

SEPTEMBER 2024

# procurement *matters*



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### Emergency Services 'In Focus'

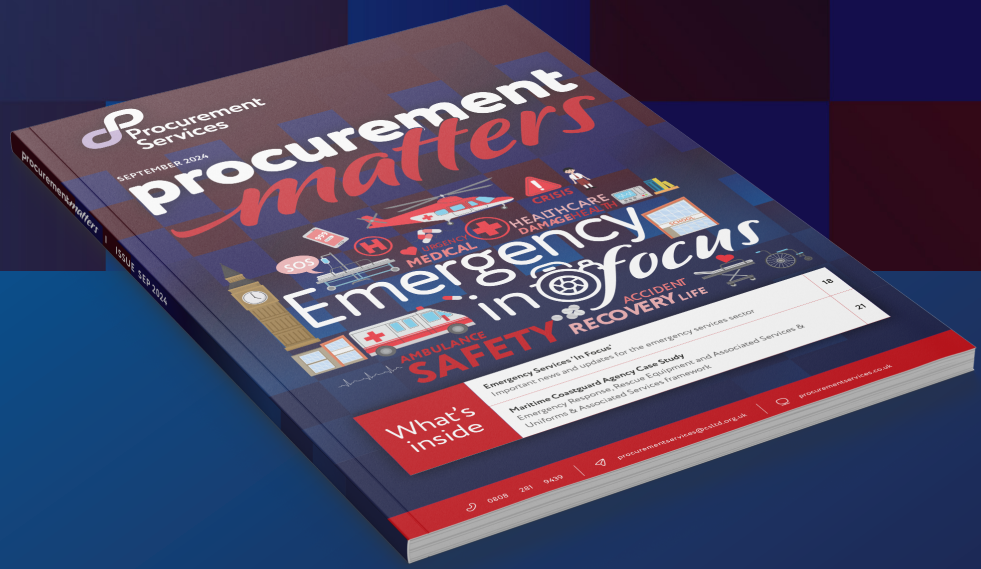
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# In this month's edition

Welcome to the latest edition of Procurement Matters. This issue has an 'in focus' on the **emergency services sector**, exploring public safety and response efficiency. From technological advancements to policy updates, our articles offer comprehensive insights into the world of public sector.

## Important Leasing Update for Schools

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Find out how we helped the Maritime Coastguard Agency streamline their procurement process, saving them time and money.

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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:

### Emergency Services Show

NEC Birmingham  
18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September

This event will connect buyers and suppliers in a dynamic environment, fostering engagement, idea exchange, and relationship building for a successful procurement journey within the emergency services sector.

[SIGN UP](#)

### HCSA Winter Conference

Telford Int Centre  
13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 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.

[SIGN UP](#)

### Local Government Procurement Expo (LGPE)

Novotel London West  
19<sup>th</sup> November

The LGPE is an event that brings together buyers, suppliers, and leaders from the UK's local government sector. It focuses on procurement, offering opportunities for networking, skills development, and showcasing products and services relevant to public sector procurement.

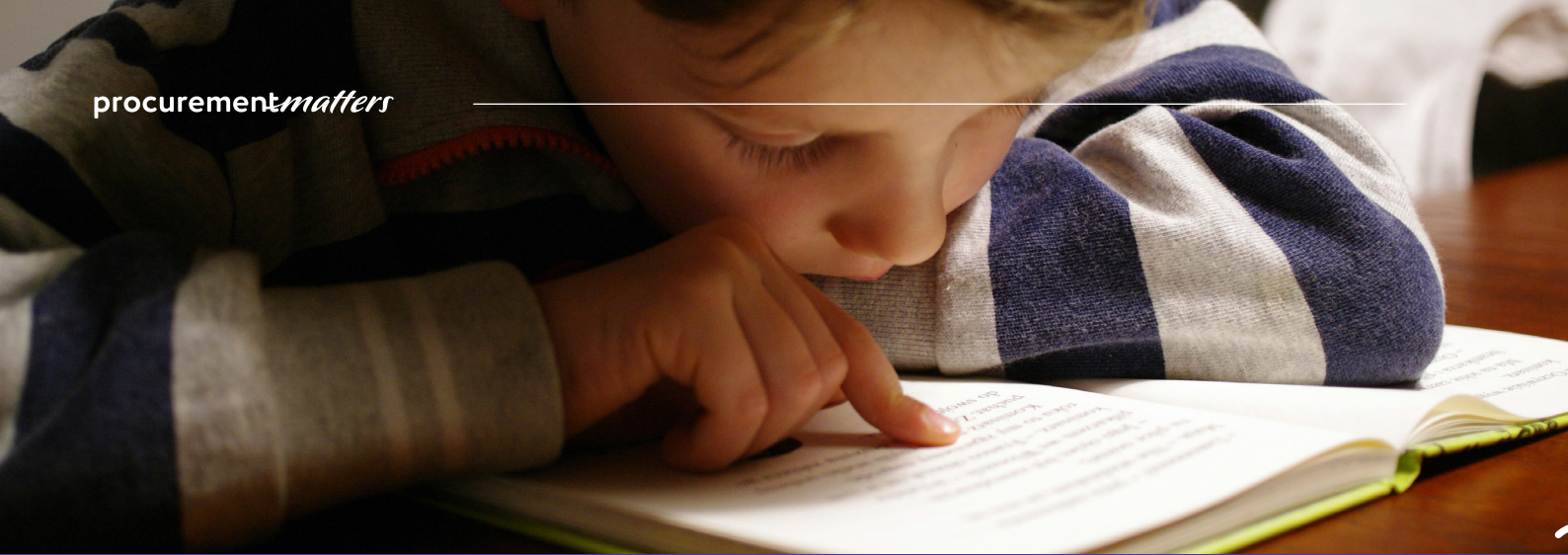
[REGISTER](#)

### 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](#)



# How can we help the education sector to overcome language barriers in schools?

**According to Open Access Government, approximately 20% of pupils in the UK speak English as an additional language, with more than 300 different languages spoken in London schools alone. This highlights the necessity for language support throughout the education sector.**

One of the main issues for students who are not confident English speakers in the UK is the feeling that they are isolated from their teachers and peers, with younger students sometimes feeling distressed when left in a school where they struggle to communicate their feelings and needs.

