

Contracts Finder data feeds: Business and developer guidance on using the data

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What and who this document is for

This guide describes the XML, CSV and RSS data feeds that are generated by Contracts Finder. It is aimed at anyone who wants to directly access the data held in Contracts Finder – from application developers and systems integrators to government suppliers and the general public.

Data held in Contracts Finder can be directly accessed in a number of ways. These range from a simple RSS feed that can be viewed in a web browser or news reader, to an XML document that provides a much more extensive dataset.

Contracts Finder – an overview

Contracts Finder functions as an online noticeboard for government buyers and their suppliers. It is used by contracting authorities in UK central government to publish their procurement notices.

Contract notices can be viewed by suppliers and the general public through Contracts Finder's search, browse and email alert functions.

The notices include details of new contract opportunities that suppliers can bid for or express an interest in, as well as notices for awarded contracts. Prime contractors can also publish subcontract notices, provided they have been sponsored by a government buyer group on the system.

Since March 2011, government departments and agencies have been required to publish all their lower-value opportunities on Contracts Finder. In this context, lower-value opportunities are those worth less than the relevant Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement threshold – currently £113,000 for supplies and services.

The system also publishes tender and contract notices relating to procurements that are already underway or have been completed. All central government departments and agencies are required to make these publicly available as part of the government's 'transparency in procurement and contracting' initiative.

There are two main ways in which contracting authorities can publish their notices on Contracts Finder:

- directly – by registering as a user on the system and manually publishing notices via a web form
- indirectly, by publishing notices on other procurement systems that have a connection to Contracts Finder

One of the indirect feeds is from Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) - the EU-wide online notices portal. Contracts Finder takes a data feed from TED, so OJEU notices published on that system will automatically appear on Contracts Finder the following day.

These notices are aggregated within in the Contracts Finder database so that suppliers and the public can find and access lower-value (below OJEU) and higher-value (OJEU) opportunities in one place, as well as being able to search a complete set of notices relating to closed procurements published for transparency purposes.

Procurement notices you can access on Contracts Finder

This table shows the four broad groupings of notices that can be accessed on Contracts Finder.

Table 1. Notice groups and notice types available on Contracts Finder

	Live opportunities – above OJEU	Live opportunities - below OJEU	Transparency	Sub-contract
Source	TED, via inbound feed	Contracts Finder	Contracts Finder	Contracts Finder
Published by	Contracting authorities ¹	Contracting authorities ¹ or simply “buyers”	Contracting authorities ¹ or simply “buyers”	Prime contractors (private sector)
Live (open) or closed procurements?	Both	Both ²	Closed	Both ³
Contract values	Any	Less than relevant OJEU threshold ⁴	£10,000 and over	Any
Notice types	All OJEU ⁵ , including: Prior Information Notice Contract Notice Contract Award Notice	Tentative Contract Contract Award	Tentative Contract Contract Award	Contract Contract Award
Spatial coverage	EU-wide	UK only	UK only	UK only
Included in which Contracts Finder data feeds	RSS	RSS CSV XML	RSS CSV XML	RSS CSV XML

1. includes UK government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies
2. contract notices are ‘live’, contract awards are ‘closed’ notices. Tentative do have an ‘open’ period, but do not appear in the live opportunities search filter as they are notices of potential contract opportunities but might never come to fruition.
3. contract notices are ‘live’, contract award notices are ‘closed’
4. Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) - different threshold values apply to services, supplies and works – see <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/10%2011%20Threshold%20Rates%20for%202012%20and%20AR%20Procedure%20Update.pdf>
5. see Appendix 4 for full list of OJEU notice types, and their ‘friendly notice type’ equivalents on Contracts Finder

Data feeds available

There are two main types of data feed available on Contracts Finder. These are:

- ‘recent notices’, in XML and CSV formats – these are in turn divided into separate feeds for the last 40 days’ worth of data, and all notices for a given calendar month
- a simpler feed of the last 200 notices added to the system, in RSS format – there are four types of RSS feed available (see Table 2 below for details)

The table below describes the feed types, which notices they contain, and their update frequency.

Table 2. Comparison of XML, CSV and RSS feeds

Document format	Recent notices and calendar month reports		Last 200 notices
	XML	CSV	RSS
Feeds available	Last 40 days	Last 40 days	UK only Live opportunities – (All types: OJEU, below OJEU & sub-contract)
			All below OJEU
			Transparency notices
	Monthly ²	Monthly ²	Subcontract notices
Temporal coverage ¹	Last 40 days	Last 40 days	No fixed duration
	Specified calendar month ²	Specified calendar month ²	
Update frequency	Daily ³	Daily ³	Hourly
	Monthly	Monthly	
Ordering	By date of last status change	By date of last status change	By date of last status change
Maximum number of notices	None ⁴	None ⁴	200 (fixed)
Data set complexity ⁵	High	Medium	Low
Includes OJEU notices ⁶ ?	No	No	Only the Live Opportunities feed contains these
Includes retracted notices?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Includes deleted notices?	No	No	No
Includes URLs for full notices?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Examples of potential applications	Software application development	Report creation and data analysis, eg in Microsoft Excel	News aggregators and widgets for third-party websites and intranets

1. determined by the last date on which the status of a notice was changed, rather than its original publication date
2. monthly reports are generated for previous months only, ie no cumulative report is available for the current month
3. updated on 1st day of each month
4. limited by maximum document size
5. see Appendices 1 to 3 for details of data elements included in each document format
6. consumed from TED inbound feed

What information is available?

Depending on the type of feed you're using (XML, CSV or RSS), you can access a wide range of data. The XML feed contains the most detailed data set, while the RSS feed is more basic.

For the XML and CSV feeds, the same document structure and amount of data is provided regardless of whether you access the last 40 days' worth of notices or the monthly reports (see Table 2).

