

## Frequently asked Questions: End of Transition Period (TP) - November 2020

### Find a Tender (UK e-notification service)

Question	Answer
What is the url for the new UK e-notification service?	<p>The URL of the new UK e-notification service, Find a Tender (FTS) is <a href="http://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk">www.find-tender.service.gov.uk</a></p> <p>You will not be able to access this url until the site goes live at 11pm on 31 December 2020.</p>
If I have already started my procurement before the end of the transition period, will I have to republish all of my previous notices on the new portal?	<p>No. Procurements that were launched and not finalised before the end of the transition period are to continue to follow the same rules. Consequently you have to continue to publish any notices for these procurements on OJEU/TED.</p> <p>You must still send details of the contract award to Contracts Finder or the relevant Devolved or Defence portal in line with relevant legal and policy requirements.</p> <p>For ease of use, notices which are required to be sent to OJEU/TED for publication, should also be sent to FTS so that suppliers have only one place to look for UK opportunities (see guidance in the PPN).</p> <p>In these cases, details of the results of the procurement must still be published first to OJEU/TED before they appear elsewhere.</p>
When publishing to both FTS and Contracts Finder, do I have to publish to FTS first?	<p>Yes. The publication of notices for new procurements that were launched after 11pm on the 31 December must be published on FTS before Contracts Finder or any other portal.</p> <p>Therefore, as with the current arrangements, UK e-notification publication on FTS takes precedence over publication on other portals. Unlike the OJEU/TED, in practice, there should be minimal delay between submitting a notice to FTS and publication of the notice on the site.</p>
How do I correctly reference things that were on the OJEU/TED portal and when should I do this?	<p>A notice submitted on FTS will include fields where reference numbers of OJEU/TED notices are to be added.</p>

<p>What will happen to any OJEU/TED notices currently in progress / live as of 11pm on 31 December 2020?</p>	<p>Procurement procedures that have already been launched but are not yet finalised will continue in accordance with the current rules with respect to notices. Consequently you have to continue to publish any notices for these procurements in OJEU/TED.</p> <p>You must still send details of the contract award to Contracts Finder or the relevant Devolved or Defence portal in line with relevant legal and policy requirements.</p> <p>For ease of use, notices which are required to be sent to OJEU/TED for publication, should also be sent to FTS so that suppliers have only one place to look for UK opportunities (see guidance in the PPN). In these cases, details of the results of the procurement must still be published first to OJEU/TED before they appear elsewhere.</p>
<p>Will historic information on OJEU/TED be copied across to FTS?</p>	<p>No, FTS will launch with a clean database and include notices published from 11pm 31 December 2020 onwards only.</p>
<p>Will historic information on OJEU/TED remain the same?</p>	<p>The standard practice of the EU Publications Office is that it will maintain data in the OJEU/TED system for two years.</p>
<p>Why do we have a new system at all? Why not just extend Contracts Finder?</p>	<p>After the end of the transition period, a UK-wide service is necessary. This does not affect existing portals such as Contracts Finder, Sell2Wales, eTendersNI, Public Contracts Scotland.</p>
<p>When will the new portal be available to use?</p>	<p>FTS will be available for active use from 11pm on 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Should you wish to find out more about this please contact the CCS service desk on 0345 410 2222 or <a href="mailto:info@crownccommercial.gov.uk">info@crownccommercial.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<p>How do these new rules apply to framework agreements and dynamic purchasing systems?</p>	<p>The new rules apply to new procurement procedures for the award of framework agreements and to establish dynamic purchasing systems in the same way as other procurement procedures. For new procedures launched after the end of the transition period, notices should be published on FTS.</p> <p>If the procedure was launched and concluded or was launched but is not yet finalised before the end of the transition period, the same rules continue to apply and notices should be published in OJEU/TED.</p>

