Associated Services (DfE approved)

Temporary and Semi-permanent Buildings

VISIT HERE



DfE approved
framework

Public health grant allocations announced for 2024/25



In February 2024, the Department of Health and Social Care officially announced the allocation of Public Health Grants to local authorities across the nation. This transparency allows for local authorities to prepare and plan how they can most effectively spend their funding.

With £3.603 billion worth of allocations being confirmed and split across the country, each

local authority has an important responsibility to have the highest impact with what they are allocated. The local authority with the highest allocation is Birmingham with £101,255,586, then Essex with £68,715,404.

With minimal funding available to provide essential services to all local communities, the importance of strategic and logical spending

becomes a priority.

Our frameworks ensure that all public sector organisations, including local authorities, are given a compliant and cost-effective route to procure a wide variety of goods and services. To find out more about how we can help your organisation:

[VISIT HERE](#)

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In response to the funding announcement, Chairman of the Local Government Association’s Community Wellbeing Board Cllr David Fothergill, said: “Although any real terms increase is positive news, this settlement continues to leave local public health teams with limited resources to maintain essential services such as sexual health services and specialist community public health nursing for the next year.”

© Public Health Grant allocations announced for 2024/25 | Public Sector News (publicsectorexecutive.com)

The Council for Net Zero Transport launched to support decarbonisation

A new body has been established to provide a strategic direction for road transport decarbonisation in the UK¹. Arranged by Zemo Partnership, the group will be headed by Lord Deben, former environment secretary and chair of the Climate Change Committee.

“With transport responsible for over a quarter of the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions, if we’re going to solve this problem, we have to effectively decarbonise transport.”

- Lord Deben



Is your organisation looking to contribute to the decarbonisation of transport?

You can start today by implementing electric vehicle charging points to enable more accessibility for electric vehicle drivers and therefore reduce greenhouse emissions.

To find out more about how you can compliantly procure electric vehicle chargers, visit our Electric Vehicle Charging Points & Associated Services framework:

[VISIT HERE](#)

Additionally, our Procurement Services Vehicles team can provide various options for your organisation and employees when it comes to leasing or purchasing vehicles.

To find out more: [VISIT HERE](#)

Or contact us at procurementservices@csltd.org.uk or call 0808 2819439

¹New body launched to help steer UK transport decarbonisation (fleetnews.co.uk)



Is your organisation looking to hire or purchase a fleet of vehicles?

Procurement Services is a national leader in fleet operations and can assist with any of your fleet and transport needs. We have experience in supplying to the public sector and pride ourselves on providing compliant, tailored solutions to fulfil every customer’s requirements.

Why use our vehicle services?

- Access to a comprehensive range of vehicles
- Electric/diesel/petrol/hybrid vehicle options available
- Access to a wide range of competitive vehicle hire suppliers
- Better value pricing
- Fully PCR-2015 compliant buying in line with UK and EU purchasing regulations
- Dedicated central point of contact
- Fully approved supplier network
- Full, free support throughout the lifetime of your contract

For more information about our vehicle services:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Contact us on procurementservices@csltd.org.uk or call 0808 2819439

Safeguarding health: tackling black mould and asbestos in social housing

Recent incidents in social housing have brought to light concerning issues surrounding black mould and asbestos, posing significant health risks to residents. Neglecting these hazards can lead to serious consequences, including respiratory problems and allergic reactions.

To help reduce the risks when exposed to mould and/or asbestos you can follow these steps:

- Using engineering controls including isolating the exposure source
- Wearing the correct PPE like respirators with a HEPA rated filter
- Wearing the correct clothing like disposable overalls when around asbestos
- Disposing of asbestos exposed clothing correctly ensuring it is double wrapped in heavy duty plastic bags with secured tape and kept damp
- Using only accepted asbestos waste centres/disposal sites to dispose of clothing
- Limiting exposure to both



Our framework can help.

LOT 1 of our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Associated Services framework.

This framework includes suppliers who can provide respirators and protective clothing, ensuring safety during inspections and remediation efforts.

To find out more about how this framework can benefit your organisation: [VISIT HERE](#)

Source/s: Black mold exposure: Symptoms, treatment, and prevention (medicalnewstoday.com)

Why is asbestos dangerous? (hse.gov.uk)

New data protection laws and what you can do to keep your organisation and employees safe

Various changes have been made to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill to ensure public sector organisations are protected, security is improved and fraud is prevented.