Ultimately, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to language translation in education, and schools must tailor their solution to their students needs. Online tools can be some of the easiest to access and fastest solutions available which can be perfect for schools that require widespread translation for several students and languages. In some cases, where dialects are rare, an interpreter would be an ideal solution.

Organisations can compliantly procure both of these language solutions through our frameworks.

For language translation software and AI tools, our Software Products and Associated Services framework provides compliant access to a variety of awarded suppliers that can facilitate the supply and installation of language translation software systems.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or if your establishment has different requirements to overcome language barriers, whether it is a niche dialect, the need for guaranteed accuracy during tests or the human touch of reassurance and making students feel comfortable, our Language Services framework provides a compliant route for procuring interpreters and several other language solutions.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

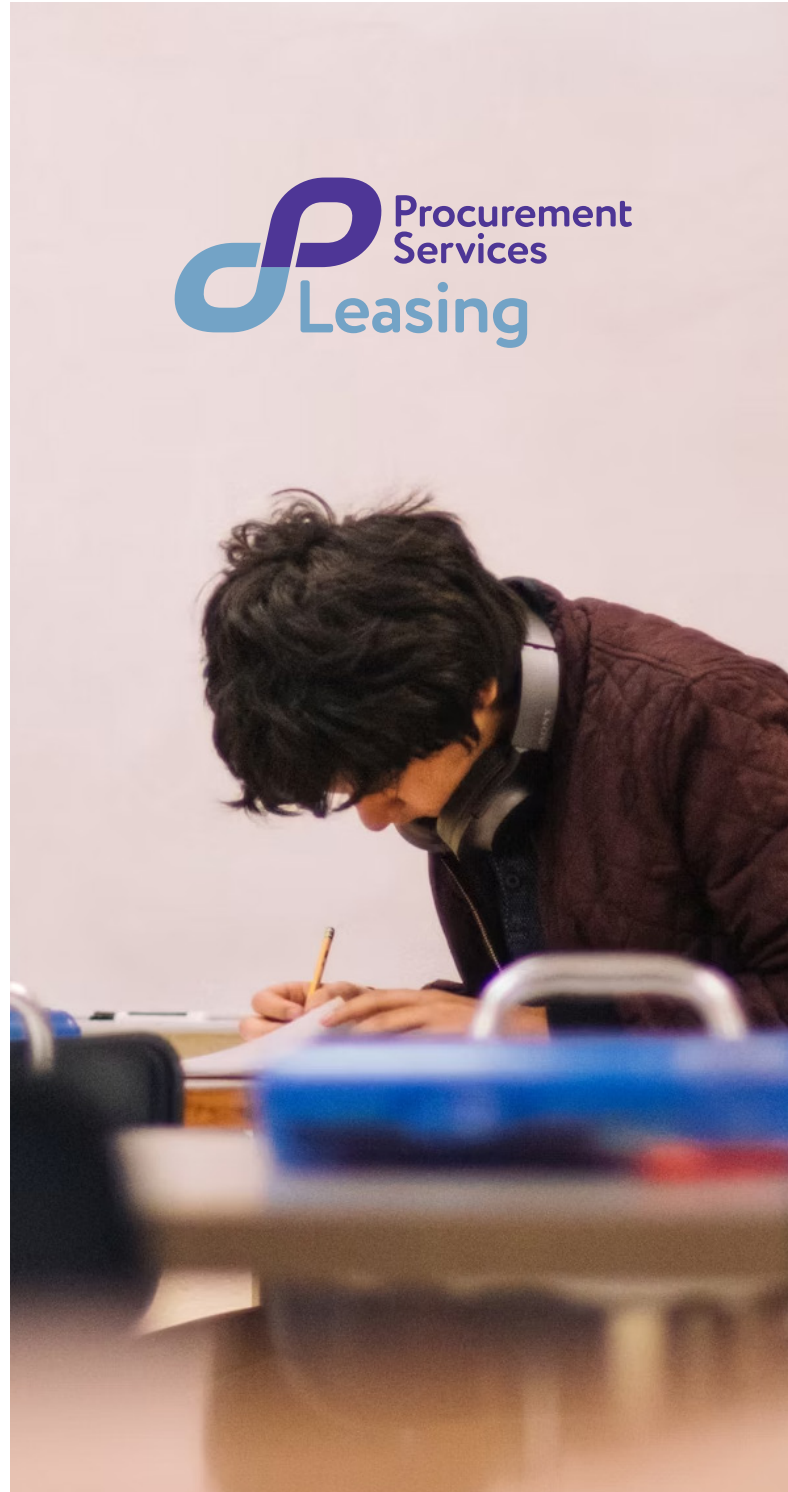
# Important Leasing Updates: Is your school prepared?

On April 1st, 2024, a new financial reporting standard (IFRS16 Leases) changed how local authorities recognise leases in the accounts of their maintained schools.

The main change that we are going to recognise will be the type of leasing solutions that schools are allowed to enter into, this includes finance leases which are now allocated to be used as well as residual base leases. There are certain assets in which have been pre-approved by the DfE to help the process of selecting a finance lease solution.

