

# How to Maximise your Tender Success Rate

Guide



### Introduction

Winning public sector contracts is a major growth opportunity for businesses of all sizes.

With billions of pounds worth of contracts awarded each year, the public sector presents a dynamic and lucrative market – but competition is fierce.

Many organisations struggle to break into public sector procurement or improve their tender success rates because they lack understanding of the regulations, processes or what's most important to buyers.

Focusing on these areas can make a real difference.

#### If you've ever found yourself wondering:

- Why aren't we winning more tenders?
- Are we targeting the right opportunities?
- How can we improve our bid strategy to secure more contracts?

#### Then this guide is for you.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through proven strategies to maximise your tender success rate, covering everything from finding the right opportunities to enhancing your bid quality and leveraging market intelligence.



### What you'll learn in this guide

- The common pitfalls that lead to unsuccessful tenders and how to avoid them.
- How to identify and target the right public sector opportunities.
- Why early engagement with buyers is key to winning contracts.
- How to build a strong bid strategy and improve your tender responses.
- The role of competitor and market intelligence in outbidding your rivals.
- How Tracker Intelligence simplifies the entire process and gives your business a competitive edge.

#### Why tendering success matters

Winning public sector contracts doesn't just bring in revenue – it boosts your credibility, strengthens your market position and creates long-term growth opportunities.

A high tender success rate means you're consistently securing profitable contracts, maintaining a steady pipeline of work and maximising your return on investment for bidding efforts.

Incumbent suppliers also often benefit from recurring contracts and change requests during the term of a contract, further boosting the value of such business.

### How Tracker Intelligence can help

Tracker Intelligence is designed to give businesses a strategic advantage in the public procurement market. With real-time contract alerts, competitor and buyer insights, powerful data, market intelligence and bid support tools, Tracker helps you:

- Find the right tenders faster and more efficiently.
- Engage buyers before tenders are published to gain a competitive edge.
- ✓ Analyse past contract awards to refine your bidding strategy.
- Enhance bid quality and compliance to improve win rates.

Want to see Tracker in action?

Book a FREE TRACKER DEMO today and discover how our platform can help you win more tenders. Tracker Intelligence helps you to navigate public sector requirements by providing detailed contract insights, including evaluation criteria, deadlines and buyer expectations.

## Understanding public sector tendering

#### **Overview of public sector procurement and its opportunities**

The public sector represents a vast and valuable marketplace for businesses of all sizes. In the UK alone, public sector organisations currently spend over £400 billion annually on goods, works and services – spanning industries such as construction, IT, healthcare, facilities management and consulting.

## Why public procurement is a growth opportunity for your business

Consistent spending:

Public sector budgets are often ring-fenced, providing stability even during economic downturns.

- Wide range of opportunities: Contracts are available in diverse sectors, from infrastructure and technology to professional services and facilities management.
- Fair competition:

Transparent procurement regulations ensure equal opportunity for SMEs and larger corporations a like.

 Long-term contracts: Many public sector contracts span multiple years, offering predictable revenue streams.

#### **Public procurement routes**

The recent implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 has meant significant changes to the way the public sector is required to approach procurement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, devolved procurement continues under the existing Procurement Contracts Regulations (2015), although certain procurement is covered by the new regulations.

This is a fine example of why understanding this market is important, particularly when there are even differences in how the Procurement Act itself is applied in certain sectors and countries.

The new regulations place greater emphasis on market engagement and transparency, opening the market to SMEs and VSCEs and (via the new National Procurement Policy Statement) social value.

There are multiple ways in which the public sector can advertise its procurement opportunities to potential suppliers. These include:

- Open tenders: Available to all businesses with no restrictions
- Framework Agreements:
   Pre-approved supplier lists that offer repeated opportunities (but which can now be re-opened under the new regulations)
- Dynamic Markets (formerly Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS)):
   Flexible frameworks that allow new suppliers to join at any time.
- Market Engagement Notices and Planned Procurement Notices: Early alerts that enable you to engage buyers before opportunities go live.



Tracker Intelligence ensures you never miss an opportunity by delivering real-time alerts on relevant tenders, frameworks and market engagement opportunities directly to your inbox.