Note! The XML and CSV feeds **do not** contain details of OJEU notices, ie those added to the Contracts Finder database via the update from TED. This is due to the OJEU licence conditions, however the 'live opportunities' RSS feeds does contain details of these notices.

In the XML feed

See Appendix 1 for a full list and descriptions of the data elements in the XML document. In summary, the data held in the document structure covers:

- the nature of the opportunity, ie whether it's live or closed, the procurement stage (eg a tentative notice or contract award)
- details of the notice, including its title, CPV classification and unique ID assigned by the buyer, and whether or not the contract is classed as being suitable for smaller businesses
- contract values - live opportunities can include a minimum and/or maximum value
- deadlines - including closing dates for tenders or expression of interest, where applicable
- details of the contracting authority, including who to contact for enquiries
- the location where the contract is to be delivered, which is primarily defined using NUTS codes (see later for a definition)
- how to access any supporting documents - including descriptions and URLs for downloading them from Contracts Finder
- for contract awards, the value of the contract, details of who it was awarded to and the award criteria

In the CSV document

The two CSV (Comma Separated Values) documents - recent notices and calendar month - contain a reduced data set compared to their XML equivalents. Broadly, they cover the same main area described above, except for:

- deadlines are not specified
- the 'location of delivery' information does not contain any coded values, eg NUTS codes
- details for the contracting authority include only the organisation name and a contact email address
- no information about supporting documents is given, other than how many there are

The CSV document is a simple text file that is presented in a table format when opened in a suitable software application, such as Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org. It includes row and column headings, plus a description of the output, the file creation time and the time period it covers. See Appendix 2 for more information about the CSV feed.

Note! All CSV fields are truncated to 250 characters. This will have a particular impact on the DESCRIPTION field. Full details are available via the XML feed.

In the RSS feed

There are four separate RSS feeds. All use the same document structure and contain details of the same fixed number of notices.

The feeds are:

- Live opportunities (UK only, including OJEU)
- Published tender and contract documentation for the government transparency commitment
- All public sector below OJEU threshold contracts and notices
- All private sector sub contract opportunities, contracts and notices

Table 3. Comparison of notice groups and types exposed in the four RSS feeds

Notice group and type		RSS feed			
		Live opportunities	Published tender and contract documentation	All Below OJEU	All Subcontract
OJEU	Prior Information Notice	No	No	No	No
	Contract Notice	Yes	No	No	No
	Contract Award	No	No	No	No
	Other OJEU notice types	No	No	No	No
Below OJEU	Tentative notices	No	No	Yes	No
	Contract notices	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Contract award	No	No	Yes	No
Transparency	Tenders (closed)	No	Yes	No	No
	Contracts (closed)	No	Yes	No	No
Private Subcontracts	Contract notices	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Contract award	No	No	No	Yes
Spatial coverage		UK	UK	UK	UK
Number of notices returned		200	200	200	200
Update frequency		Hourly	Hourly	Hourly	Hourly

The feeds adhere to RSS 2.0 standards. The document structure is shown at Appendix 3, but in summary it includes the following information:

- the notice title
- a URL to the full text of the notice on Contracts Finder
- a description element, comprising the type of notice, the location where the work is to be carried out, the estimated value, the deadline date for submissions (or publication date for closed opportunities), and a short summary limited to 250 characters. The description element is comma delimited to make it easier for developers to access individual pieces of data.

Location, value and classification data in the XML and CSV feeds

If you wish to carry out further processing on the data feeds – eg to create a filtered list of notices restricted to a value range, activity classification or geographical area – the ‘recent notices’ feeds include XML elements that allow you to do this.

This section gives an overview of how you can ‘drill down’ to the data and carry out transformations based on the particular notices you’re interested in. See Appendices 1, 2 and 3 for more detailed information about the XML, CSV and RSS document structures.

Location

All notices on Contracts Finder contain data relating to their NUTS classifications, and if the buyer has chosen to be very specific, Contracts Finder will add a more specific location by adding in the relevant LAU code.

NUTS is an EU-wide classification system that stands for the ‘Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics’. It has three levels of classification:

- NUTS1 covers England at regional level (eg South West, East Midlands), plus Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- NUTS2 works at a county level, plus inner and outer London.
- The most detailed classification - NUTS3 - currently covers 93 upper-tier authorities and groups of lower-tier authorities.

LAU (Local Administrative Unit) codes provide further level of local refinement, and are compatible with NUTS codes. There are two levels of LAU units. The first consists of more than 400 lower-tier authorities (districts) or individual unitary authorities in England and Wales. LAU2 goes right down to ward level, and consists of over 10,500 codes for the UK.

See Table 3 at Appendix 1 to find out how to access location data in XML feed document structure, and see examples of each level of NUTS/LAU classification.

Contract value

The XML, CSV and RSS feeds allow you to access contract value data in various ways, depending on the notice and feed type.

- where the notice is published before it is awarded (eg live contract opportunities, and tender documentation) a lower- and upper-range estimated contract values is provided where available. The data is contained within the `LOW_VALUE` and `HIGH_VALUE` elements in the XML feed, and the `VALUEMIN` and `VALUEMAX` fields in the CSV feed. The ‘live opportunities’ and ‘below OJEU and subcontracts’ RSS feeds include this information as non-discrete data within its `description` element.
- for all notices after contract award (OJEU, non OJEU and transparency), Contracts Finder returns the total awarded value of the contract.

See Table 6 in Appendix 1 for more information on accessing contract value data in the XML feed document structure.

Classification

All notices on Contracts Finder are classified using one or more Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) codes. These are eight-digit codes that can be used to represent anything from a very broad category of goods or services to a very specific one. There are thousands of individual CPV codes, covering a vast range of activities.

