



Crown  
Commercial  
Service

# Open Contracting Data Standard Guide to Implementation on Contracts Finder

Contracts Finder has been enhanced to provide output in the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS).

This document provides advice on how to use the OCDS output.

**Purpose:** This guide provides an overview of the implementation on Contracts Finder of the Open Contracting Data Standard.

**Background:** On 12 May 2016 we announced at the Anti Corruption Summit our commitment to Open Contracting. Commitment 5: Open contracting: To implement the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) in the Crown Commercial Service's operations by October 2016.

The standard enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process. It was created to support contracting transparency, and allow deeper analysis of contracting data.

**Implementation in Crown Commercial Service:** In line with the standard an initial review of Crown Commercial Service (CCS) data sets was conducted and identified Contracts Finder as the best starting point as it aligns well with the lifecycle set out in the standard.

The initial Open Contracting Data Standard implementation on Contracts Finder includes an interface (API) providing data in OCDS format, bulk publication of procurement information in OCDS format accessible from [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk) and links to OCDS format releases and records from individual notices in Contracts Finder.

**Scope of publishing organisations:** Contracts Finder is used by all non devolved public sector contracting authorities to publish information about contracts over certain thresholds (£10,000 in Central Government and £25,000 in the wider public sector and the NHS). It is also used by Public Sector Contractors to advertise opportunities in their supply chains.

Buyers publish information on

- Early engagement: inviting feedback from industry on early procurement ideas
- Future opportunities: information on procurements that are likely to be published in the future
- Opportunities (advertisements and awards)

**Notice status:** Notices are available on Contracts Finder with the following status.

- Open- the opportunity, future opportunity or early engagement notice is open for suppliers to respond to.
- Closed-
  - in the case of a future opportunity, this means that a potential contract has passed its approach to market date. A buyer can choose to consider any supplier interest or convert this notice into an opportunity ready for live procurement.
  - In the case of an early market engagement notice, this status is not applicable.
  - In the case of an opportunity notice, this means that the contract is currently closed. The buying department may be considering suppliers that have already applied, or no suitable offers were made.
- Awarded- only an opportunity can have a status of awarded, this means that the contract opportunity has been completed and a supplier has been awarded the business.

For a mapping of CF <-> OCDS notice types and statuses see Appendix B

## **OCDS format interface (API):**

Contracts Finder makes all notice data held within its database, available to the public through its own website and through the Contracts Finder RESTful API. Each notice and notice revision (or Record and Release in OCDS terminology) is assigned a globally unique resource URI utilising the OC Id. Data can be easily consumed by issuing simple **GET** requests on the required resource URI.

On calling the API, the user will be returned a standard JSON response, using the OCDS format. These API's are intended as a first version, and inline with the principles of continuous improvement we will add further functionality as and when user research indicates a requirement.

Details of the available API end-points are laid out in Appendix A.

## **data.gov.uk - daily 'flat' file OCDS**

As part of a commitment to making the Contracts Finder data as open as possible, and to provide a public archive of notices, there is a daily harvest of notice data from Contracts Finder to the government's data publishing site - data.gov.uk. The files are produced each evening, and are published to the Crown Commercial Services page here (<https://data.gov.uk/publisher/crown-commercial-service>).

Each dataset comprises of a single file that contains all notices published on the Contracts Finder site for a particular day. The files use a simplified single table, flattened OCDS format that allows you to download the file and open it in any standard spreadsheet software. More details of the format of the file, and how it is produced can be found on the OCDS website here (<http://standard.open-contracting.org/latest/en/implementation/serialization/#csv>).

## Appendix A: Details of OCDS format interface (API):

The current OCDS API comprises of the following end-points that can be called using simple GET requests using the site url <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/>. Further details on each API can be found in the online documentation published here (<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/apidocumentation/>):

**Endpoint:** GET /Published/Notices/OCDS/Search

**Purpose:** Allow a user to search for notices they are interested in.

Parameter	Purpose	Required
publishedFrom	Published date to search from YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SSZ or YYYY-MM-DD	No
publishedTo	Published date to search to YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SSZ or YYYY-MM-DD	No
stages	OCDS stage of release, defaults to all stages if not specified	No
orderBy	Order results by the specified field - currently only supports PublishedDate	No
order	Order results ASC or DESC, default DESC	No
size	Number of releases to return per page of results. Defaults to maximum value of 100	No
page	Request a specific page of results	No

### Example request:

Content-Type: application/json

Request Body:

```
{
  "searchCriteria": {
    "publishedFrom": "2015-01-01T11:05:00Z",
    "publishedTo": "2016-12-31T15:45:00Z",
    "stages": [
      "tender","award"
    ]
  },
  "orderBy": "publishedDate",
  "order": "DESC",
  "size": 100,
  "page": 1
}
```

**Example response:**

Parameter	Description
hitsCount	Overall number of notices found
maxPage	Maximum page number based on hitsCount and Size
Releases	JSON array of OCDS records

Response Body:

```
{  
  "hitsCount": 1913,  
  "maxPage": 20,  
  "releases": [  
  ]  
}
```

**Endpoint:** GET /Published/Notice/Releases/{{OCID}}.json

**Purpose:** Allow a user to directly access an individual notice release in OCDS format, by passing in the OCID for that release.

**Endpoint:** GET /Published/Notice/Records/{{OCID}}.json

**Purpose:** Allow a user to directly access an individual notice record in OCDS format, by passing in the OCID for that record.

**Endpoint:** GET /harvester/notices/data/csv/DAILY

**Purpose:** Returns all notices that have been published in contracts finder for that day in CSV format.

## Appendix B: Mapping of CF <-> OCDS notice types and statuses

Notice Type	Status	Explanation	OCDS: release/tag	OCDS release/ten der/status	tender/ award/s tatus	OCDS Notes
Opportunity	Draft	The notice has not been published yet				Not published in OCDS
	Open	The contract is currently unfulfilled but active, and the buying department is looking for potential suppliers to contact them with bid applications.	tender	active		
	Closed	The contract is currently closed. The buying department may be considering suppliers that have already applied, or no suitable offers were made.	tenderUpdate	active		date of release is after tenderPeriod.end Date
	Awarded	The contract has been awarded to a supplier.	award	complete	active	
Future Opportunity	Draft	The notice has not been published yet				Not published in OCDS
	Open	The buyer is not yet ready to invite bid applications but early notification has been provided and some dialogue may be possible.	planning	planned		
	Withdrawn	The potential contract has been withdrawn early. This could be due to a change of circumstances or a reconsideration of the requirements	planning	cancelled		There is a proposal for version 1.1 of OCDS to include 'withdrawn' as a codelist entry. This is likely to be implemented. See <a href="https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/201">https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/201</a>
Early Engagement	Draft	The notice has not been published yet				Not published in OCDS
	Open	A procurement idea is currently active, it is in	planning	planned		

		the early stage of development and judging interest from potential suppliers.				
	Withdrawn	A procurement idea has been withdrawn early. This could be due to a change of circumstances or change of needs.	planning	cancelled		There is a proposal for version 1.1 of OCDS to include 'withdrawn' as a codelist entry. This is likely to be implemented. See <a href="https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/201">https://github.com/open-contracting/standard/issues/201</a>