#### Key differences between public and private sector contracts

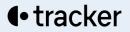
While public sector contracts present lucrative opportunities, they follow distinct processes and requirements when compared to the private sector. Understanding these differences is crucial for shaping a winning tender strategy.

Aspect	Public Sector Procurement	Private Sector Procurement
Regulations	Governed by strict procurement rules (e.g., the Procurement Act 2023) to ensure fair competition and transparency.	More flexible with fewer formal rules.
Compliance	Requires detailed documentation, including evidence of capabilities, financial stability, and social value commitments.	Compliance is often less formal, with requirements varying between buyers.
Transparency	Opportunities are publicly advertised on a number of government websites. This is good for transparency but can be difficult to keep track of.	Opportunities are often communicated directly or through informal networks and supply chain relationships.
Visibility	The public sector is focusing more effort on early visibility of opportunities to ensure it can consider innovative approaches and alternatives prior to the formal procurement process starting.	Opportunities are often only visible to businesses already engaging with the customer.
Evaluation Criteria	Tenders are evaluated using defined scoring systems, typically based on most advantageous tender, usually in terms of price, quality, and social value considerations.	Evaluation criteria may be more subjective and relationship-driven.
Timelines	Often involve longer decision cycles with set deadlines for queries, submissions, and awards.	Decision timelines can vary significantly and are often faster.



#### Why the right intelligence and preparation make all the difference

Success in public procurement isn't just about finding tenders — it's about identifying the right opportunities and positioning your business early to improve your chances of success. Being at the table when requirements are being shaped is far better than being one of many seeing a finalised tender notice for the first time.



#### Why intelligence is critical

• Early Insight into future opportunities:

Tracker's market intelligence tools reveal upcoming opportunities before they go live, giving you time to prepare and engage.

• Competitor analysis:

Understanding who won previous tenders contracts — and at what price — can help you refine your bidding strategy.

Buyer engagement:

Building relationships with key decision makers during the preliminary market engagement-market stage can help you influence tender specifications.

#### Why preparation drives success

Bid/No-bid decisions:

Identifying which tenders align with your capabilities saves time and resources. Focus where you are more likely to be successful.

Tailored bid responses:

Well-researched tenders that reflect the buyer's objectives are far more effective than generic submissions.

 $\square^{\mathcal{N}_3}$  Compliance and quality assurance:

Ensuring your submission meets all requirements from policies to case studies increases your likelihood of success.

Tracker Intelligence

Combines powerful market insights, competitor data and early engagement tools to help you prepare stronger, smarter bids that win contracts.

Understanding the structure and expectations of public sector procurement is the first step toward improving your tender success rate. By combining detailed market insights with a proactive engagement strategy, your organisation can significantly increase its chances of winning lucrative public sector contracts.

Want to gain the competitive edge in public sector procurement?

Book a FREE TRACKER DEMO today and discover how our powerful tools can transform your tendering success.

## Common reasons for tender failure - and how to avoid them

The public sector marketplace is becoming more competitive and even experienced businesses can face setbacks. Understanding the most common reasons for tender failure — and how to overcome them— is crucial for improving your success rate.

In this section, we'll explore:

- The most common pitfalls that lead to tender failure.
- Practical strategies to avoid these mistakes.
- ✓ How Tracker Intelligence can help you overcome these challenges and increase your win rate.

#### Reason 1: Lack of early engagement with buyers

#### Why it's a problem

Many businesses wait until a tender is published before engaging with public sector buyers. By this stage, it's often too late to influence the buyer's requirements or demonstrate your value effectively.

Without early engagement, you may find yourself responding to tenders that heavily favour competitors who have already built relationships with the buyer.

#### How to fix it

- From 1 April, defined contracting authorities are required to publish Pipeline Notices in the first 56 days of each financial year, outlining what they plan to buy that year. Monitoring these notices will help you plan your tendering and engagement strategies
- Monitor Market Engagement Notices and Planned Procurement Notices these alerts signal that a buyer is preparing to procure services, giving you time to engage.
- Review Award Notices these are a great source of intelligence and detail when a contract is due to expire (and therefore potentially renew) and who the incumbent supplier is.
- Attend pre-market engagement events to connect with key decision makers.
- Use Tracker's Buyer Engagement tools to identify and reach out to public sector buyers ahead of formal tender releases.
- With Tracker Intelligence, you can access comprehensive buyer data, identify relevant market engagement and planned procurement notices and connect with decision makers before your competitors.