Here's an example of how the codes work:

- 45000000 is the code used for 'construction work' – a very broad category
- 45440000 is a subcategory that refers to 'painting and glazing' work – note that the code starts with the same two digits as the 'construction work' category, showing that it's part of that group
- 45442190 is an even more specific subcategory – 'paint-stripping work'

CPV codes are very important within Contracts Finder. The public website's search facility and email alert functions work by mapping search keywords to CPV codes and then comparing these with the information held in the database.

The CPV codes are exposed in the XML feed for each notice described in the document. There are separate elements for the main CPV code selected by the contracting authority, and – optionally - any additional codes attached to the notice. This allows you to perform transformations on the XML feed to filter out notices that fit within a particular CPV code range – which can be useful if you're only interested in notices for a particular business activity.

See Table 8 at Appendix 1 for more information on accessing notice classification data in the XML feed document structure.

The CSV feed also includes a comma separated list of CSV codes in its CLASSIFICATION column. CPV codes are not supported in the RSS feeds.

Terms and conditions of use

The data published on Contracts Finder is Crown copyright unless it is marked as third party copyright. Where the data is Crown copyright it will be assumed to be available under the terms of the Open Government Licence (OGL).

The data is published in two ways:

- the **notice** data (or metadata) which describes each contract or notice
- any **documents** you explicitly downloaded

The **notice** data (which is, in effect, the data feeds described here) is under OGL, however any **documents** you download must be examined to determine who owns the copyright.

If the **document** (data) published is marked as third party copyright you have no right to copy or reuse that data without first seeking permission from the copyright owner.

Where the **document** (data) is marked (or assumed to be) Crown Copyright, it will be under OGL - unless it is marked as either:

- Value added material
- Material licensed by a Crown organisation under a delegation from the Controller of HM Stationery Office (HMSO)

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Read the [OGL terms and conditions](#) on the National Archives website.

Appendix 1: XML feed: element descriptions

The tables below describe the XML elements that contain location, contract value or classification data within Contracts Finder. See earlier sections for an overview of these concepts.

The XML has the following standard outline structure:

- Feed information containing publication information for the whole file.
- List of notices

Table 1. Notice type

Every notice has a wrapper element that that is named based on the stage of the procurement lifecycle that the notice is at - following the OJEU XML convention.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	PRIOR_INFORMATION	NOTICES		Yes	The 'notice' nodes: one of these mutually-exclusive elements is used as a wrapper for all data relating to that notice. These represent the three broad groupings of notice published on Contracts Finder.
2	CONTRACT			Yes	
3	CONTRACT_AWARD			Yes	
4	FORM	PRIOR_INFORMATION CONTRACT CONTRACT_AWARD	1, 2 or 3 90 or 91 92 or 93	No	Value is 1, 2 or 3 for below-OJEU prior information notices, contract notices and contract award notices respectively Value is 90 or 91 for transparency contract notices or transparency contract awards respectively. Value is 92 or 93 for live subcontract notices and subcontract award notices respectively, ie those published by a prime contractor rather than a contracting authority.

Table 2. Notice details – title, description, contract type, etc

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	TITLE_CONTRACT	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE		No	The title of the notice as specified by the originating buyer or contracting authority
2	SHORT_CONTRACT_DESCRIPTION	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE	Text	No	No upper limit on the size of this field.
3	FILE_REFERENCE_NUMBER	ADMINISTRATIVE_INFORMATION_CONTRACT_NOTICE ADMINISTRATIVE_INFORMATION_CONTRACT_AWARD			The buyer's file reference – this is usually quoted in any correspondence between the buyer and interested parties
4	REASON_FOR_REPLACEMENT_OR_RETRACTION	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION		No	Indicates if this notice has been retracted or replaces a previous notice, and explains the buyer's reasons for this
5	LOCATION	SITE_OR_LOCATION	Text	No	This is a simple description of the location of delivery, eg 'Warrington' or 'South Shields'. For more precise location data, including NUTS and LAU codes, see Table 4 below
6	TYPE_OF_CONTRACTING_AUTHORITY_OTHER\VALUE	TYPE_AND_ACTIVITIES	PUBLIC PRIVATE	No	If set to 'public', indicates that the notice has been published by a public sector contracting authority – eg a central government buyer in a department or agency. If set to 'private', the notice refers to a subcontracting opportunity that has been published by a prime contractor ('Tier 1 buyer')
7	CTYPE	FD_PRIOR_INFORMATION FD_CONTRACT FD_CONTRACT_AWARD	WORKS SERVICES SUPPLIES	No	Broad categories reflecting what the contract is for - either works, supplies or services
8	TYPE_WORK_CONTRACT\VALUE	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION OBJECT_CONTRACT_INFORMATION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE	DESIGN_EXECUTION EXECUTION REALISATION_REQUIREMENTS_SPECIFIED_CONTRACTING_AUTHORITIES	No	Optional value which is a further refinement of the 'works' contract type

9	TYPE_SUPPLIES_CONTRACT\VALUE		HIRE_PURCHASE RENTAL LEASE PURCHASE COMBINATION_THese	No	Optional value which is a further refinement of the 'supplies' contract type
10	SERVICE_CATEGORY\VALUE				Optional value which is a further refinement of the 'services' contract type. The values under the "SERVICE_CATEGORY" require an understanding of how OJEU operates in this area.
11	DAY	INTERVAL_DATE\START_DATE	1 to 31		The start date for the delivery of the contract
12	MONTH		1 to 12		
13	YEAR		Greater than or equal to 2011		
14	DAY	INTERVAL_DATE\END_DATE	1 to 31		The end date for the delivery of the contract
15	MONTH		1 to 12		
16	YEAR		Greater than or equal to 2011		
17	DAYS	PERIOD_WORK_DATE_STARTING PERIOD_WORK_DATE_STARTING	4-digit number		Used if the contract is for an elapsed number or days or months, rather than a fixed timeframe. Note that either days or months can be specified – but not both
18	MONTHS		3-digit number		
19	DAY	RECEIPT_LIMIT_DATE	1 to 31		The deadline for the current stage of the procurement process
20	MONTH		1 to 12		
21	TIME		In HH:MM format		
22	RECEIPT_LIMIT_DATE_FOR				Free text field for the buyer to describes the stage of the procurement process that this deadline relates to, eg expressions of interests, submission of tenders