<p>What about contracts awarded under framework agreements and dynamic purchasing systems?</p>	<p>If you are awarding contracts under a framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system that was concluded or launched before the end of the transition period the same rules continue to apply and any notices which are currently required to be published in OJEU/TED should continue to be published there.</p> <p>If you are awarding contracts under a framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system where the procurement procedure to establish that framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system was launched after the end of the transition period, notices that would have been required to be published on OJEU/TED should be published on FTS.</p>
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<p>I use a specialist provider to place my notices. What do I need to do?</p>	<p>Contracting authorities which are currently working with a third party provider (i.e. an 'e-sender') to submit notices to OJEU/TED should be able to continue to use them provided that the e-sender has successfully completed integration work to post notices to FTS.</p> <p>FTS is currently private and running in parallel with OJEU/TED in readiness for use at the end of the transition period.</p> <p>The following e-Senders have completed testing and are already parallel publishing to FTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Adam (<a href="http://useadam.co.uk">useadam.co.uk</a>)</li><li>•BiP Solutions</li><li>•European Dynamics</li><li>•Proactis Tenders Ltd (part of Proactis)</li><li>•Proactis</li></ul> <p>The following eSenders have completed testing and have told Cabinet Office that they <b>will</b> be ready to switch over to FTS at the end of the transition period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•ADB (UK) Limited</li><li>•Atamis Limited</li><li>•EU Supply</li><li>•In-Tend Ltd</li><li>•Jaggaer</li><li>•Sourcedogg</li><li>•Wax Digital</li></ul> <p>The following eSenders advised they <b>will not</b> be ready to switch over to FTS at the end of the transition period. Customers of these eSenders should follow the instructions for direct registration set out in the PPN 08/20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curtis Fitch</li><li>• Geometra Systems (Xantive)</li><li>• IBM (Emptoris)</li></ul>
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<p>Will existing MOD Systems work with FTS?</p>	<p>MOD Commercial Officers should continue to use the existing DCO Portal which will automatically publish notices to the correct location.</p> <p>After the transition period the provider will automatically post Contract Notices to FTS but will provide the ability to publish amendments or Contract Award notices to both OJEU and FTS to cater for those procurements that have started but not finished prior to 11pm on 31 December 2020.</p>
<p>Who do I contact, if I have a problem publishing a notice to FTS?</p>	<p>If you publish via an e-sender, contact them in the first instance. If you publish directly to TS and require further assistance, please contact the CCS service desk on 0345 410 2222 or <a href="mailto:info@crowcommercial.gov.uk">info@crowcommercial.gov.uk</a></p> <p>For MOD Commercial officers please contact Def Comrcl Pol-Help Desk (MULTIUSER)</p> <p><a href="mailto:DefComrclPol-HelpDesk@mod.gov.uk">DefComrclPol-HelpDesk@mod.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Do I still have to publish my notices to Contracts Finder?</p>	<p>Yes, if legal and/or policy requirements to do so apply to you. The legal requirements for certain contracting authorities to publish to <a href="#">Contracts Finder</a><sup>[1]</sup> remain unchanged. These contracting authorities must publish opportunities and awards on <a href="#">Contracts Finder</a><sup>2</sup> in addition to other portals or sites. Details of the requirements in respect of sub-threshold contracts are described in <a href="#">PPN 07/16</a><sup>[2]</sup>.</p>
<p>Will there be a link from the new portal to Contracts Finder or will we have to submit notices to both sites like we currently do?</p>	<p>There will be no automated link to republish a notice from FTS onto Contracts Finder. Contracting authorities will need to submit notices to both sites as they currently do, either directly through the user interface or through their existing e-sender service.</p>
<p>Will the portal allow me to place my notices in languages other than English?</p>	<p>FTS will be available in English and Welsh. Descriptions in notices will appear in the language that they are submitted. Therefore those written in both Welsh and English will be published in both languages. Those written solely in English will be published in English.</p>

<p>At the moment we can post a VEAT notice to inform the market where we intend to award a contract without having published a contract notice - will there be similar processes in place on FTS.</p>	<p>Yes, the Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notices (VEAT) are built into FTS and will still be available for contracting authorities to use.</p>
<p>Will the notices all be the same as they were before?</p>	<p>All the current procurement notices will exist and be available on FTS.</p>
<p>What extra costs will there be for businesses applying for public contracts? Will it be more complicated to do?</p>	<p>FTS will be free and accessible for all users. The information contained in the procurement notices will remain the same as the notices that were sent to OJEU/TED.</p> <p>This does not affect publication of notices at a local level, for example, on <a href="#">Contracts Finder</a><sup>[3]</sup>, <a href="#">Public Contracts Scotland</a><sup>[4]</sup>, <a href="#">Sell2Wales</a><sup>[5]</sup> and <a href="#">e-TendersNI</a><sup>[6]</sup>.</p>
<p>How do I deal with notices I have already sent to OJEU/TED that have not been published at the end of the transition period?</p>	<p>It can take up to 48 hours (or longer in exceptional circumstances) for notices submitted to the EU Publications Office to be visible on OJEU/TED, so there may be a short lag in actual visibility of the notice on OJEU/ TED.</p> <p>If you are commencing a procurement and your notice has not been published on OJEU/TED before the end of the transition period you will need to re-send the notice to FTS.</p> <p>If you are continuing a procurement that was commenced on OJEU/TED you will need to ensure the notice is published on OJEU/TED, (and to FTS and Contracts Finder in line with relevant legal and policy guidance).</p>
<p>OJEU/TED releases periodic updates to their system. Will you be aligning FTS with these updates after the end of the transition period?</p>	<p>With the exception of some schema changes that are in development and which have already been communicated to eSenders, we have no plans to maintain parity with OJEU/TED beyond the end of the transition period.</p>

What data outputs will be available for FTS?	A range of xml and OCDS data outputs are available. Please contact <a href="mailto:info@crownccommercial.gov.uk">info@crownccommercial.gov.uk</a> and include in the subject heading “FTS data outputs request to test” if you would like access to test data.
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[1] <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0716-legal-requirement-to-publish-on-contracts-finder>

[3] <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

[4] <https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/>

[5] <https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/>

[6] <https://etendersni.gov.uk/>