#### This includes:

- IT equipment
- Telephony
- Furniture leasing
- Bathroom utilities
- Gym equipment
- Grounds-keeping equipment
- LED lighting system
- Catering and cleaning equipment

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Procurement Services Leasing has managed over £500m of leased equipment capital costs to the public sector.

Our service provides in depth knowledge of asset finance, compliant approaches and support you need to best value from your spending.

Want to know more? Contact  
[laura.whelpdale-edwards@csltd.org.uk](mailto:laura.whelpdale-edwards@csltd.org.uk)



# Fuelling productivity

How making small changes can make a big impact on your organisation and people

In today's fast-paced work environment, organisations seek ways to enhance employee satisfaction and productivity. One often overlooked yet highly effective strategy is the inclusion of water coolers and vending machines in the workplace. These amenities provide more than just convenience; they foster a healthier, more engaged workforce.

Water coolers encourage hydration, leading to better physical and mental performance, and vending machines offer quick access to snacks and drinks, reducing the need for extended breaks and boosting overall efficiency.

Organisations can create a pleasant and productive work atmosphere by investing in these simple yet impactful resources.



## Our Catering Services, Vending Machines, and Water Cooler Solutions framework

Our framework has been carefully created to support organisations such as educational establishments to provide healthy meals for their students and staff. Additionally working collaboratively with our awarded suppliers, we provide water coolers and vending machines to ensure workforces are hydrated and refuelled.

### LOT 1: Catering (Education Only)

This LOT is for the supply of a lunchtime catering service to any education establishment. In addition to a lunchtime service schools may also require other services which include, but not be limited to, breakfast, mid-morning break and after school services.

### LOT 3: Vending Machines

This LOT is for the supply of all types of vending machines including, but not limited to:

- Coffee/hot beverages vending machine
- Cold drinks vending machine
- Food vending machine
- Healthy vending machine
- Smart vending machine
- Snack vending machine

### LOT 4: Water Cooler Solutions

This LOT is for the supply, installation, maintenance and service of water cooler solutions for the public sector to include but not be limited to:

- Bottled water cooler units
- Hot and cold-water tap
- Hot water boilers
- Mains fed water coolers

### Get in touch

Reach out today to discuss how our framework can support your organisation.

[pscusterenquiries@csltd.org.uk](mailto:pscusterenquiries@csltd.org.uk)

0808 2819 439



## Protect your organisation

Several UK councils have recently experienced cyberattacks, leading to the exposure of sensitive documents, such as financial statements, housing applications, and personal identification information. These incidents underscore the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures across the public sector. As technology advances, it is crucial for organisations to continuously update and strengthen their security protocols to protect sensitive data and maintain public trust.

This framework offers multiple LOTs to support records storage and retrieval, document scanning and digital storage, and cloud solutions such as back-up and disaster recovery.

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Are you tired of manually trawling through records, forms and documents?

AI has been developed to support people and speed up manual tasks, it continues to advance to help automate simple and more complex tasks.

Within the healthcare system, staff must fill out patient forms for each individual. The system they currently have in place can be extremely time consuming, time that could be utilised where it is most important. With the support of AI, healthcare workers can be supported and engage with

patients in the best way possible. Our **Records Information Management framework** gives you access to our awarded suppliers who offer a range of services that uses enhanced AI document processing, for both electronic and scanned files.

This can help your organisation to speed up manual, mundane tasks to support wider business objectives.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)





# 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, Records Information Management & Managed Services for Business Solutions frameworks.**

**RICOH**  
imagine. change.

# The employee Spotlight

## Aimee wins 'Social Media Personality of the Year 2024' at The Leading Aesthetic Awards

"I never thought I would win an award for my own 'side hustle' in Aesthetics that I started a couple of years ago. It feels amazing to be recognised for all of the hard work I put into advertising my business on social media."

*Aimee*

## Meet Jess, our new Multi Channel Marketing Apprentice

"I'm excited to start my Multi-Channel Marketing Apprenticeship within Procurement Services, and it's been great meeting everyone in the Brand Relationship team over the past couple weeks. I have experience working in childcare, education and support work sectors, so this is all very new to me, but I look forward to learning more about digital marketing and the company."

*Jess*



Aimee  
Digital Marketing Executive

## Congratulations to Sarah for her new role as Senior Framework Manager

"Before moving to Commercial Services I lived in North London where I managed an opticians while completing my degree, before taking up a position in our local hospice as a clinical education co-ordinator where I worked with the clinical staff and importantly the local community we were supporting. After meeting my husband, I moved to Kent and began my career at Commercial Services as a Data Analyst at Laser, where I developed a strong foundation in data management and analysis. I then transitioned into Procurement Services, initially taking on the role of an Assistant Framework Manager. Over time, I advanced to become a Framework Manager, leading to my most recent promotion. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and am exceptionally thankful for the unwavering support from the entire team, including the Assistant Framework Managers, Framework Managers, and communication team members, whose guidance and encouragement have been invaluable. I am excited to face the new challenges ahead with our team, especially expanding our framework provision and building a robust portfolio of frameworks."



*Sarah*

# DRS scheme

## What is the Deposit Return Scheme?



The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Is a new cash incentive system, placing deposits on drinks bottles and cans, to help boost recycling from 2025.

The new plan is initiated through small cash deposits placed on single-use drinks containers, to incentivise more people to recycle their drinks bottles and cans, reducing litter and plastic pollution.

The scheme will use special machines, known as reverse vending machines, and designated sites where people can return their bottles and receive their cash back. In most cases, it would be the retailers who sell drinks covered by the scheme who will host a return point.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

# The DRS is now postponed until 2027

All four UK nations have been working together to try and agree a joint approach to the schemes, as there is some debate about whether glass should be included.