Table 3. Location data

Where location data is found, the following elements can be found.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	CODE	NUTS	Any currently valid NUTS level 1, 2 or 3 classification ¹ (see column F for examples)	No	Examples of Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) classifications for the UK: NUTS level 1: North West is UKD NUTS level 2: Greater Manchester is UKD3 NUTS level 3: Greater Manchester North (comprising Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale and Wigan) is UKD32
2	CODE	LAU	Any currently valid LAU classification (see column F for examples)	No	Local Administrative Unit (LAU) codes ^{2,3,4} sit below NUTS level 3 and provide further local refinement, ie following on from the examples above: LAU1: Bolton is 00BL LAU2: the Rumworth electoral ward is 00BLGN
3	LABEL	SITE_OR_LOCATION LOCATION_NUTS		No	System generated 'friendly' text string based on the NUTS and LAU values, eg 'Bolton, Greater Manchester'
4	TOWN	DELIVERY_LOCATION		No	Free text entered by the user – not from controlled vocabulary
5	COUNTY	DELIVERY_LOCATION		No	Free text entered by the user – not from controlled vocabulary
6	COUNTRY	DELIVERY_LOCATION		No	Free text entered by the user – not from controlled vocabulary
7	POSTAL_CODE	DELIVERY_LOCATION		No	Free text entered by the user - only supports UK postcodes
8	LOCATION_ADDITIONAL_FREE_TEXT	DELIVERY_LOCATION		No	Optional text entered by the buyer, either contracting authority or prime contractor
9	LOCATION	SITE_OR_LOCATION	Text	No	System generated 'friendly' text string based on the NUTS and LAU values, eg 'Bolton, Greater Manchester'

1. The current NUTS classification is valid until 31 December 2011. For a full list of UK and other EU member state codes, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction
2. LAU 1 codes refer to lower tier authorities (districts) or individual unitary authorities (England and Wales) **and** individual unitary authorities or LECs or parts of these (Scotland) **and** districts (Northern Ireland)

3. LAU 2 codes refer to wards (or parts of these)
4. A full list of LAU codes is available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/local_administrative_units

Table 4. Framework agreements

	A	B	C	E	F
	Element name	Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION		No	Contains a single element VALUE (see next entry). Applies to PIN only.
2	VALUE	FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT	YES NO	No	Indicates that this notice refers to a new framework agreement that suppliers can apply to join
3	F02_FRAMEWORK	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION		No	Only used if value of FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT is set to 'yes'. Applies to Contracts only.
4	DURATION_FRAMEWORK_YEAR	F02_FRAMEWORK	Numeric	No	Length of the framework agreement in years and/or months
5	DURATION_FRAMEWORK_MONTH	F02_FRAMEWORK	Numeric	No	
6	CURRENCY	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY	GBP	No	Only possible value is GB pounds
7	LOW_VALUE	RANGE_VALUE_COST		No	Estimated minimum value of this framework agreement
8	HIGH_VALUE	RANGE_VALUE_COST		No	Estimated maximum value of this framework agreement
9	NOTICE_INVOLVES	DESCRIPTION_CONTRACT_INFORMATION DESCRIPTION_AWARD_NOTICE_INFORMATION		No	
10	NOTICE_INVOLVES_DESC	DESCRIPTION_CONTRACT_INFORMATION DESCRIPTION_AWARD_NOTICE_INFORMATION		No	
11	VALUE	NOTICE_INVOLVES	ESTABLISHMENT_FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT PUBLIC_CONTRACT	No	If the notice is part of a framework agreements, this field contains ESTABLISHMENT_FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT. Otherwise it contains PUBLIC_CONTRACT.

12	VALUE	NOTICE_INVOLVES_DESC	CONCLUSION_FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT	No	If the notice is part of a framework agreements, this field contains CONCLUSION_FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT. Otherwise the parent NOTICE_INVOLVES_DESC node does not appear.
13	FRAMEWORK_STAGE	NOTICE_INVOLVES NOTICE_INVOLVES_DESC	FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK_CALLOFF	No	If the contract is setting up a new framework agreement then this field contains FRAMEWORK_AGREEMENT. If the contract is being called-off a framework agreement then this field contains FRAMEWORK_CALLOFF.

Table 5. Notices marked as ‘SME Friendly’ by the contracting authority, and contracts awarded to smaller suppliers

Prior to award of a contract the whole notice can be classified (by the buyer manually checking an option during notice creation), as being ‘Small to Medium Enterprise Friendly’ (or as seen in the search as ‘is suitable for smaller suppliers’).

Once a contract has been awarded this value applies per awarded supplier, not to the notice as a whole.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s) Is a required field?	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	IS_FLAGGED_AS_SME_FRIENDLY	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_NOTICE PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE	Required	No	If this element is present, it indicates that the contracting authority has flagged this opportunity as being suitable for smaller suppliers to bid for. This can be due to the value of the contract, the nature of the work or some other reason.
2	IS_AWARDED_TO_SME	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT	Required	Yes	This element may appear alongside the name and address details of each awardee in a contract award notice; its presence indicates that the contracting authority describes that particular awardee as a small-to medium-sized enterprise
3	IS_FLAGGED_AS_VCS_FRIENDLY	OBJECT_WORKS_PRIOR_INFORMATION OBJECT_SUPPLIES_SERVICES_PRIOR_INFORMATION PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_NOTICE PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE	Required	No	If this element is present, it indicates that the contracting authority has flagged this opportunity as being suitable for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to bid for.
4	IS_AWARDED_TO_VCS	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT	Required	Yes	This element may appear alongside the name and address details of each awardee in a contract award notice; its presence indicates that the contracting authority describes that particular awardee as a voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation.

