

Public Sector Legal Services Framework

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Procurement challenges - Veale Wasbrough Vizards are your experts in difficult times

Procurement litigation is ever increasing. The remedies rules build in unlimited fines, contract cancellation and automatic suspension. Competition for public contract opportunities is fierce. Put simply, losing in a procurement can mean the end of a supplier's business.

Dealing with the risks

Challenges are high impact and it can be difficult to know which way to turn. Even if Court proceedings are avoided, bad press/ reputation and scrutiny can be just as damaging. Automatic suspension rules mean that authorities must stop the procurement process if proceedings are brought.

Challenges need to be brought very quickly (generally within 30 days of becoming aware of the issue giving rise to the claim).

Challenges are often accompanied by Freedom of Information Act (FOI) requests and other requests for confidential documentation. All of this means quick responses are needed from contracting authorities facing a challenge, and would-be challengers cannot sit on their hands when an issue comes to light.

How we can help

Our specialist procurement unit is a team with market leading expertise, advising at the cutting edge of procurement law and policy. We advise both contracting authorities and bidders on challenge issues and our experience extends to dealing with matters at the European Court of Justice.

We offer experienced, tactical litigation advice and case management, coupled with a commercial and pragmatic view of the procurement regime. This ensures a highly cost effective service at all times. Ours is a solution driven approach aiming to avoid litigation if possible.

Training for your teams

Our fixed fee procurement challenge training products highlight the current trends and risk areas for both contracting authorities and bidders, helping you to recognise a challenge before the claim is issued.

For more information, please contact David or Ed using the contact details below.



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