### Recycling and taking action is more important than ever

According to Gov.uk, every year UK consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drink bottles and nine billion drink cans, many of which are littered or condemned to landfill.

The need for effective recycling schemes and initiatives is significant in contributing to tackling plastic pollution and helping the environment.

Recycling helps reduce pollution by conserving natural resources. It saves energy, climate change, and supports

the economy by creating jobs and cutting disposal costs.

Recycling is a simple task every individual, team, and organisation can get involved with to help tackle climate change.

If your organisation is looking for a simple compliant route that contributes to your sustainability efforts, check out our relevant frameworks:

**LOT 2 of our Waste Management Services framework** is centred around general waste and recycling, to help public sector organisations create a

recognisable routine and structured plans to enhance recycling efforts.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Our **Wheelie Bins & Kerbside Recycling Containers framework** supports organisations such as local authorities to ensure they have the correct waste disposals in place to increase recycling such as compost bins, waste housing units, and wheelie bins.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

\*Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers moves a step closer - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)  
Tackling waste: UK Government delays glass bottle deposit scheme until 2027 (openaccessgovernment.org)  
\*Huge disappointment' as UK delays bottle deposit plan and excludes glass | Ethical and green living | The Guardian UK cash-for-bottle deposit scheme delayed until 2027 - BBC News



# How Artificial Intelligence can unlock growth and investment in the UK transport

The development of AI over the past few years has opened the door for a wide range of innovations across the whole public sector. One of the industries seeing the most prominent change is transport.

Seven companies have been tasked with developing solutions alongside UK transport leaders to solve operational challenges. These challenges vary from **efficiency, sustainability, and customer experience**.

Transport for London has tasked two organisations to focus on improving productivity and efficiency across its bus network, with a detailed look into improving the experience of service users, especially those who use wheelchairs.

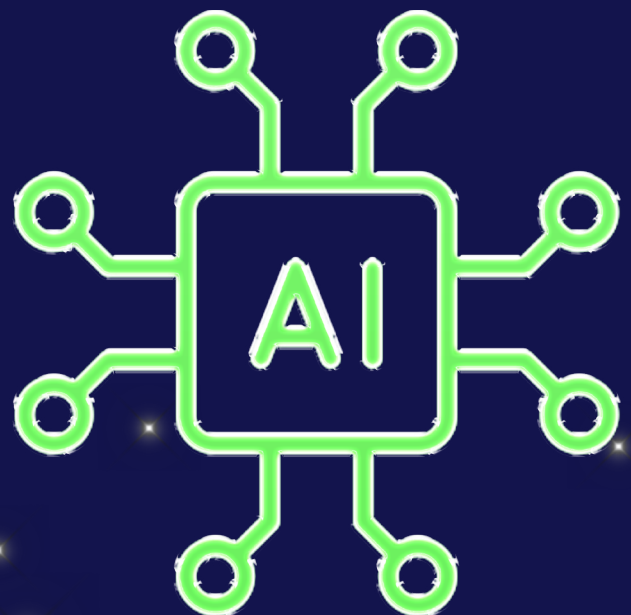
A UK operator 'First Bus' has already turned to AI software to design and automatically update its timetables to ensure that transport information to the public is readily available and accurate.

Our **Bus Shelters, Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) and Associated Services** framework can help your local authority to also provide AI powered information software.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Multiple examples have been highlighted for the potential to improve transport services across the UK through AI, another is the potential to facilitate sustainable growth for the transport industry by reducing the carbon emissions involved in the booking process as well as keeping industry growth efficient to keep the quantity of operational vehicles to a minimum.

Investment in artificial intelligence for transport services should be a priority across the UK and can help local authorities achieve their long-term goals and objectives. If you would like to learn more about how you can access artificial intelligence software as a public sector organisation: [VISIT HERE](#)





Follow the wire to your school

## LOT 2 of our Multi-Functional Devices and Digital Solutions framework

LOT 2: Digital Transformation and Associated Services, encompasses the use of digital technologies to innovate or enhance educational processes, school culture, and student experiences to meet evolving needs. In addition to providing multi-functional devices, our awarded suppliers offer comprehensive digital transformation services designed to optimise school operations.

These services offer a variety of solutions, empowering schools to select the most suitable option from our awarded suppliers. Each solution is meticulously tailored to enhance efficiency, provide flexible and reliable systems, and support schools in achieving their educational goals.

- Audio visual solutions
- Communication systems
- Cloud storage
- Document storage, distribution and management
- Facilities solutions
- High volume print devices
- Hosted services
- Hybrid mail
- ICT hardware
- ICT systems management, support and solutions
- Mail management solutions
- Multi-functional devices
- Network services
- Outsourced print solutions
- Print management, consultancy and audit
- Scanning and archiving solutions
- Software solutions
- Wide format devices

Associated services include:

- End user support
- Service desk
- Installation
- Project management
- Training
- Asset management
- Consultancy

Embrace the future of education with our tailored solutions designed to meet your unique requirements and support your journey towards a more innovative and effective learning environment. Speak to one of our expert account specialists today and find out how we can help your school save time and money. Contact us at [procurementservices@cs ltd.org.uk](mailto:procurementservices@cs ltd.org.uk)

# school's digital transformation



# 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 AUDIO VISUAL SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK HAS LAUNCHED

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

This framework provides a wide range of audio-visual solutions, including auditing of existing equipment, providing expert advice and solutions as well as supply and installation.