Table 6. Contract values and contract award values (below OJEU only)

Pre award notices such as contract opportunities or tentative (PIN in the underlying notice type) contracts have an associated estimated value range. Awards have the total final value and for each awardee a contract value.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY	QUANTITY_SCOPE_WORKS QUANTITY_SCOPE_PRIOR_INFORMATION NATURE_QUANTITY_SCOPE		No	Applies to PIN and Contract notices. Contain a range of values (vale from and value to). Where a single value (and not a range) is provided, this is taken to be an estimated value and both the "from" and "to" values are set to this.
	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY_WITH_VAT_RATE	TOTAL_FINAL_VALUE CONTRACT_VALUE_INFORMATION		No	Applies to Contract Awards. This is provided as a single awarded value (not a range). A Contracts Award can have one TOTAL_FINAL_VALUE and for each awardee, it can have one CONTRACT_VALUE_INFORMATION.
1	LOW_VALUE	RANGE_VALUE_COST		No	The estimated upper and lower value range. Used for tentative notices and contract notices only, including those advertised under framework agreements
2	HIGH_VALUE	RANGE_VALUE_COST		No	
3	CURRENCY	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY	Always GBP	No	
4	VALUE_COST	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY_WITH_VAT_RATE		No	Used for contract award notices only.
5	CURRENCY	COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY_WITH_VAT_RATE	Always GBP	No	

Table 7. Contract awards: list of successful suppliers

There can be one to many awarded suppliers, note that the majority of information in this field is entered by the buyer and not by the supplier – so might not be as accurate.

	A	B	C	E	F
	Element name	Parent element	Possible value(s) Is a required field?	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	ITEM	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT	Numeric	Yes	Used to present the list of awardees in a sequential order determined by the buyer
2	CONTRACT_NUMBER	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT		No	The unique contract reference ID allocated by the buyer to each awardee
3	ORGANISATION	ECONOMIC_OPERATOR_NAME_ADDRESS\ CONTACT_DATA_WITHOUT_RESPONSIBLE_NAME	Required	No	The name of this awardee in the list, free text entered by the buyer
4	ADDRESS			No	Free text entered by the buyer
5	TOWN			No	Free text entered by the buyer
6	POSTAL_CODE		Required, unless non UK	No	Free text entered by the buyer
7	COUNTRY\VALUE			No	Set to UK by default
8	E_MAIL			No	Free text entered by the buyer
9	PHONE			No	Free text entered by the buyer
10	URL			No	Free text entered by the buyer
11	FAX			No	Free text entered by the buyer
12	COUNTY			No	Free text entered by the buyer
13	CONTACT_POINT			No	The person the supplier has nominated as the main contact to deal with any enquiries from the buyer about the bid
14	CURRENCY	CONTRACT_VALUE_INFORMATION\ COSTS_RANGE_AND_CURRENCY_WITH_VAT_RATE	GBP	No	Always set to GB pounds
15	VALUE_COST			No	The value of the work that has been awarded to this particular supplier. There are no rules to force the buyer to ensure the total across all awarded suppliers equals the total for the whole notice.
16	CONTRACT_LIKELY_SUB_CONTRACTED	MORE_INFORMATION_TO_SUB_CONTRACTED		No	Indicates that this awardee has told the buyer they are likely to subcontract all or some of the work to other suppliers
17	NO_CONTRACT_LIKELY_SUB_CONTRACTED	MORE_INFORMATION_TO_SUB_CONTRACTED		No	Indicates that this awardee is unlikely to subcontract any of the work

18	COMPANIES_HOUSE_URI	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT		No	A unique web address that represents the company (using the 'business.data.gov.uk' domain); and will return basic company details for that company. However this field only contains the constant prefix part of the URI. The company number itself is stored on the next field and should be combined with this field to get the full URI. For more information on how the Companies House URIs work see http://www.w3.org/TR/cooluris/#r303gendocument , in particular Section 4.2
19	COMPANIES_HOUSE_URI_SUFFIX	AWARD_OF_CONTRACT		No	The Company Number as used in the Companies House URI.

Table 8. Classification data – Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) codes¹

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	CODE	CPV_MAIN/CPV_CODE	Any valid CPV code	No	The first (main) CPV code selected by the contracting authority from a controlled vocabulary (CPV-2008) within Contracts Finder
2	CODE	CPV_ADDITIONAL/CPV_CODE	Any valid CPV code	Yes	Additional CPV codes can optionally be included by repeating this element

1. A list of CPV-2008 codes, and explanatory notes, is available to download in XML, PDF and XLS formats at http://simap.europa.eu/codes-and-nomenclatures/codes-cpv/codes-cpv_en.htm

Table 9. Contracting authority details

This is information about the contracting authority (or buyer) that has published the notice – this is not always the same as the contact person or organisation.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	ORGANISATION	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	This is the name of government department or agency that is publishing the notice, and is the value seen under the 'Name of buying organisation' when viewing the notice. This is a free text value entered by the buyer.
2	TYPE_OF_CONTRACTING_AUTHORITY_OTHER\VALUE	TYPE_AND_ACTIVITIES	PUBLIC PRIVATE	No	If set to 'public', indicates that the notice has been published by a public sector contracting authority – eg a central government department or agency. If set to 'private', the notice refers to a subcontracting opportunity that has been published by a prime contractor ('Tier 1 buyer')
3	BUYER_GROUP_NAME	SYSTEM			The name of the Contracts Finder buyer group to which the buyer belongs (see next row). Note that this can be different to the ORGANISATION value if the notice is being published on behalf of another buyer. The ORGANISATION value is more important than the system buyer group.
4	BUYER_GROUP_ID		Numeric		Coding system used by Contracts Finder to describe hierarchies of buyers (eg a government department) and buying units (eg a department's executive agency, or a buying function or office within the department itself)
3	ADDRESS	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	Free text entered by the buyer
4	TOWN	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	Free text entered by the buyer
5	POSTAL_CODE	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	Free text entered by the buyer
6	COUNTRY\VALUE	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	Always set to UK
7	CONTACT_POINT	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	
8	PHONE	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	
9	E_MAIL	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	