Don't wait for tenders to go live - start building relationships today with Tracker's early engagement tools. Book your FREE TRACKER DEMO now.



#### **Reason 2: Inadequate market and competitor research**

#### Why it's a problem

Many tenders are lost because businesses fail to understand the competitive landscape or buyer priorities. Without detailed insights, your bid may overlook key factors that influence the decision making process.

Submitting a bid without insight into competitors' strengths, previous contract wins or budget expectations can result in an underwhelming submission.

#### How to fix it

- Analyse past contract awards and spend data to identify trends in buyer spending and competitor strategies.
- Track which organisations are winning contracts in your sector and understand what sets their bids apart.
- Use Tracker's Market Intelligence tools to uncover spending patterns, supplier preferences and emerging opportunities.
- Tracker Intelligence provides access to past award data, competitor insights and procurement trends — giving you the information needed to tailor your bids and gain an edge.

Gain the insights you need to outbid competitors book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today.

#### **Reason 3: Poorly written and noncompliant tender responses**

#### Why it's a problem

Even businesses with strong capabilities can lose out due to poorly structured, unclear or noncompliant submissions. Failure to follow formatting instructions, exceeding word limits or not meeting documentation requirements can lead to disqualification — even if your solution is the best fit

Buyers may dismiss your bid entirely if it lacks clarity or misses key details.

#### How to fix it

- Establish a bid/no bid decision making methodology. It is easy to be excited by an opportunity, but you should review whether it is right (or achievable) against defined metrics.
- Allow plenty of time for your bid response. Work back from the deadline date and ensure you factor in time for discussion, preparation, review and submission. Ideally, have your bid response peer reviewed by someone outside the bid team. Don't wait until the deadline to check how you submit it i.e is it by email or upload to a buyer's portal?
- ✓ Follow the buyer's instructions carefully addressing all requirements, word limits and submission formats. Answer the question they've asked, not the one you wish they'd asked!
- Use Tracker's Bid Management tools to track submission requirements and deadlines to stay organised.
- Develop a bid library to store pre-approved content for fast, accurate tender responses.
- Tracker Intelligence helps streamline bid preparation with tools that highlight key compliance requirements and ensure your bids meet all criteria.

Ensure your bids are compliant and compelling - book a TRACKER DEMO to see how our tools can support you.

#### **Reason 4: Pricing and value proposition challenges**

#### Why it's a problem

Many businesses struggle to balance competitive pricing with demonstrating clear value for money. Simply offering the lowest price doesn't guarantee success — buyers evaluate value, quality and social value alongside cost. The Procurement Act 2023 takes the focus away from price with key award criteria changing from 'Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT)' to 'Most Advantageous Tender (MAT)'.

A poorly presented value proposition may leave buyers questioning your ability to deliver effectively, even if your price is attractive.

#### How to fix it

- ✓ Highlight the return on investment (ROI) your solution offers, not just its cost.
- Emphasise your efficiency, reliability and added value such as sustainability initiatives or social value contributions.
- Use Tracker's Spend Analysis tools to research previous contract values and align your pricing with market expectations.
- Tracker Intelligence equips you with valuable spend data and insights into competitor pricing strategies — giving you the knowledge to position your pricing effectively.

Get the data you need to build a winning value proposition book a TRACKER DEMO today.

#### Solution: How Tracker Intelligence helps overcome tendering challenges

Tracker Intelligence is designed to address these common pitfalls by providing a comprehensive suite of tools to help you improve your tender success rate. Here's how:

- Early Engagement Tools: Identify key buyers and connect with them before tenders go live.
- Market Intelligence: Access detailed insights on competitors, spending patterns and upcoming opportunities.
- Tender Alerts & Tracking: Stay ahead with real-time notifications on relevant contracts and frameworks at every stage of the procurement process.
- Bid Management Tools: Organise bid responses, track deadlines and ensure compliance with buyer requirements.
- Spend Analysis: Gain visibility of past contract values to shape your pricing and value strategy.
- With Tracker Intelligence, you'll have everything you need to proactively engage buyers, identify high-value opportunities and submit winning bids.