There are a variety of audio visual solutions such as:

- Asset management
- Associated software
- Auditing of existing equipment
- Auditorium solutions
- Conferencing systems
- Digital signage
- End user support
- Hearing assistance (hearing loops)
- Hybrid working solutions
- Image capture devices
- Installation
- Integration
- Interactive learning technology
- Interactive products and solutions
- Maintenance
- Outdoor systems
- Project management
- Projectors
- Replacement parts, including lamps
- School hall audio solutions
- Service desk
- Service and maintenance
- Software licensing of audio-visual solutions
- Sound systems
- Specialist advice and solutions
- Training
- Video wall
- Virtual reality
- Visitor management
- Visual products, including TV's



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

[VISIT HERE](#)

## Life expectancy is increasing



70 years old

77 years old

Today

2045-2050

According to the latest findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021, global life expectancy is predicted to rise significantly by **2050**. The study predicts an **increase of 4.9 years for males** and **4.2 years for females**, showing public health improvements worldwide.

The key driver of the rise is the technological improvements in healthcare, both preventing and treating illness as well as how widely treatments will be shared across the globe.

One key factor to note is that the number of years a person can expect to live in good health is expected only to rise 2.6 years, increasing the period of living in poor health for the majority of the population.

### What does this mean for public sector organisations?

This means that all public sector organisations need to be prepared for having older workforces on average. Care homes and the NHS should be prepared for a potential rise in patients and demand for their services.

This means that they may need to increase the quantity of accessible integrated community care equipment.

Our Integrated Community Care Equipment framework gives you access to a range of suppliers who can provide a full range of daily living health and social care equipment as well as the delivery, adjustment, installation, and more.

To find out more about this framework:

[VISIT HERE](#)

Our Employee Support Services & Benefits framework can ensure that all public sector organisations can access occupational health services to help promote the health and well-being of their employees. From vaccinations to ill health retirement and employee health surveillance, this framework covers a wide variety of health services. To access this framework:

[CLICK HERE](#)

# RAAC is still you might need

## What is RAAC?

RAAC is a lightweight, 'bubbly' form of concrete commonly used in construction between the 1950s and mid-1990s. It is predominantly found as precast panels in roofs, commonly found in flat roofs, and occasionally in floors and walls.

## Why is it dangerous?

Improper use of RAAC in buildings, without adequate engineering and design considerations, can lead to structural instability, potentially resulting in building failures or collapses, with the chance for serious or fatal injuries.

Additionally, any RAAC collapse or deterioration could disturb hazardous asbestos-containing materials. As most UK schools contain asbestos, disturbing asbestos fibres can lead to health risks when inhaled, potentially causing serious illnesses later in life.

# Will an issue need to act on

## Schools

There are over 22,000 schools and colleges in England. 234 education settings have confirmed RAAC. 119 of these schools will need one or more buildings rebuilt or refurbished where work to remove RAAC are more extensive and complex. The 110 schools and colleges that work to remove RAAC will be on a smaller scale and will have access to grant funding to pay for the work. <sup>8</sup>Data accurate at time of reporting

## Hospitals

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published a list of 42 hospitals in England that have evidence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) - 18 more than were previously made public.

## Prisons

RAAC has been identified in multiple prisons across the UK. HMP Northumberland found cases in two housing blocks, where the category C prison usually holds up to 1,348 men but they have had to decrease numbers to 112 following the closure for repairs.

## Has your organisation been affected by RAAC?

Compliantly procure a temporary building to keep business running whilst taking out the correct measures to remove this dangerous form of concrete. Accessible to the whole public sector, our **Temporary and Semi-permanent Buildings framework** enables organisations to hire and purchase a diverse range of temporary and semi-permanent buildings, to suit various purposes.

With our varied list of awarded suppliers, you will be able to purchase or hire the following goods and services:

- Modular buildings
- Cabins
- Containers
- Tents/marquees
- Design services
- Delivery of goods
- Project management
- Construction/installation
- Collection
- Maintenance
- Associated goods
- services onsite audit
- Data erasure
- Asset recycling
- Asset remarketing
- Secure construction

**For more information, visit our Temporary and Semi-permanent Buildings framework**

[VISIT HERE](#)

What we're doing to permanently remove RAAC from schools and colleges - The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk) Raac found in HMP Northumberland housing blocks - BBC News  
RAAC: Big rise in hospitals in England confirmed to be affected by unsafe concrete - Full List | UK News | Sky News



## Emergency Services in *focus*

Our frameworks and services can support within the emergency services sector.

## The Growing Demand for a 'Second Helmet': Enhancing Efficiency for UK Firefighters

The need for a 'second helmet' for firefighters in the UK has become increasingly evident. According to Gov.uk, in the year ending December 2023, only approximately 18% of the total callouts for Fire and Rescue Services in England were for real fire-related incidents. Despite this, crews are often burdened with heavy and bulky firefighting helmets during various non-structural incidents.

Firefighters face numerous dangers on the job, but one of the biggest threats comes from exposure to hazardous contaminants that significantly increase the risk of cancer. During every call-out, firefighters encounter toxic substances that can cling to their gear, posing long-term health risks.

A second helmet may reduce these risks by reserving the heavier, bulkier structural helmets for situations where they are absolutely necessary and using a lighter, more specialised helmet for other operations. This would reduce firefighters' exposure to harmful contaminants, enhance comfort, and improve efficiency. Moreover, it serves as a crucial step in protecting the long-term health of those who risk their lives daily.