10	FAX	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	
11	COUNTY	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	Free text entered by the buyer
12	URL_BUYER	CA_CE_CONCESSIONAIRE_PROFILE		No	This is usually the buying organisation's website

Table 10. Procurement procedure and award criteria

During the procurement process the contracting authority (buyer) determines how they are going to award the contract to a supplier. These fields contain information the buyer wants suppliers to take into account when tendering or responding.

This information is also included in the award notices, in case the award criteria were changed during the final stages.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_NOTICE	FD_PRIOR_INFORMATION FD_CONTRACT		No	These elements enclose data describing the procedure being used and the award criteria
2	PROCEDURE_DEFINITION_CONTRACT_AWARD_NOTICE	FD_CONTRACT_AWARD		No	
3	PT_OPEN	TYPE_OF_PROCEDURE_DETAIL_FOR_CONTRACT_NOTICE TYPE_OF_PROCEDURE_DEFINITION		No	Denotes that the open procedure is being used – this is the only option currently available to contracting authorities in Contracts Finder – ie restricted or negotiated procedures are not supported
4	LOWEST_PRICE	AWARD_CRITERIA_DETAIL AWARD_CRITERIA_DETAIL_F03		No	For contract notices only. One but not both of these elements must be used for each contract notice.
5	MOST_ECONOMICALLY_ADVANTAGEOUS_TENDER			No	
6	ORDER_C	CRITERIA_STATED_BELOW\CRITERIA_DEFINITION	01 to 99	Yes	Used for contract notices only. ORDER_C shows the position of each criteria in the list – the WEIGHTING element indicates the relative important of each criteria
7	CRITERIA	CRITERIA_STATED_BELOW\CRITERIA_DEFINITION		Yes	
8	WEIGHTING	CRITERIA_STATED_BELOW\CRITERIA_DEFINITION	Numeric value	Yes	

Table 11. Accessing documents published alongside notices

If you want to download the document, a URI back to Contracts Finder is included for each document.

A		B	C	E	F
Element name		Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	DOCUMENT	DOCUMENTS		Yes	Wrapper element for each document attached to a PIN, contract notice or contract award notice
2	DOCUMENT_TITLE	DOCUMENT		No	The document title given by the contracting authority
3	DOCUMENT_URL	DOCUMENT		No	Absolute URL that can be used to download or open the document directly from Contracts Finder

Table 12. Notice metadata held in Contracts Finder in the SYSTEM element

For businesses or developers that want to find out more information, the SYSTEM element contains key data that will help with automated processing and more detailed manual interpretation of the data.

	A	B	C	E	F
	Element name	Parent element	Possible value(s)	Can element appear more than once below parent node?	Comments
1	SYSTEM	PRIOR_INFORMATION CONTRACT CONTRACT_AWARD		No	Elements nested within system element contain housekeeping data for the Contracts Finder system
2	NOTICE_ID	SYSTEM	Numeric	No	Contracts Finder unique ID for each notice – this is not related to any coding system used by the contracting authority
3	NOTICE_GROUP	SYSTEM	Below-OJEU Trans in Proc Sub-contract	No	Contracts Finder internal notice group name.
4	NOTICE_TYPE	SYSTEM	Speculative Contract ContractAward.	No	Contracts finder internal notice type name. Note that “Speculative” is the internal system name for “Tentative”, and OJEU classifies that under the PIN banner.
5	NOTICE_TYPE_FRIENDLY_NAME	SYSTEM		No	This is a more user-friendly notation used by Contracts Finder to describe the various OJEU, non-OJEU and transparency notices published on the system. See Appendix 4 for a full list.
6	NOTICE_STATE	SYSTEM	Open Closed Published	No	Helps to sort / find notices into types that are open for a response (both PIN and Contracts) - the notices state can be OPEN or CLOSED depending on whether the deadline date has passed. For all others the state is always PUBLISHED.
7	SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE	SYSTEM	Live PendingReplacement Replaced Retracted Archived	No	Refers to the Contracts Finder internal publishing status of the notice. Notices with a state of New Draft AwaitingSignOff Deleted will never appear in any of the Outbound Feeds.
8	SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE_CHANGE_DATE	SYSTEM		No	The date of the most recent (if any) update to this notice on Contracts Finder
9	SYSTEM_PUBLISHED_DATE	SYSTEM		No	The date when the notice was first published on Contracts Finder
10	PARENT_NOTICE_ID	SYSTEM		No	Used to indicate this notice’s relationship with a specified notice published at an earlier stage of a procurement process, eg a contract award arising from a previously-published contract
11	ROOT_NOTICE_ID	SYSTEM		No	Used to indicate this the first notice in a chain of notices published on Contracts Finder. This relationship is useful, but it is not the definitive first notice in a change. The procurement business processes around the procurement life cycle are not robust enough to support this.
12	SOURCE_NAME	SOURCE_SYSTEM		No	If the notice was originally published on another procurement system and has been published on Contracts Finder via an inbound

13	PROVIDER_CONTRACT_ID			No	
14	PROVIDER_CONTRACT_URL			No	
15	DAY	SOURCE_SYSTEM\PUBLISHED_ON_S OURCE_DATE		No	When the notice was first published, if it was originally published on another procurement system
16	MONTH			No	
17	YEAR			No	
18	PARENT_PROVIDER_CONTRACT_ID	SOURCE_SYSTEM		No	If the notice was originally published on another procurement systems and relates to another notice on that system, then this field contains the Contract ID of the notice on the other procurement system.