Ready to increase your tender success rate? Book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today and start winning more contracts.

## Step by step guide to increasing tender win rate

Improving your public sector tender success rate requires a strategic, informed and well-structured approach. By following this step by step guide, you can refine your strategy, engage buyers earlier and submit compelling bids that win contracts.

#### Step 1: Identifying the right opportunities

#### Why finding the right opportunities is critical

Winning tenders isn't just about submitting as many bids as possible — it's about targeting the right opportunities that align with your business's strengths and capabilities. Focusing on wellmatched contract opportunities improves your chances of success while saving valuable time and resources.

#### How to identify opportunities with Tracker

With Tracker's powerful tools, you can:

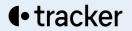
- Receive real-time alerts on tenders that match your industry, service offerings and preferred locations.
- Filter opportunities by contract value, contract type and buyer details to find the most relevant tenders.
- Access insights on framework agreements,
- V Dynamic Market opportunities and market engagement and planned procurement notices to identify upcoming contracts before they go live.



Discover tailored tender alerts with Tracker book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today.



Tracker's tailored tender alerts ensure you only see opportunities that align with your business goals – helping you focus on bids you're most likely to win.



#### Step 2: Conducting market and competitor analysis

#### Why competitor and market insights matter

Effective bidding requires a solid understanding of the competition and the wider procurement landscape. Without these insights, you risk:

- X Submitting bids that fail to meet buyer expectations.
- X Overpricing or under pricing your offer compared to competitors.
- X Missing key trends that shape public sector spending.

#### How Tracker's tools help you gain a competitive edge

With Tracker's Market Intelligence and Spend Analysis tools, you can:

- Identify which organisations are winning contracts in your sector.
- Understand contract values, helping you benchmark your pricing
- Track buyer spending trends to predict future opportunities.
- ✓ Gain insights into successful competitor strengths to improve your own bid strategy.

Gain a strategic edge with Tracker book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today.

By understanding your competitors and market trends, you'll be able to position your business more effectively – increasing your chances of success.

#### Step 3: Strengthening your bid strategy

#### Why a strong bid strategy is essential

Without a structured bidding process, businesses risk:

- X Wasting resources on unsuitable tenders
- X Rushing submissions that overlook key buyer requirements.
- × Failing to showcase their unique value effectively.

#### How to build a winning bid strategy

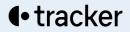
- Develop a bid/no-bid Framework Establish clear criteria to evaluate which tenders to pursue. Consider factors like contract size, resource availability and strategic fit
- Focus on compliance, clarity and value Winning bids are concise, compliant and clearly demonstrate how your solution meets the buyer's needs – while also identifying opportunities to add further value.
- Leverage Tracker's bid management tools to organise your bidding process, track submission deadlines and ensure all required documents are included.

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Simplify your bid management with Tracker – book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today.



Tracker's bid management tools help you manage multiple tenders efficiently, ensuring no opportunity slips through the cracks.



#### Step 4: Enhancing pre-tender engagement

#### Why pre-tender engagement is critical

Waiting until a tender is published can limit your influence over the buyer's decision. By engaging early, you can:

- Build relationships with buyers before procurement starts.
- Help shape tender requirements to align with your strengths.
- Position your business as a trusted supplier before competitors get involved.

#### How Tracker's pipeline tools help

Tracker's pipeline tools empower you to:

- Identify opportunities in the pre-tender stage, giving you time to engage buyers early.
- Track market engagement and planned procurement notices and market engagement events to connect with procurement teams before tenders are published.
- Build meaningful relationships with key decision-makers to increase your influence.

Connect with buyers before your competitors do - book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today. Engaging buyers early through Tracker significantly improves your chances of winning contracts.