These changes include:

- Requiring data from third parties to reduce benefit fraud and save the taxpayer money
- Reassurance and support to families that any personal data will be protected in grievances
- Biometric data can be retained to support investigations on individuals who pose a threat

These new changes highlight the importance of data protection, and organisations must be ensuring they are doing everything they can to cover themselves.

A common example of data breaches within the workplace and when working from home is mislaying confidential documents and paperwork, which can include financial data, business plans, employee personal information, branding and marketing etc. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) law it is your organisation's legal obligation to protect all sensitive information.

If you breach GDPR your organisation can be fined a considerable amount, so to prevent this you can look at implementing a confidential waste disposal policy and an efficient shredding supplier to dispose of all confidential waste.

Confidential shredding helps to reduce the risk of employees making the wrong decision between shredding and recycling. Most shredding companies will recycle all paperwork they shred and allocate a Waste Transfer Note and Certificate of Destruction for your audit trail.

LOT 4 of our Waste Management Services framework helps you connect with our awarded suppliers who can dispose of confidential waste.

[VISIT HERE](#)

* Changes to data protection laws to unlock post-Brexit opportunity - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Why is Correct Waste Management Important? | Materials Recovery



“These changes protect our privacy and data while also injecting common sense into the system - whether it is cracking down on cookies, scrapping pointless paperwork which stifles productivity, tackling benefit fraud or making it easier to protect our citizens from criminals.”

Michelle Donelan Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology

Pause and prioritise: take a moment to move!

Working from home has many benefits including less commuting time, greater flexibility and better work-life balance. However, it is easy to get comfortable at your desk and forget to take breaks and move throughout the day.

Here are some small desk movements you can do throughout the day to make a big impact on your posture and energy levels.

1. Chair squat
2. Shoulder stretch
3. Calf stretch
4. Wrist and finger stretch
5. 20-20-20 eye stretch
(every 20 minutes look at an object at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds or longer)



Get a head start on flu season

Flu season in the UK is commonly reported to start around October time, so why is it important earlier in the year?

During flu season, sickness becomes a more common occurrence. This can lead to missed days and a reduction in employee productivity, which makes hitting deadlines and achieving goals more challenging than any other time of year.

Getting ahead of flu season and preventing illness early is the most reliable way to prevent your organisation from suffering when we get to the winter months. It is important to ensure that your organisation is prepared to protect your employees. With flu jabs available, organisations can support their employee's safety and improve their health and wellbeing during the most volatile time of year.

LOT 1 of our Employee Support Services & Benefits framework provides a variety of occupational health services to public sector organisations through our awarded suppliers, meaning that you can find the supplier to help protect your workforce.

To find out more about our framework and how it can benefit your organisation:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Fire services have issued a safety advisory regarding the danger of lithium batteries following an uprise in related incidents

The public have been informed about the risks associated with lithium batteries amid a notable increase in severe and fatal incidents nationwide.

Where are lithium batteries found?

Lithium batteries can be found in cars, bikes, scooters, laptops, phones, and e-cigarettes, amongst many other items.

According to the British Safety Council, there has been a particular concern around e-bikes and scooters batteries, after several UK deaths have been linked to fires caused by these.

To ensure your organisation is protected in these circumstances, check out our Fire Safety Products and Associated Services framework:

Chief Fire Officer Neil Odin said:

”

“We know e-bikes and e-scooters are becoming increasingly popular but in the last year HIWFRS (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Rescue

Services) has already attended 5 fires caused by lithium battery packs and 21 incidents since 2020. The large amount of energy found in these battery packs poses a huge fire risk, so we urge members of the public to ensure they take the necessary precautions.

“To help keep everyone in your family safe, don’t leave lithium batteries to charge unattended, don’t put them in the way of exits or in hallways and unplug chargers when the batteries are at full capacity.”

”

LOT1

Includes the supply, installation, maintenance and testing of lithium-ion battery fire extinguishers, providing you with that peace of mind should a lithium battery incident arise.

FIND OUT MORE

SOURCES

⁹ Fire Service issues safety warning over the dangers of lithium batteries after rise in incidents - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (hantsfire.gov.uk)
E-scooters and lithium batteries: the new fire risk for the workplace? | British Safety Council (britsafe.org)



Announcement!

WRAP resources to support the implementation of weekly food waste collection from households in England

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is a climate action NGO working around the globe to tackle the causes of the climate crisis and give the planet a sustainable future. They were established in the UK in 2000; and now work in 40+ countries.

WRAP has developed supplementary procurement guidance and standardised specifications to assist local authorities in procuring specialist food waste collection vehicles, food waste containers, and communal housings.

These resources aim to address barriers and maximise supply so that food waste collection services can be implemented without unnecessary delay.

