

# Procurement Platform

## Compliance, Frameworks and Call-Off Contracts

**PROBRAND**

A Practical Guide for Public Sector IT Procurement

### The Compliance Foundation

#### Purpose of This Guide

This guide explains how procurement compliance, public sector frameworks, call-off contracts and platform-based audit evidence work together in IT procurement.

It is designed to help procurement, finance, IT and audit teams understand:

- How recognised frameworks support compliant routes to market
- The role of call-off contracts in providing authority to spend
- How the Probrand Procurement Platform supports governance, transparency and auditability
- How purchasing decisions can be evidenced at the point of order

*\*This guide is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. Organisations should follow their own procurement policies and seek legal or procurement advice where required.*

### Procurement Compliance: The Practical Reality

Procurement compliance increasingly requires clear evidence of how purchasing decisions are made. Organisations must be able to demonstrate how purchasing decisions were made at the point of purchase, not retrospectively.

Our platform is designed to support this reality by embedding governance, transparency, and auditability directly into the procurement workflow - helping make compliant procurement activity more practical, auditable and defensible.

### The Procurement Act 2023 What Matters for IT Procurement

The Procurement Act 2023 sets out principles and expectations, not technology requirements. For IT procurement, the most relevant principles are:

- Value for money
- Transparency and auditability
- Fair competition
- Clear contracting authority
- Defensible decision-making

#### Important point:

The Procurement Act 2023 sets expectations around process, governance, transparency and value for money. It does not prescribe a specific technology platform.

### Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015)

Many organisations continue to operate under PCR 2015, either fully or alongside the Procurement Act 2023 during transition.

The Probrand Procurement Platform supports procurement activity under both regimes, enabling customers to transition between them without changing how users buy day-to-day.

### Frameworks: Establishing a Compliant Route to Market

A recognised public sector framework can provide a compliant route to market by:

- ✓ Completing supplier due diligence
- ✓ Establishing competition
- ✓ Setting compliant pricing mechanisms
- ✓ Reducing procurement risk

\*Frameworks can provide the contractual and procedural foundation for compliant procurement activity when used in line with their rules and the organisation's procurement policies.



### Call-Off Contracts: Authority to Spend

A call-off contract is raised under a recognised framework and provides:

- ✓ A defined contract period
- ✓ A nominated maximum spend value (e.g. £3m)
- ✓ Authority to place orders within the agreed scope, value and period of the call-off contract, without running a new tender for each individual purchase.

\*Call-off contracts can simplify governance, reduce procurement risk and avoid the need to run a separate tender exercise for every eligible purchase.

Important points to note:

- ✓ The full value does not need to be spent
- ✓ Spend is drawn down only as orders are placed
- ✓ The framework award supports the compliant route to market

# Supporting Compliant Procurement Where the Probrand Procurement Platform Fits

A Practical Guide for Public  
Sector IT Procurement

The Probrand Procurement Platform operates within the framework and call-off structure to deliver the operational and audit layer of compliance.

Framework = route to market

- Call-off contract = authority to spend
- Platform = transparency, governance, and evidence
- Each part is essential. Together, they create a complete compliance chain.

## 1 Compliance Pillar 1: Contractual Compliance Delivered through frameworks and call-off contracts

- Call-off contract awarded under a recognised framework
- Spend value agreed for a defined period
- Supplier due diligence completed at framework level
- The framework award supports the compliant contractual route
- This establishes the compliant route to market.

## 2 Compliance Pillar 2: Auditability & Transparency Delivered by the Probrand Procurement Platform

Once the contractual route is in place, the platform embeds governance, transparency and evidence into everyday purchasing.



### Compliance View

The Compliance View provides procurement, finance, and audit teams with clear visibility of:

- Supplier options available at the time of purchase
- How pricing was formed
- Which framework prices, bids, or discounts are applied
- Evidence supporting value-for-money decisions

This removes ambiguity and supports both internal governance and external audit.

### Compliance Report (Order Download)

For every transaction, the platform generates a one-page Compliance Report at the point of purchase, showing:

- Distribution pricing
- Special bid pricing
- Sector or framework-specific discounts
- Clear evidence of competitive pricing

This document provides audit evidence: a time-stamped snapshot of the purchasing decision as it was made.

### Why the Compliance Report Matters Under the Procurement Act 2023

The Compliance Report directly supports statutory expectations by:

- Demonstrating transparent pricing decisions
- Providing defensible audit evidence
- Supporting proportionality and value-for-money principles
- Helping reduce procurement challenge risk by improving transparency and evidence

The report does not create compliance - **it helps evidence it.**

### The Complete Compliance Chain

A stronger compliance position is created when the following elements are aligned:

- Recognised Framework
- Call-off contract
- Nominated spend value
- Orders placed via the Probrand platform
- Compliance Report captured at point of purchase

Missing or inconsistent evidence can weaken the organisation's compliance position.

### What the Probrand Procurement Platform Is - and Is Not

#### The platform is:

- A framework-aligned procurement system
- A governance and audit enablement tool
- A transparent, evidence-led route to market

#### The platform is not:

- A replacement for frameworks
- A standalone compliance authority
- A way to bypass procurement rules

*"Frameworks and call-off contracts establish the contractual route. The Probrand Procurement Platform supports that route by providing the transparency, controls and audit evidence needed to make purchasing decisions demonstrable."*