

# NHS Supply Chain: Food

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## Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) – Fresh Food



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# What is DPS?

A DPS is a tendering procedure within the Public Contract Regulations (2015) and is unlike a traditional framework which is also suited for the supply of standard goods, works or services.

DPS is an electronic system which allows suppliers to submit a response at any time during the term, which is currently set to just over 7 years. It is an 'open market' solution designed to give buyers and customers access to a pool of pre-qualified suppliers. It can only be run electronically through an eProcurement system, such as Jaggaer.

No pricing is submitted at the initial stage of the DPS. It purely allows suppliers to join the DPS as long as all the initial criteria is met including the selection questionnaire and social value responses.

As direct award is prohibited through DPS we will invite awarded suppliers who are capable of providing a solution to our customers to competitions run under the DPS.

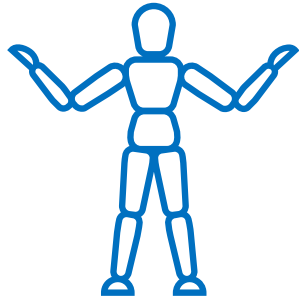
Suppliers can re-apply to join if initially rejected, as long as their re-submission meets our award criteria.

The DPS Agreement still contains all the standard NHS terms and conditions which our existing supply base adhere to.



# Why are we doing it?

The current, frequently used, open procedure does not allow new suppliers to join frameworks agreements after the award stage, meaning new suppliers are often locked out of the market for several years. In addition, the open procedure is lengthy and can put off Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) from submitting a response due to the complexity.



There have been a number of key drivers which have been influential in our strategy and decision to utilise the DPS option for the NHS.

- Independent Review of NHS Hospital Food – recommended the use of more local/regional/British suppliers.
- NHS Net Zero Roadmap - Carbon Reduction Plans
- NHS Trust Green Plans – focusing on reduction of carbon emissions in the supply chain, local sourcing and plant-based food solutions.

These have all fed into our strategy and how we adapt to provide a more flexible approach to procurements which support the above.

# What are The Key Benefits to Trusts and Suppliers?

## TRUSTS

- Aligned to the trusts Green Plans that have highlighted local sourcing as a key theme enabling us to onboard more local and regionally based suppliers.
- It supports common elements of the Independent Review of NHS Hospital Food which, again points trusts towards moving to more local and British supply of food.
- Allows off framework suppliers to apply to the DPS and therefore providing peace of mind for the trust knowing they are compliantly procuring.
- Provide more competition in the market to help drive savings and alternative solutions.



## SUPPLIERS

- DPS allows potential suppliers to apply to join the DPS at any time as long as they pass the selection questionnaire and minimum requirements.
- Simplification of documents and shorter timescales
- Provide healthy competition in the market
- Provide more opportunities to a wider customer base
- Supports new entrants and innovation.

# What We Have Done So Far

- Significant market engagement with the supply base and key stakeholders
- Marketing campaign across a number of platforms and publications
- We currently have 95 suppliers who have expressed interest in the DPS (53 on the current framework)
- We have awarded 32 suppliers since July 2022 with a further 6 in progress – this is increasing on a weekly basis
- We are aiming to have all incumbent suppliers from the current Fresh Food Framework approved onto the DPS Agreement before we begin our initial competition in Jan 2023.



- Competition calendar in place for regular ITFC/RFQ competitions throughout 2023 as below:

Process	Confirmation of inclusion to competition	Anticipated Award	Anticipated Launch
ITFC	Jan-23	Apr-23	May-23
RFQ	May-23	Jul-23	Aug-23
ITFC	May-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
RFQ	Jul-23	Oct-23	Nov-23
ITFC	Aug-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
RFQ	Dec-23	Mar-24	Apr-24
ITFC	Jan-24	Apr-24	May-24
RFQ	Apr-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
ITFC	May-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
RFQ	Jul-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
ITFC	Aug-24	Nov-24	Dec-24

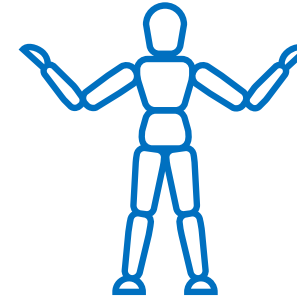
# How can Trusts engage with the DPS Agreement?

- All trusts can use the Supply Chain website to kept informed of approved suppliers on the DPS Agreement, alongside the Fresh Food categories and regional locations they service:

[www.supplychain.nhs.uk](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk)

- All trusts can use the DPS Agreement to join RFQ / ITFC competition activities by contacting their NHS Supply Chain: Food Account Manager for more information
- All trusts can recommend suppliers they would like to join the DPS Agreement by sharing the below link for suppliers to apply accordingly:

[www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/020877-2022](http://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/020877-2022)





**If you have any  
further questions,  
please contact your  
NHS Supply Chain:  
Food Account  
Manager**