Our Vehicle Purchase framework can support 7.5T and 12T food waste collection vehicles.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Our Wheelie Bins & Kerbside Recycling Containers framework can support your organisation under the requirement '5 and 7L food waste kitchen caddies, 23L kerbside caddies, and housings for communal bins'.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

To find out more and to download WRAP's Supplementary Procurement Guidance, and the accompanying standardised specifications visit "<https://wrap.org.uk/resources/guide/weekly-food-waste-collection-implementation-supplementary-procurement-guidance>" Weekly, today.



Transform your school with our digital solutions

We provide specialist account management for all your photocopier and MFD needs. The team provide an end-to-end service from quoting to invoicing, via our compliant Multi-functional Devices and Digital Solutions framework, giving access to market leading suppliers.

Meet the Team

Rebecca Weaving
Senior Account Specialist



Stuart Whitehead
Senior Key Account Specialist



Gemma Matharu
Account Specialist



Mike Newton
Account Specialist



Elohor Ogborokpa
Account Specialist



Rebecca Davies
Customer Support Assistant



Cameron Chambers
Account Specialist

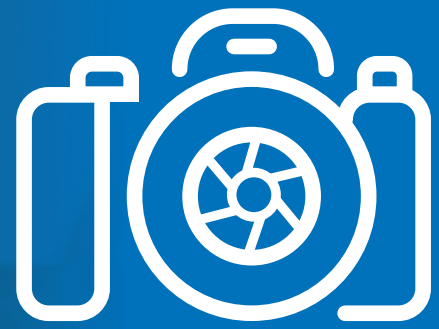


Hazel Greenslade
Account Specialist



Want to book a meeting with us?

VISIT HERE



NHS  *focus*

Our NHS in *focus* section highlights how our frameworks and services can support within the public healthcare sector.

Innovating Care: How our Frameworks Support Digital Transformation in the NHS

Digital transformation is an essential development for the public sector to undergo in order to keep up with growing demands and technological advancements in society. The NHS is no exception, and must rely on digital growth and transformation to benefit both internal and external communication and data recording.

According to The Guardian, NHS England plans to create a national patient database, with talk of a U.S firm, Palantir, being the provider of this database and the estimated cost being around £330 million.

These aspirations for digital transformation provide strong evidence that the NHS will be improving their digital ecosystem for the benefit of public health and data storage on a national scale, so how can your organisation ensure that you are prepared?

Through the use of our technology frameworks, public sector health organisations, including the NHS, can align and upgrade their software, hardware and ICT operations:

**ICT Managed Services
& Consultancy**

[CLICK HERE](#)

IT Hardware

[VISIT HERE](#)

**Software Products and
Associated Services**

[DISCOVER MORE](#)

Why is print management essential for your healthcare organisation?

In 2023, The Times newspaper accessed records for NHS England, which showed that hospitals spent more than £234 million on the storage of paper medical records in April 2022. As well as this, the average 1,500-bed hospital prints 96 million pages of paper each year, at a cost of £2.9 million.


With hospitals working to challenging budgets, healthcare organisations can't afford to waste time or money on inefficient printing issues, especially when every penny spent on printing could mean fewer resources available for the care of patients.

LOT 2 of our Multi-Functional Devices and Digital Solutions framework can help your healthcare organisation ensure the printers and photocopiers are working efficiently, and to their maximum capacity to benefit your organisation and prevent wasting money.

[VISIT HERE](#)





Read the full case study here 

MAXIMISING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION BENEFITS VIA AN INTEGRATED END-TO-END SOLUTION

“It’s easier to see associated symptoms and conditions, aiding decision-making throughout the patient journey; from consultation to diagnosis and treatment.”



CHALLENGE

This large NHS Trust wanted to digitise 184,000 patient records, optimising clinical efficiency and administration while creating a future capability for patients to view their records online.



SOLUTION

Delivering a fully integrated end-to-end EDMS and digitisation solution, Iron Mountain provides file collection, indexing, imaging and access to patient records via a secure platform that is fully integrated into the Trust’s EPR system.



RESULTS

Along with time and space savings and decreased risk of loss or inadvertent disclosure the Trust can drive more value from patient data through integrated case management, better decision-making and efficient digital workflows. Patients will also eventually benefit from remote access to records.



Full digitisation programme with a single provider



Automated PAS engagement, enabling pre-appointment scanning of legacy files



74 million digital images on target



Improved experience for clinicians and patients

Have you considered how the PSTN switch off might effect your medical environment?