#### Step 5: Improving response quality and compliance

#### Why quality and compliance are non-negotiable

Even the most compelling bid will fail if it:

- X Misses key compliance criteria.
- X Fails to address the buyer's needs clearly.
- X Uses generic content that doesn't highlight your unique value.

#### How to craft winning, compliant responses

Focus on clear language that directly answers buyer requirements.

- Provide strong evidence, case studies and testimonials to demonstrate your track record.
- ✓ Use Tracker's bid automation tools to streamline content creation, ensure compliance and save time.

Ensure your bids are always compliant – book a demo of Tracker's bid automation tools today.

Tracker's automation tools reduce errors, ensure consistency and improve the overall quality of your submissions.

## Step 6: Leveraging framework agreements and dynamic markets (formerly DPS)

#### Why frameworks and dynamic markets (formerly DPS) matter

Framework Agreements and Dynamic Markets give businesses access to multiple opportunities without repeatedly submitting lengthy bids.

#### Key benefits for your business

- Frameworks provide a trusted supplier status, making it easier to win direct awards.
- Winning a place on a framework agreement does not guarantee business but in it significantly shifts the balance in your favour versus suppliers that are not on the framework
- Dynamic Market and DPS platforms allow new suppliers to join at any time meaning SMEs can compete effectively even after the initial Dynamic Market or DPS launches.
- Tracker helps you identify the most suitable frameworks for your sector and alerts you to upcoming Dynamic Market or DPS opportunities.

Don't miss out on framework opportunities – book your FREE TRACKER DEMO to<u>day.</u>

By securing a place on the right frameworks, you gain access to a steady stream of contract opportunities.

Successfully increasing your tender win rate requires a strategic, informed approach. By combining early engagement, market intelligence and bid management best practices, your business can improve both the quality and success rate of your submissions.

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Take your tendering strategy to the next level – book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today and start winning more contracts. Tracker Intelligence offers everything you need to identify the right tenders, build stronger relationships with buyers and create compliant, compelling bids that win contracts.

## Final tips for maximising tender success

Achieving a consistently high tender success rate requires more than just writing strong bids — it's about building an effective long-term strategy that combines proactivity, continuous improvement and data-driven decisions. By adopting these key principles, your business can refine its approach and increase its chances of success in public procurement.

#### 1. Stay proactive: don't just react to tenders – identify opportunities early

#### Why proactivity matters

Waiting for tenders to go live often means you're already behind competitors who have built relationships with the buyer or influenced the contract's requirements.

The Risk: Relying on live tenders alone limits your ability to shape buyer expectations and align your offering with their needs.

#### **Proactive strategies for tender success**

#### How to fix it

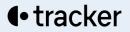
- Use Market Engagement Notices and Planned Procurement Notices to gain early visibility of upcoming contracts and engage with buyers before formal procurement starts
- Track spend patterns and renewal cycles to predict when buyers are likely to re-tender key services.
- Attend buyer engagement events to build relationships and showcase your expertise before competitors get involved.
- ✓ Use Tracker's Pipeline Tools to access early insights into future contract opportunities, helping you align your nternal resources and prepare winning strategies ahead of time.



Get ahead of your competitors with Tracker's early engagement tools – book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today.



By identifying opportunities early, you'll be better prepared to influence specifications, tailor your solution and build trust with buyers.



#### 2. Keep improving bid responses with feedback and data insights

#### Why continuous improvement is critical

Even unsuccessful tenders can provide valuable insights that help you refine your future bids. Too often, businesses repeat the same mistakes because they fail to assess what went wrong.

Without analysing past performance, you risk repeating errors, overlooking compliance gaps or failing to highlight your unique value.

#### Strategies for continuous improvement

- Always request debriefs from buyers after unsuccessful tenders to understand why your bid fell short. It helps your learning and demonstrates to the buyer that you value their feedback.
- Develop an internal bid review process to assess what worked well and what didn't.
- Build a bid library of strong content, templates and case studies that can be refined and reused for future submissions.
- Use Tracker's bid management tools to track your bid performance, identify trends and adapt your strategy accordingly.

Improve your bid quality with Tracker's insights – book a FREE TRACKER DEMO today.

