**Edition No 8 July 2022**

Welcome to this edition of the Food and Drink Newsletter.

The purpose of this communication is to give an update and overview of the development of the Commercial Agreement, activities, themes and feedback.

We hope you find this useful. The team welcomes ideas for future editions of the newsletter, so if there is something you would like to see included please let us know by emailing food@crowncommercial.gov.uk

**Buying Better Food**

**Why use CCS**

● CCS is the biggest public procurement organisation in the UK

● we help thousands of public and third sector buyers with billions of pounds spending each year

● for the first time, we are offering a commercial agreement which will allow public sector organisations to buy food and drink

● we have commercial expertise, deep product knowledge and national buying power

● our service is free to use

**Current Market**

● the food and drink industry has an important role to play in the government’s levelling up agenda

● the UK has experienced an increase in the cost of living, with food prices being impacted this is coupled with a rise in inflation and increasing fuel costs **Benefits**

● we strive to ensure that you can secure the maximum possible social, environmental and economic benefits from every pound of public money you spend through this agreement

● We will support public sector buyers in buying quality, safer, sustainable food that meets the current and soon to be revised Government Buying Standards for Food (GBSF)

**Commercial Agreement Overview**

CCS welcomes and values your input and suggestions regarding this agreement. Get in touch with the team Food@crowncommercial.gov.uk

Key principles we are working towards for the commercial agreement are: ● Free at the point of use for public sector customers

● Customers will be able to access and purchase via a digital platform ● Next day delivery capability

● Food and drink producers are able to on board and off board at any time ● Fast and simple invoicing and payment process

● Customer choices to buy local across available products

**Edition No 8 July 2022**

This will be an agreement managed with a single access point, using a Tier 1 supplier as an umbrella to simplify the customer journey. The agreement covers all public sector customers and all food and drink sub-categories, and we welcome the opportunity for single suppliers, a consortium or a Special Procurement Vehicle (SPV) style approach to meet the requirements. Information can be found here Prior Information Notice (PIN)

Food and Drink progress updates on the procurement agreement can be found on the CCS website. Click here to view the Food and Drink webpage

**Government Food Strategy**

On June 13th 2022, the government launched its Food Strategy. This strategy sets out what will be done to create a more prosperous agri-food sector that delivers healthier, more sustainable and affordable diets for all.

**DEFRA Possible Changes to Public Sector Food and Catering Policy** Defra have launched a consultation and we encourage all our stakeholders to comment on **possible changes to public sector food and catering policy.**

Now is your chance to tell Defra what you think of the proposals and shape the future of the policy. The consultation will be open for 12 weeks, closing on 4 September 2022.

This consultation sets out proposals for:

1. New guidance principles on fair and transparent procurement

2. Changes to the Government Buying Standards for food and catering services 3. New data reporting requirements

You can review the **proposed policy document**

If you have any questions, or would like to talk about this further, please get in touch with Ellen Fletcher in the Defra team: **ellen.fletcher@defra.gov.uk.**

**Opportunity to be an Evaluator**

We are looking for customer organisations to participate in the evaluation of the procurement, which consists of independent evaluation followed by consensus meetings. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to a flagship commercial agreement that will provide significant benefit to the UK public sector.

**Edition No 8 July 2022**

We welcome your participation as an evaluator. The timescales for this are still to be confirmed but we are currently working towards an evaluation period to be scheduled for dates in March/April 2023.

Should you wish to take up this opportunity, please contact

food@crowncommercial.go.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.

**Team Update**

We are delighted to welcome 2 new members to the team, as we continue to invest in team capability to deliver a new commercial agreement in this exciting new category to the CCS portfolio.

Michael Evans joined us on 27th June and brings experience from his time in CCS procurement operations, and also prior to joining CCS, he worked in both food retail, supply chain and procurement.

Liam O’Shaughnessy will join the team on 22nd August. Liam has private sector experience in procurement and category management, and also brings his more recent CCS sourcing expertise to the team

Look out for more information on Michael and Liam in the next edition.

We also wish Barry Walton the very best, as he hangs up his CCS badge for the last time. After over 38 years service to the public sector, Barry retires at the end of the summer and embarks on his exciting new chapter in life.

**Timelines**

As the team continues to develop the strategy, revised timelines are as follows:

Find a Tender Quarter 1 2023

Contract Award Quarter 2 2023

Go Live Quarter 3 2023

**Edition No 8 July 2022**

**Useful Contacts**

You will also find a full list of all our commercial agreements, alongside details of how we can help you build policy considerations into your procurement, in our interactive digital brochure.

We believe your buying decisions have the power to make life better for citizens across the country. I hope we can help you make those decisions with CCS.

If there is anything we can help you with. Call us on 0345 410 2222 or email food@crowncommercial.gov.uk

The Food Team

**Stay Up to Date**

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