What is the PSTN switch off?

As of 5th September 2025, all telecom companies in the UK are switching from the old analogue public switched telephone network (PSTN) to a fully digital network, where every phone line in the UK will be routing calls over IP (Internet Protocol).

Why be concerned with this now?

There could be a lot of changes for your healthcare organisation from the switch off. It is not just about calls, you'll need to review everything you are connecting to your phone lines, like door entry systems and alarms.

As well, the longer you take to make the change, the more you will get caught up in the rush. Many organisations are delaying making the switch until closer to 2025. This will result in cost increases due to the peak in demand of services. Don't cost your organisation unnecessary extra expenses and make the switch today.

How can we help?

Switching doesn't have to be difficult or scary. By using our Communications Solutions and Associated Telephony Services framework you can find the most appropriate, compliant solution for your healthcare organisation to easily procure your new IP telephony equipment.

Take a look at our framework here:

[DISCOVER MORE](#)





Leaders in the provision of procurement and contract management solutions to the NHS and wider public sector.

Our services help our customers achieve better value from their external spend, enabling them to reinvest the savings into frontline services.

Lifecycle has been providing value adding services in the NHS for 25 years and we have delivered hundreds of millions added in cash releasing savings.

Our focus has always been to deliver services that are aligned to our customers' needs, and we have evolved a bespoke set of services to support this.

Data-led planning and opportunity assessment: we take a holistic view of supplier spend, contract coverage, service requirements and market knowledge to identify areas of opportunity for procurement and end users.

Category expertise: we are experts in asset finance, asset maintenance, estates, facilities and IT software and hardware maintenance spend. Our skilled teams develop category-led procurement plans to deliver optimal value in these areas of spend.

Full-managed procurement: we work alongside in-house procurement teams and end-user stakeholders to manage all elements of procurement; from specification development, exploring routes to market, tendering, evaluation, and contract award.

Ongoing contract management: we don't walk away once the contract is awarded, we continue to manage the contract from both the supplier and customer perspective to ensure performance and on-going value for money is achieved.

Want to find out more? - info@lifecycle.co.uk

Enhanced leasing solutions

We have been leaders in the lease advisory service for 30 years meeting the requirements of our NHS clients. Our service enables your organisation to finance capital purchases in innovative ways. We do this by advising finance leaders on how to structure and procure their financing at the most competitive rates and under the best possible terms. We are well known in the market place and have access to leading finance providers to help your organisation secure equipment and items that you need under manageable payment terms.



Why choose Procurement Services Leasing?



We provide advice and support to help ensure the best decisions are made about how different assets should be funded.

Using the most appropriate available sources of funding for each acquisition is essential to achieving best overall value. We'll use up-to-date market data including residual values, funding rates, maintainable lives, and redelivery costs to inform your business case and provide the ability to make informed whole-life costs decisions.



We manage a fully compliant mini competition for every lease to ensure best value is achieved.

We utilise our strong partnerships for compliant frameworks. Unlike other leasing frameworks, this allows us to formally evaluate lessor bids, taking account of all potential whole-life costs and risks.



We use lease terms designed to protect your interests

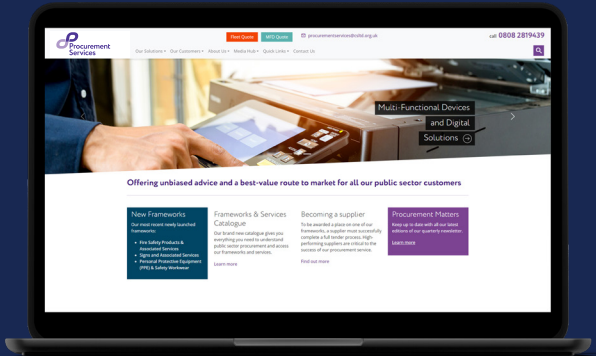
We use unique protective clauses as standard. An example of this would be the Cap on the lease, which places a limit on what you can be charged even if you extend the lease for long periods. Additional clauses include part-termination/return, which protect you if you wish to return or extend only some of the leased assets.

For more information contact us on - info@lifecycle.co.uk

Procurement Services

Finding solutions is our business

We are a market-leading procurement services business, and our focus is on providing compliant routes for the UK public sector to procure products and services from local, national and global suppliers.



New Frameworks

Software Products & Associated Services

Y23065

Playground, Fitness & Sports Equipment & Leisure Facilities

Y23064

Catering, Vending Machines & Water Cooler Solutions

Y23009

Property Refurbishment, Maintenance & Management

Y23023

What's Coming Soon?