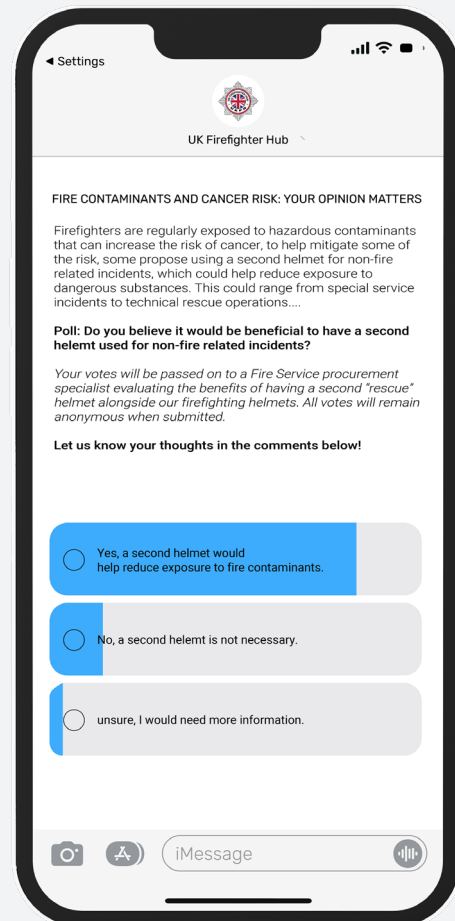
A recent poll survey took place in the 'UK Firefighter Hub' group on Facebook asking the question: **'Do you believe it would be beneficial to have a second helmet used for non-fire related incidents?'** The results showed that out of 261 votes, 84% said 'Yes, a second helmet would help reduce exposure to fire contaminants'.

A firefighter contributed, stating, "The helmets are the most difficult part of a firefighter's PPE to clean. It's old fashioned and unnecessary to wear helmets at many incidents - certain services have an emphasis on being "fully rigged" at incidents when we turn up because it's smart." Another firefighter commented, "For most non-fire-related incidents, I think bump caps and safety specs would be sufficient enough. Easier to carry instead of two big lids."

**Did you know that our frameworks provide essential clothing and equipment tailored to the specific needs of firefighters and other blue light professionals?**

These frameworks ensure that your teams have access to the right equipment for every situation, enhancing safety, comfort, and efficiency during emergencies.

Check them out - [Emergency Response, Rescue Equipment, and Associated Services](#)  
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) and Safety Workwear](#) - [Uniforms, Clothing, and Associated Services](#)





## Our relationship with the

Procurement Services Lifecycle has been providing value added services to the NHS for 25 years and we have delivered hundreds of millions of pounds in cash releasing savings. There are currently 200 different energy contracts in place within the trust across England, each with varying value that have been purchased in different ways. Procurement Services Lifecycle provide advice and support to help ensure the best decisions are made about how different assets should be funded by using the most appropriate available sources of funding for each acquisition, which is essential to achieving best overall value.

FIND OUT MORE

## Working together to deliver the right outcomes with OPTIMiSe

During the 2000's we invested heavily into developing OPTIMiSe, the technology platform that became the heart and soul of working collaboratively with our clients to deliver simple yet quick contract management support.

OPTIMiSe provides the heartbeat for delivering long-term control, compliance, and improved outcomes. The collaborative capability of OPTIMiSe, allows us to mix and match which contract management activities you outsource to us and enables us to continually adapt our services to best meet your needs.

We expanded the scope of our remit into maintenance and service agreements and developed our processes and systems to provide an outsourced service across a range of spend. This meant we could grow our client base to encompass one in three NHS trusts.

In this decade we also enhanced OPTIMiSe, as well as our processes and resources, to provide full performance management capabilities.

Want to know more?

Contact [james.drury@csLtd.org.uk](mailto:james.drury@csLtd.org.uk)

# The Maritime & Coastguard Agency Case Study

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency utilised our Emergency Response, Rescue Equipment and Associated Services and Uniforms and Associated Services frameworks to procure essential safety, rescue, and operational equipment and uniform and spoke on their experience with our framework.

“ We have had a positive experience using Procurement Services’ Emergency Response, Rescue Equipment and Associated Services and Uniforms and Associated Services frameworks.

The direct award feature is a real bonus...it makes the procurement process simple, and ensures that goods we procure arrive at the right time to the right place. The procurement process has been streamlined which has saved us time to allow us to focus on the most important aspect of our job which is saving lives.

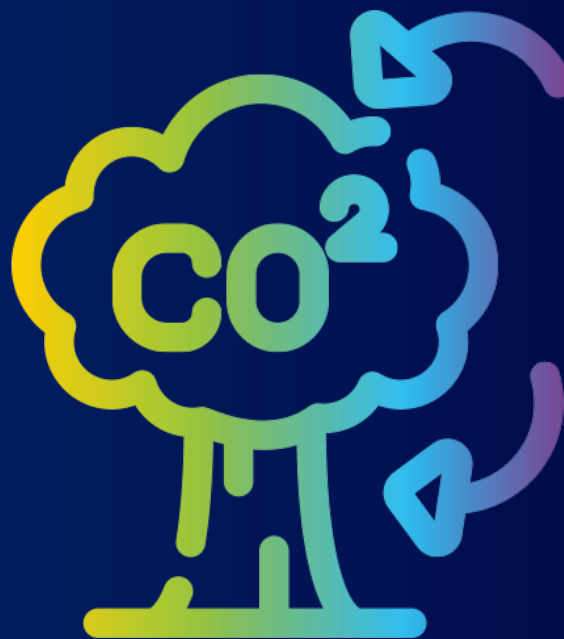
”

- JONATHAN NICKLIN  
SENIOR PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS BUSINESS PARTNER  
MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY

[Read the full case study here](#)

# London Leads the Way with Greener Ambulance Fleet for Better Patient Care

Car pollution in London remains a critical issue, with significant contributions of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and carbon dioxide levels, impacting both public health and the environment.