Appendix 2: CSV feed: list of fields

The table below shows the data types contained within the CSV (Comma Separated Values) monthly and recent notices feeds, and their equivalent in the XML version of the feed (see Appendix 1). The CSV feed is a simple text file that is displayed in a tabular format when a suitable software application is used, such as Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org.

The CSV document has a header section containing the following details:

- the feed title, and whether the feed is of the monthly or 'recent notices' type
- a timestamp showing when the CSV file was generated
- the time period it covers
- the total number of notices listed in the document

	Column label in CSV	Equivalent element in XML feed	Description/notes
1	NOTICEID	NOTICE_ID	
2	REFERENCENUMBER	FILE_REFERENCE_NUMBER	
3	DATEPUBLISHED	SYSTEM_PUBLISHED_DATE	
4	VALUEMIN	LOW_VALUE	
6	VALUEMAX	HIGH_VALUE	
8	STATUS	SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE	
9	URL	URL_GENERAL	Value is an absolute URL pointing to a page on Contracts Finder that shows the full details of this notice
10	ORG_NAME	ORGANISATION	
11	ORG_CONTACTMAIL	E_MAIL	
12	TITLE	TITLE_CONTRACT	
13	DESCRIPTION	SHORT_CONTRACT_DESCRIPTION	
14	NOTICETYPE	PRIOR_INFORMATION CONTRACT CONTRACT_AWARD	XML document includes one of three elements as the 'notice' node
15	REGION	LABEL LOCATION	
16	NOTICE_STATE	NOTICE_STATE	Values can be open, closed or published
17	NOTICE_STATE_CHANGE_DATE	SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE_CHANGE_DATE	The date and time when the status of this notice last changed
18	CLASSIFICATION	CPV_MAIN and CPV_ADDITIONAL	Contains separated list of CPV codes
19	NUM_DOCS	DOCUMENT [counts the number of incidences of this element for each notice]	Show the number of documents attached to this notice, eg invitations to tender, contract agreements

Appendix 3: RSS feed: list of elements

The table below shows the XML elements within the four RSS feeds available from Contracts Finder - live opportunities, transparency, below-OJEU and subcontract. See page 4 for details of which notice types and groups are included in each feed.

The RSS feed has RSS 2.0 compliant channel details - header details about the RSS feed in general, followed by a series of items - one item per notice. Table 1 below describes the channel details and Table 2 describes the items.

Table 1: RSS feed (RSS 2.0 compliant) channel details

Element	Parent element	Comments
channel	[root]	
title	Channel	Title of the RSS feed.
link	Channel	Absolute URL of this RSS feed – e.g. http://www.contractsfinder.gov.uk/public_files/notices/rss/notices_live_opportunities.xml
description	Channel	Description of the RSS feed
copyright	Channel	
lastBuildDate	Channel	The time when the RSS feed was created – note that feeds are refreshed every hour
ttl	Channel	Time to live
image	Channel	Contracts Finder logo, 600px (W) x 126px (H)
title	Image	Title of the logo image
link	Image	URL of the Contracts Finder logo
description	Image	Alt text for the logo
webmaster	Channel	Not used
category	Channel	Not used

Table 2: RSS feed (RSS 2.0 compliant) Item details

Element	Parent element	Equivalent element in XML feed	Comments
channel	[root]		
item	channel	PRIOR_INFORMATION CONTRACT	Maximum number of notice elements per feed = 200, sorted by SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE_CHANGE_DATE in descending order (ie most recent state change first) One item is displayed per notice.
title	item	TITLE_CONTRACT	Title of the notice.
link	item	URL_GENERAL	Value is an absolute URL pointing to a page on Contracts Finder that shows the full details of this notice
description	item	NOTICE_TYPE_FRIENDLY_NAME LABEL OR LOCATION LOW_VALUE HIGH_VALUE RECEIPT_LIMIT_DATE OR SYSTEM_PUBLISHED_DATE SHORT_CONTRACT_DESCRIPTION [first 250 characters only]	Text field populated with the following elements: Value, Location, deadline date or published date depending on notice type [in DD/MM/YY HH:MM format] , First 250 characters of the description and Type This information is structured so that it can be

Element	Parent element	Equivalent element in XML feed	Comments
			<p>parsed, and is in the format: Field name ":" field value " "</p> <p>Eg: Location: East Midlands Value: £25,000 - £35,000 Deadline date: 09/12/2012 Refurbishment and supply of school laboratory equipment Type: Below OJEU: Contract</p>
category	item	NOTICE_TYPE_FRIENDLY_NAME	Repeated in the <code>description</code> element to accommodate news readers that don't process this node
pubDate	item	SYSTEM_NOTICE_STATE_CHANGE_DATE	

Appendix 4: 'Friendly notice type' classifications

Public sector procurement notices are classified both by their group (eg below OJEU, transparency) and the notice type itself (eg contracts, contract awards). The problem – for data processing purposes – is that these classifications often overlap. For example, 'contract' (or 'contract notice' in OJEU terminology) is a notice within all four notice groups.

To help make it easier for you to filter and access the data you need, Contracts Finder uses a 'friendly notice type' classification system. This combines the notice group and notice type within a single field. The 'friendly notice type' exists as an element within the XML document structure, and as a field within the CSV feed.

The table below shows the Contracts Finder friendly notice types mapped against various combinations of notice group and notice type.

