



## Supply Chain

# Popular brands, consistent savings

After an extensive period of consultation with NHS catering and procurement teams, as well as suppliers, NHS Supply Chain is pleased to present the new Hot Beverages and Vending Consumables range, which is now available to purchase from the online catalogue.



The NHS Supply Chain: Food team has worked on putting the range together for 12 months, ensuring the products available match the needs of the NHS. Two new big brand suppliers, one for tea (Typhoo) and one for coffee (Kenco), have been procured, providing the best financial value as well as an excellent range that includes recognisable and reliable products. Typhoo and Kenco have become the integral providers on this framework, which also includes a wide range of other suppliers.

Despite the addition of big brands such as these, the food team has secured average savings of seven per cent across all products when compared to the previous ranges. Fergus Meehan, Category Lead – Transacted at NHS Supply Chain: Food commented, “Through our engagement with NHS Trusts, we heard requests for recognisable brands on our frameworks, so we worked very hard to meet this need whilst still keeping costs

down. I am so pleased with the result the team has been able to produce. I hope that many NHS Trusts can take advantage of this saving and are able to spend this saved money on other areas at their sites.”

### The range

The full range available covers tea, coffee, hot chocolate, herbal and flavoured teas, malted drinks, in-cup products, flavia machine sachets, and other hot beverage vending machine ingredients.

Five suppliers are brand new to the framework. There are also many options available that are suitable for a COVID-19 safe environment, including sealed container products, single portion sachets, and tea bags in envelopes.

NHS Trusts who would like to try some of the new products can request samples from their local Food Account Manager.



Fergus Meehan,  
Category Lead –  
Transacted at NHS  
Supply Chain: Food

## Supporting a sustainable future

Since October 2020, the NHS Supply Chain: Food team has been requesting sustainability strategies from all suppliers as part of the procurement process. This enables us to gather base information to compare progress over time and provide NHS Trusts with information on what suppliers' sustainability goals and achievements are. We want to enable more informed decisions and support sustainability.

The new core black tea provider on this framework is working towards plastic-free status across all of its tea bags and is currently conducting trials. The herbal and fruit tea provider already has plastic-free status across all tea bags.

Fergus voiced his support for this approach by saying, "We're really behind a sustainable future in the food team and have a plan to support this over the coming years. One area involves making information from suppliers more accessible to NHS Trusts, and we do this on their behalf. Another area is plastic-free products and I'm pleased to say that these are available on this framework and others that we provide."

## Portions to suit any situation

The pack sizes of products in this range have been broadened to suit a wider range of circumstances. From pouches to tins to jars, and regardless of how large or small the quantity ordered, NHS Supply Chain: Food is confident this range can fulfil that need.

## A flexible framework

This product range is available for the next two years minimum before it is procured again: updating product frameworks ensures NHS Supply Chain: Food can adapt to the changing needs of the NHS.

Visit [www.supplychain.nhs.uk/categories/food](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/categories/food) for more information on Hot Beverages and Vending Consumables, to see the full product and supplier list, and to view the full range of frameworks

If you are thinking of switching to an NHS Supply Chain: Food framework, contact your regional Food Account Manager via [www.supplychain.nhs.uk/contact/category-contacts/#foodacs](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/contact/category-contacts/#foodacs)

***The framework supports the Greener NHS agenda because a reduction in single-use plastics in catering environments is a key component.***

## NHS SUPPLY CHAIN HAS ALSO LAUNCHED ITS CATERING CONSUMABLES FRAMEWORK, WHICH INCLUDES SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS TO HELP NHS TRUSTS REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

The reduction of single-use plastics and seeking more sustainable alternatives is an issue at the forefront of the public conscience. NHS Supply Chain is committed to supporting this activity and has been working in collaboration with suppliers to build a substantial range of environmentally friendly products to give NHS Trusts more choice.

The NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services Catering Equipment and Consumables framework, launched in July, offers Trusts the chance to reduce their single-use plastics by switching to sustainable alternatives including biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, and reusable options. The framework supports the Greener NHS agenda because a reduction in single-use plastics in catering environments is a key component.

In 2020, the NHS collectively purchased more than 131 million plastic cups, almost 40 million pieces of plastic cutlery, and approximately 8.7 million plastic drinking straws.

Ryan Quinn, Procurement Specialist for the Catering Consumables Category at NHS Supply Chain: Hotel Services said, "Everyone has a part to play in reducing single-use plastics across the NHS. We have a lot of work to do to change attitudes and encourage people to think about the choices they are making."

"If every NHS Trust moved to a sustainable alternative, we could collectively support the reduction of single-use plastics in the NHS and achieve our target of reducing plastics in catering consumables by at least 50 tonnes during 2021/2022."

**For further information about the framework and alternatives available visit: [www.supplychain.nhs.uk/sustainability/plastics/](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/sustainability/plastics/)**