According to a report published on londonambulance.nhs.uk, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAS) has introduced a fleet of electric ambulances, marking a significant step towards sustainability and improved patient care. These electric vehicles are part of the NHS's goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, aiming to reduce air pollution and reliance on fossil fuels.

The electric ambulances are equipped with advanced medical technology, ensuring high-quality patient care during transport. Their quieter operation also creates a less stressful environment for patients and medical staff. This initiative contributes to better air quality, addressing public health concerns in urban areas like London.

As LAS expands its electric ambulance fleet, it will focus on enhancing the supporting infrastructure, including charging facilities and maintenance systems. This move highlights the potential for innovation in public services, setting a benchmark for sustainable healthcare solutions globally.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Points & Associated Services framework

Our Electric Vehicle Charging Points & Associated Services framework provides comprehensive support for installing and maintaining electric vehicle charging points tailored for your emergency vehicles.

Our new Electric Vehicle Charging Points & Associated Services framework is launching soon so keep a look out for this!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

# Promoting Inclusiveness in PPE and Uniforms: A Public Sector Imperative

Local authorities are encountering major challenges with ill-fitting personal protective equipment (PPE), especially impacting women and minority groups. This situation stresses the importance of inclusive PPE programs.

## What is Inclusive PPE?

Inclusive PPE programs provide protective equipment designed to meet the diverse needs of the workforce.



- Sex
- Sizes
- Abilities
- Cultures

These programs consider various factors such as:

Standard PPE sizes often fail to accommodate everyone, potentially leading to safety risks. Inclusive PPE ensures that all workers have access to properly fitting and effective protective gear, thereby enhancing overall safety and performance.

A recent PPE Campaign called 'Protection for everyone' highlights that many women are forced to wear PPE designed for men, impacting their confidence, professionalism, and safety.

In an online article published by apse, Katy Robinson, Senior Project Manager at East Riding of Yorkshire Council notes that this issue extends beyond construction into the public sector. She emphasises the need for PPE that considers users' unique characteristics, an example being maternity wear for pregnant workers. Despite the availability of inclusive PPE products, many remain unaware of them.

**Personal Protective Equipment and Associated Services**

[SEE MORE](#)

In summary, promoting inclusiveness is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of all workers in the public sector. Local authorities and procurement professionals must prioritise accessible and suitable PPE for everyone to create a more inclusive and supportive work environment.

## Our frameworks can help.

The awarded suppliers on both our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Safety Workwear & Uniform, Clothing and Associated Services framework have a range of products that everyone can feel safe and secure in.

## These products include:

- Maternity wear
- Ethnic wear including Turbans, Hijabs, ¾ Length Sleeved Tops and Full-Length Skirts
- Equipment & clothing in women's sizes
- And much more

**Uniforms and Associated Services**

[VISIT HERE](#)



## Preparing for AI: An NHS Analysis'

It has been widely reported in recent years that the NHS is facing a workforce crisis from high demand and not enough staff to go around. This has led to long delays for patients and causes enhanced stress for NHS employees.



The key solution that has been discussed to overcome this issue is the NHS implementing artificial intelligence. It is believed that AI can speed up many of the processes that are currently manual and can take up a large amount of time for employees. This means that NHS hospitals will be able to efficiently function with less employees.

In June 2023, the UK Government announced a £21m investment in AI tools in the NHS. The issue that has since arisen is regarding the supporting infrastructure to ensure that these AI tools can be utilised.

Want to know more about this funding?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Some hospitals still use paper-based or telephone-based systems, with some hospitals even struggling to get reliable wireless internet connection. The additional funding presents an excellent chance to improve manual processes, but organisations must provide proper training and support during tool implementation to fully benefit.

Our **ICT Managed Services & Consultancy framework** covers ICT infrastructure, strategy and planning, consultancy and much more. This can help any NHS based organisation to ensure their systems and infrastructure is ready to facilitate AI implementation.

[VISIT HERE](#)

<sup>9</sup><https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/a-reality-check-for-ai-tools-in-the-nhs/176584/>



## Mental health-friendly ambulances being deployed in the UK.

According to Mind, the overall number of people reporting mental health problems has been going up in recent years.

- The amount of people with common mental health problems went up by 20% between 1993 to 2014, in both men and women.
- The percentage of people reporting severe mental health symptoms in any given week rose from 7% in 1993, to over 9% in 2014.
- The number of young women reporting common mental health problems is increasing.

A new mental health survey is due soon and will give an updated view on the trends of mental health in the UK.

This is why the NHS has set plans to deploy up to 100 mental-health specialised ambulances throughout the UK. These ambulances have unique features to be less overwhelming for mentally ill patients, these features include:

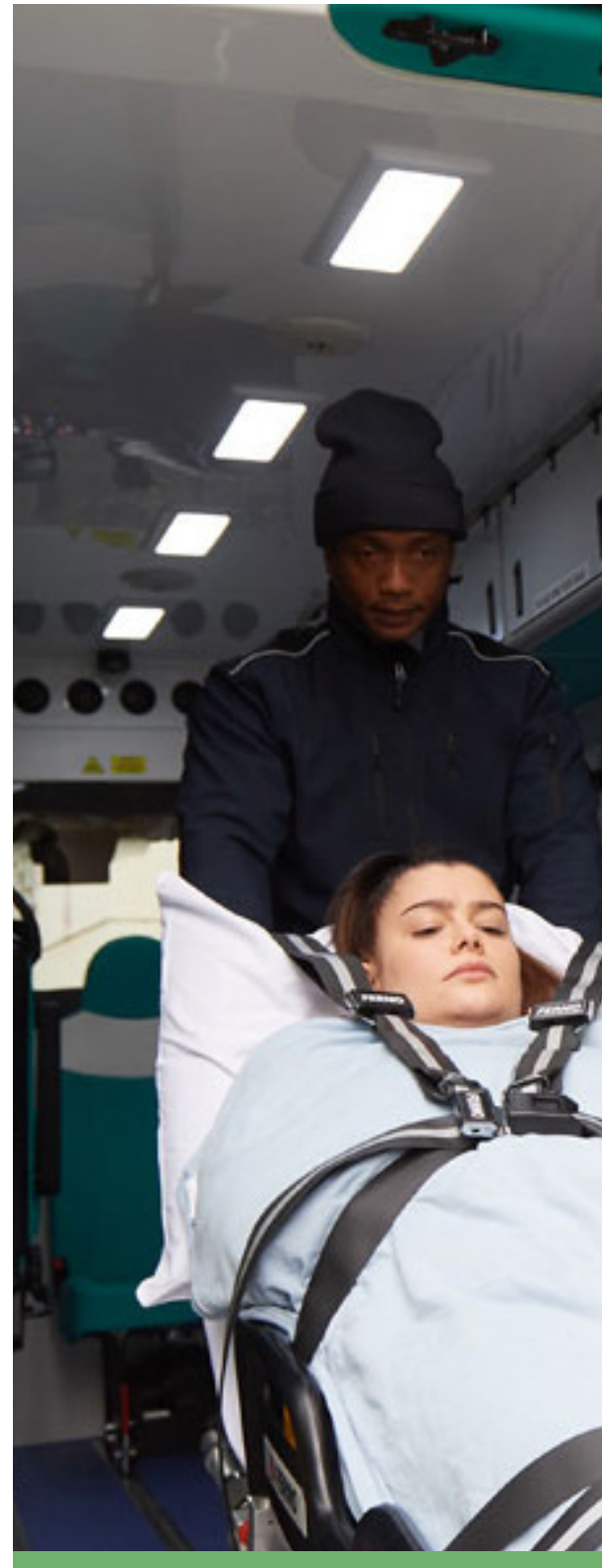
- Dimmable lights
- Serene interiors
- Subtle paint jobs
- Fewer markings
- Smaller logos
- Space in the back for friends and relatives

With these ambulances being rolled out across the UK, we can support the NHS with the purchase, hire and management of these vehicles as well as standard ambulances and any other vehicles that may be required.

Did you know our vehicle solutions framework allows you a compliant route to lease, hire or purchase a range of emergency services vehicles?

**Get your quote today by calling 0808 281 9439**  
**Or email us [procurementservices@csltd.org.uk](mailto:procurementservices@csltd.org.uk)**

[VISIT HERE](#)



# The power of Artificial Intelligence

## What is AI?

Artificial intelligence or AI, is technology that can simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities to carry out tasks a lot quicker.

By integrating AI across your business, your organisation can save time, reduce costs, leverage advanced data for improved decision making and empower your team in focusing on more strategic priorities.

AI is particularly used within the emergency services, as one of the most significant benefits is the substantial reduction in response times. AI algorithms can analyse and process vast amounts of data in real-time, enabling emergency responders to assess situations more quickly and accurately.

Five  
9 carried  
out a survey  
to NHS Ambulance  
Trusts, where less than 10%  
stated the 999 calls they receive  
are life-threatening. 75% of these  
NHS Ambulance Trusts confirmed  
that 10% or less of 999 calls  
were handled by AI technology  
between 2022 and 2023.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

The government is currently planning to integrate AI into healthcare services as part of its new workforce strategy. These technological advances will support staff in their day-to-day roles, such as alleviating pressures, help manage fluctuating call volumes more effectively and enable remote operations during emergencies. However, it is recognised it may take some time to build trust and confidence in AI.

As the UK government aims to strengthen the organisation of 999 call systems, various measures can be introduced. For example, noise reduction technology, including noise-cancelling headsets and devices to eliminate background noise, can be used. This ensures clear communication during emergency calls and allows responders to concentrate on the call without distractions.

For more information on how we can support your organisation with this technology, check out our **Communications Solutions and Associated Telephony Services framework**:

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Does your organisation need a solution that can maximise the rise of AI, as well as cover a range of different services from one single provider?

**Our Managed Services for Business Solutions framework is for you! This framework covers multiple services including:**

- Artificial Intelligence
- Audio visual solutions management
- Cloud storage management
- Mobile technologies
- IP networking services
- Human resources and payroll
- Print management
- Purchase to pay automation





# Procurement Services

Finding solutions is our business

We are a market-leading procurement services and contract management 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

Property Refurbishment,  
Maintenance and  
Management

Y23023

Audio-Visual Solutions

Y24003

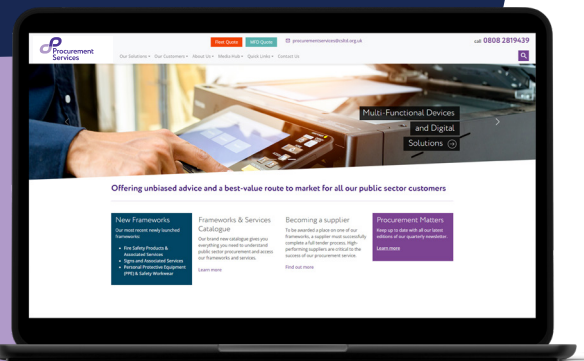
## What's Coming Soon?

Pest Control Products  
and Services

Y23013

Integrated Community Care  
Equipment and Associated  
Services (ICCE)

Y24008



Financial Leasing Solutions

Y23029