

# HOW WILL THE PROCUREMENT ACT BE REGULATED?



## INTRODUCING THE PROCUREMENT REVIEW UNIT (PRU)

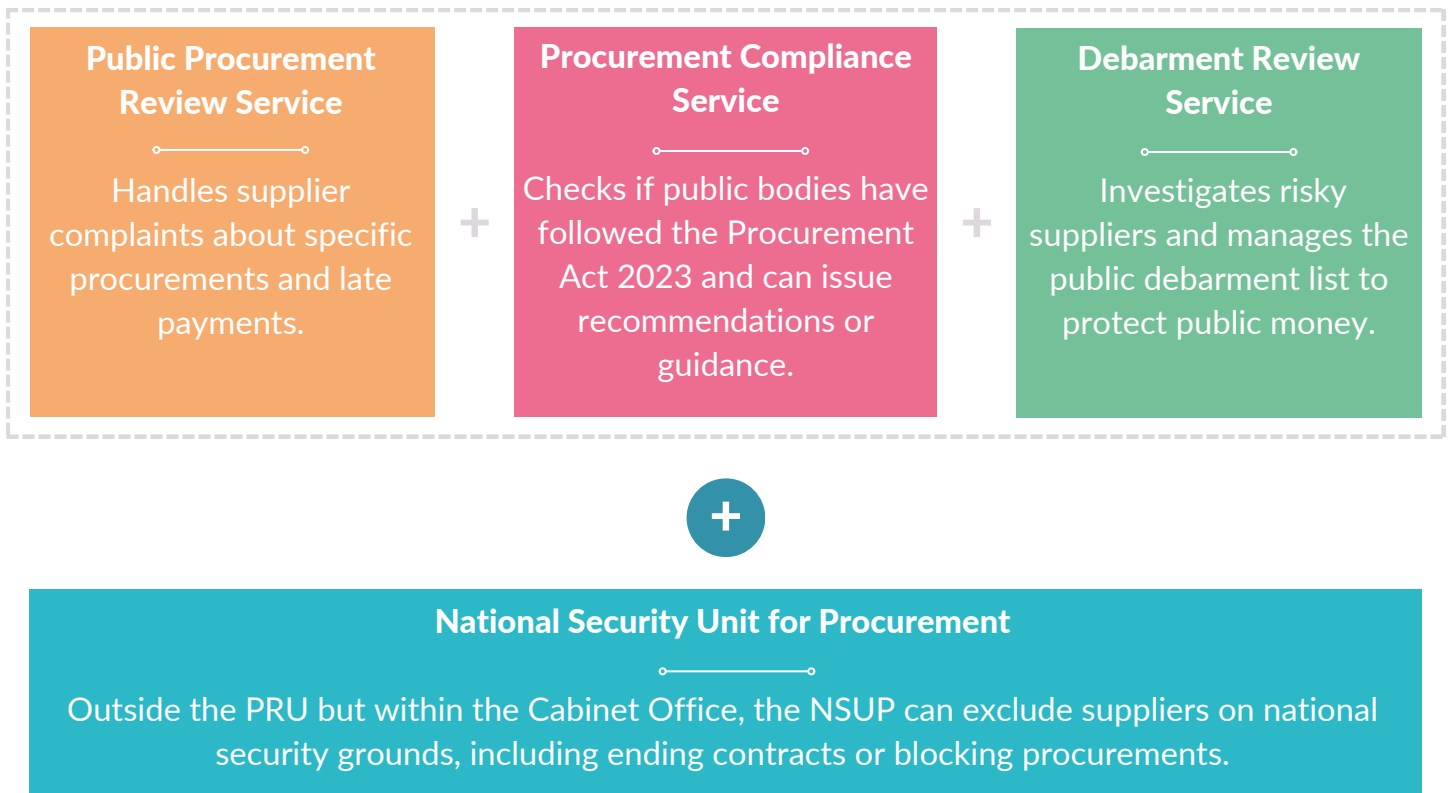
Few changes in public procurement have seen as many words put to paper as the Procurement Act 2023, with both buyers and suppliers wading through PPNs and government guidance to figure out how the new rules will affect how they buy and sell.

But as all Sunday league five-a-side players know, without a referee, rules mean nothing, which is why the **Procurement Review Unit (PRU)** has been launched under the Cabinet Office, to ensure that public sector procurement is conducted fairly and in the best interests of the public purse.

## WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRU?

- 1 Improve procurement standards:** Helps spot and fix problems in public sector buying early, to raise standards.
- 2 Ensure consistent exclusions:** Makes supplier exclusions more consistent and efficient, using a central list and shared reports.
- 3 Protect public money:** Checking if risky suppliers excluded from bidding have taken action to fix past issues.

## HOW IS THE PRU STRUCTURED?



## WHAT DOES EACH PART OF THE PRU DO?

<p><b>Public Procurement Review Service</b></p> <p>The Public Procurement Review Service (PPRS), set up in 2011, helps suppliers raise concerns about specific procurements or late payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It can recommend improvements to contracting authorities, including changes to live procurements.</li><li>• In 24 February 2025 it joined the PRU and may refer serious cases to the Procurement Compliance Service.</li></ul>	<p><b>Procurement Compliance Service</b></p> <p>The Procurement Compliance Service (PCS) launched on 24 February 2025 to investigate public bodies' compliance with the Procurement Act 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It focuses on widespread or repeated non-compliance, can request documents, issue recommendations, and publish reports.</li><li>• Referrals will not be accepted during the initial phase.</li></ul>
<p><b>Debarment Review Service</b></p> <p>The Debarment Review Service (DRS) oversees debarment for all exclusion grounds, excluding security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Debarment helps safeguard public funds from suppliers who present risks to public procurement.</li><li>• Contracting authorities must notify the PRU of suppliers excluded, replaced, or removed from procurements, along with the exclusion grounds.</li></ul>	<p><b>National Security Unit for Procurement</b></p> <p>The National Security Unit for Procurement (NSUP), handles debarment, exclusion, and termination cases related to national security grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based in the Cabinet Office, NSUP is separate to the PRU but will work closely with the DRS.</li><li>• Anyone, including the public, can submit referrals for a potential national security debarment investigation.</li></ul>