Table 1: Mapping of notice groups/notice types to Contracts Finder friendly notice type

	Notice group	Notice type	Are these live opportunities?	Contracts Finder friendly notice type
1	Below OJEU	Contract	Yes	Below OJEU: Contract
2	Below OJEU	Contract Award	No	Below OJEU: Contract Award
3	Below OJEU	Tentative	Yes	Below OJEU: Tentative
4	Transparency	Contract	No	Published Tender Doc Set
5	Transparency	Contract Award	No	Published Contract Doc Set
6	Sub-contract	Contract	Yes	Private Contract: Contract
7	Sub-contract	Contract Award	No	Private Contract: Contract Award
8	OJEU	Prior Information Notice	Yes	OJEU: Prior Information Notice
9	OJEU	Contract Notice	Yes	OJEU: Contract Notice
10	OJEU	Contract Award Notice	No	OJEU: Contract Award Notice
11	OJEU	Periodic Indicative Notice - Utilities	Yes	OJEU: Periodic Indicative Notice Utilities
12	OJEU	Contract Notice - Utilities	Yes	OJEU: Contract Notice Utilities
13	OJEU	Contract Award Notice - Utilities	Yes	OJEU: Contract Award Notice Utilities
14	OJEU	Qualification System - Utilities	Yes	OJEU: Qualification System Utilities
15	OJEU	Buyer Profile	Yes	OJEU: Buyer Profile
16	OJEU	Simplified Contract on DPS	Yes	OJEU: Simplified Contract on DPS
17	OJEU	Public Works Concession	Yes	OJEU: Public Works Concession
18	OJEU	Contract Notice Concession	Yes	OJEU: Contract Notice Concession
19	OJEU	Design Contest	Yes	OJEU: Design Contest
20	OJEU	Results (of a) Design Contest	Yes	OJEU: Results Design Contest
21	OJEU	Notice for Additional Information	Yes	OJEU: Notice for Additional Information
22	OJEU	Voluntary ex ante Transparency	No	OJEU: Voluntary <i>ex ante</i> Transparency
23	OJEU	Other	Yes	OJEU: Other

Appendix 5: Contracts Finder data feed URLs

All Contracts Finder data feeds are available on the 'outbound feed' web page –
<http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/data-feed.aspx>

You can also access the data feeds directly, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: URLs by feed type and document format

Feed	Type	URL
Recent notices (last 40 days)	XML	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/recent/notices.xml
	CSV	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/recent/notices.csv
Notices by calendar month	XML	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/monthly/notices_YYYY_MM.xml
	CSV	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/monthly/notices_YYYY_MM.csv
Live opportunities	RSS	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/rss/notices_live_opportunities.xml
All Below OJEU	RSS	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/rss/notices_below_ojeu.xml
Published tender and contract documentation	RSS	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/rss/notices_transparency.xml
All Subcontract	RSS	www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/public_files/notices/rss/notices_sub_contract.xml

Appendix 6: Resources

This section contains links to useful resources to help you make the most of Contracts Finder data.

Using Contracts Finder

Contracts Finder – welcome page

Website for suppliers, government buyers and the general public – allows users to search the Contracts Finder database using various criteria, and set up email alerts

www.businesslink.gov.uk/contractsfinder

Find government opportunities, tenders and contracts on Contracts Finder (Business Link)

Basic guide for suppliers on using Contracts Finders' search and email alert functions. Also provides an overview of the system and explains the types of notice available.

[Find government opportunities, tenders and contracts on Contracts Finder](#)

Getting the most from Contracts Finder: A guide for suppliers and the public (PDF)

Downloadable guide that covers the search and email alert functionality and OJEU notice types in more detail. Also includes a regularly-updated set of frequently-asked questions (FAQs).

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/Horizontal_Services_files/ContractsFinder_supplier_guide_Nov11.pdf

Public sector procurement

Current OJEU threshold values for works, supplies and services

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/10%2011%20Threshold%20Rates%20for%202012%20and%20AR%20Procedure%20Update.pdf>

The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (legislation.gov.uk)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/5/contents/made>

The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (legislation.gov.uk)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/6/contents/made>

Classification systems

Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV-2008) codes (SIMAP)

CPV is the single classification system for public procurement in the EU. It aims to standardise the references used by contracting authorities and entities to describe the subject of procurement contracts. It is used to classify all notices published on Contracts Finder

http://simap.europa.eu/codes-and-nomenclatures/codes-cpv/codes-cpv_en.htm

NUTS - Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (Eurostat)

The NUTS classification is a hierarchical system for dividing up the economic territory of the EU. Contracts Finder supports the use of NUTS and LAU (see below) for describing locations where contracts are to be delivered. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction

Local Administrative Units (LAU) (Eurostat)

LAUs allow a greater degree of local classification than the NUTS geographic codes. The coding system is compatible with NUTS. Includes a downloadable Excel spreadsheet showing all LAU codes for the United Kingdom

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/local_administrative_units

Transparency in government procurement and contracting

Transparency (Number 10 website)

Information about central government spending, and how to access data sets published by government departments and agencies.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/transparency/>

Policy and guidance on Transparency in public sector procurement and contracting (Cabinet Office)

Includes downloadable guidance for contracting authorities on publishing tender and contract notices on Contracts Finder for transparency purposes, plus a set of FAQs for suppliers.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/guidance-transparency>

Other government datasets

Opening up government data (data.gov.uk)

Many other government data and information sets are being published as part of the wider government transparency agenda. The government's data.gov.uk website has details of what is available, and how you can access it.

<http://data.gov.uk/data>.

RSS and XML tools

RSS2.0 Specification (Harvard)

<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/rss/rss.html>

XML Notepad 2007 (Microsoft)

A simple free tool for editing and analysing XML and XSL documents

<http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=7973>

XML editors (XML.com)

A list of free and paid-for XML/XSL editors

<http://www.xml.com/pub/pt/3>

Google Reader (Google)

Free tool that lets you subscribe and manage RSS feeds in your web browser

<http://www.google.com/reader/view/>

This guide was last updated on 28 November 2011