Tracker's insights provide data on contract winners, award values and buyer preferences – helping you refine your responses and improve your win rate.

#### 3. Use data-driven decision making to optimise bidding strategies

#### Why data is key to tender success

Successful tendering isn't just about crafting compelling content — it's about making informed decisions based on data and insights.

Bidding on opportunities without evaluating your chances of success can waste resources and reduce your overall win rate.

#### How data-driven decisions improve outcomes

- Use Tracker's Spend Analysis Tools to research past contract values, allowing you to price your bids competitively.
- Track competitor activity to understand their strengths and identify gaps in the market that your business can exploit.
- Use Tracker's Market Intelligence to identify procurement trends, ensuring your bids reflect emerging buyer priorities such as sustainability, social value and innovation
- Assess which opportunities align with your strengths by using Tracker's tools to score tenders against your bid/no-bid criteria.



By harnessing data insights, you can make smarter decisions, reduce wasted effort and focus on the tenders you're most likely to win.

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## Improving your tender success rate is an ongoing process that requires a proactive mindset, continuous learning and data-driven insights.

By adopting these strategies and leveraging tools like Tracker Intelligence, your business can increase its win rate, secure valuable contracts and unlock new growth opportunities.



Ready to improve your tender success rate?

Book your FREE TRACKER DEMO today and start winning more public sector



The public procurement marketplace represents a fantastic opportunity for all types of business. It's dynamic, diverse and growing in value, while the new Procurement Act promises more transparency and fairness in the way buyers engage with the market.

Our data shows that this market is also becoming more competitive, with an increasing number of suppliers joining and vying for business.

Whether your organisation is new to the market or already supplying the public sector, it's important that you invest in the right tools to build and maintain a competitive advantage.

Another factor to consider is that buyers are thinking more commercially than ever before – seeking out innovation, talking to suppliers more often, negotiating harder to drive increased value and paying more attention to the contracts they already have in place. As long as you are investing into your understanding of the market and your relationships, this is good news. Engaged buyers will be more receptive to new ideas – ideas that your business could be bringing to the table.

Simply put, there has never been a better time to engage with the public sector marketplace – but winning requires practice, investment and a focus on delivering real value for buyers.

**Grahame Steed -** Content, Research and Communications Director at BiP Solutions Ltd

## Maximise your tender success with the right strategy and tools

Winning public sector tenders isn't just about writing strong responses — it's about adopting a proactive, data-driven and strategic approach that positions your business for success.

In this guide, we've explored practical steps to help you:

- Identify the right opportunities that align with your business strengths.
- Use market and competitor insights to refine your bidding strategy.
- Strengthen your bids through compliance, clarity and a compelling value proposition
- Engage with buyers early in the procurement cycle to influence requirements and build trusted relationships.
- Continuously improve your bid quality by using feedback and performance data to guide future submissions.

#### Invest in the right tools for long-term success

Success in public procurement requires the right combination of strategy and tools. While effective bidding tactics are essential, the businesses that consistently win tenders are those that embrace procurement intelligence platforms like Tracker Intelligence.

By using Tracker, you'll gain access to:

- Tailored tender alerts to identify high-value opportunities.
- Market insights and competitor analysis to inform your bid strategy.
- Early engagement tools that allow you to connect with buyers before tenders are published.
- Bid management solutions that streamline compliance, improve bid quality and reduce administrative burden.
- Spend analysis data that helps you price your bids competitively and effectively.

Investing in Tracker Intelligence equips your business with the insights, tools and data needed to improve your tender success rate and secure more public sector contracts.

## Explore our case studies



"The platform has supported us significantly over the last three months, making decisions around capacity for tendering much more straightforward."

Siobhan Clegg - (Assistant Director Commercial & Corporate Governance) Acorn Training



"There was no structure in place previously of how the business would go after tenders and contracts... now we have a clear, defined strategy."

David Stewart - (Bid Manager) Test Incorporated Inc



"We're more proactive rather than reactive. Tracker pulls through specific opportunities based on our bespoke profiles."

Molly Welch - (Bid Executive) Numatic International Ltd

