# Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) Explainer (for suppliers)

1. Public procurement is governed by regulations to ensure that procurement delivers value for money, competition, transparency and integrity.
2. The PSQ has been designed to help the contracting authorities ensure that suppliers share the right information when participating in a procurement. This is separate from the formal tender submission (on how the supplier proposes to meet the tender requirements). The PSQ consists of three parts:
3. **Part 1 – confirmation of core supplier information:** suppliers participating in procurements will be expected to register on a central digital platform (CDP). Suppliers can submit their core supplier information and, where a procurement opportunity arises, share this information with contracting authorities via the CDP. It is free to use and will mean suppliers should no longer have to re-enter this information for each public procurement but simply ensure it is up to date and subsequently shared. The CDP is available at <https://www.gov.uk/find-tender>. Part 1 provides confirmation that suppliers have taken these steps.
4. **Part 2 – additional exclusions information:** procurement legislation provides for an ‘exclusion regime’ and a published ‘debarment’ list to safeguard procurement from suppliers who may pose risk (for example, due to poor misconduct or poor performance). Suppliers must submit their own (and their connected persons[[1]](#footnote-1)) exclusions information via the CDP. This includes self-declarations as to whether any exclusion grounds apply to them and, if so, detailed about the event or conviction and what steps have been taken to prevent such circumstances from occurring again.
5. As part of a procurement, a supplier will need to also share additional exclusions information for any suppliers that they are relying on to meet the procurement’s conditions of participation. These could either be consortium members or key sub-contractors (but excludes any guarantors). These suppliers are ‘associated persons’ and their exclusions information must be shared with the contracting authority. We recommend this is done by ensuring that associated persons register, submit and share their information via the CDP (like the prime/main supplier).
6. In addition to the sub-contractors who are being relied upon to meet the conditions of participation (who are associated persons), suppliers will need to share an exhaustive list of all their intended sub-contractors, which will be checked against the debarment list.
7. If a sub-contractor is unknown at the start of the procurement (or brought in during it), this should be made clear by the supplier and the relevant details of the sub-contractor should be provided once their identify and role is confirmed. This information should be shared with the contracting authority as soon as possible and at least by final tenders.
8. **Part 3 – conditions of participation:** contracting authorities may set conditions of participation which a supplier must satisfy in order to be awarded a public contract. They can relate to the supplier’s legal and financial capacity or their technical ability.
9. Some of the information requested in the PSQ will be for information purposes only. Other information will be assessed by the contracting authority. This might include a pass or fail mechanism, or a threshold which the supplier must meet. Under certain procurement processes, a contracting authority might use the information shared via the PSQ as part of a selection process to limit the number of participating responses. Where this is the case, the contracting authority will outline the maximum number of suppliers, and the criteria used to select the limited number of suppliers, in their tender notice (section 20(4)(a) of the Procurement Act 2023 and regulation 19(2)(d) of the Procurement Regulations 2024).
10. Suppliers should note that contracting authorities have legislative duties to publish certain information which relate to the supplier in their contract award notices. This information includes, but is not limited to:
    * Details of the winning supplier’s associated persons
    * Details of the winning supplier’s connected person information
    * For certain procurement over £5 million (inclusive of VAT), detail of unsuccessful bidders.
11. Where a supplier is unsure or requires an clarification, they should check with the contracting authority.

1. Connected persons are persons who exercise (or have a right to exercise) significant influence or control over the supplier and those over which the supplier exercises (or has the right to exercise) significant influence or control. This includes majority shareholders, directors and shadow directors, parent and subsidiary companies and predecessor companies. The majority of the exclusion grounds state that they apply to the supplier or a connected person of the supplier. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)