**Procurement Act 2023
Timescale Tracker**

This document sets out key timescales relating to the competitive tendering procedures under the Procurement Act 2023. Please note that it **is only applicable for procurements that are commenced on or after 24 February 2025**; for procurements commenced **before 24 February 2025**, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 will instead apply.

The overriding requirement when setting timescales is to allow sufficient time for suppliers to prepare appropriate responses, taking account of the subject of the proposed contract, the contract award procedure to be used and the need, for example, for site visits.

The table below sets out the minimum permitted timescales and the maximum permitted reductions. You must also take into consideration the general rules around setting of time limits that are set out at [section 54](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/54/section/54/enacted) of the Procurement Act 2023.

An appropriate time period will also need to be allocated for other aspects of the procurement process, e.g. evaluation of tender responses.

The Cabinet Office has provided guidance on Time Periods under the Procurement Act 2023 [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/668278a3c7f64e234209019e/Guidance-Time-Periods-FINALv2.pdf).



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| **Choice of procedure****and stage** | **Standard timescales** | **Option for sub-central contracting authorities\*** | **Tenders submitted electronically** | **Requirement is****urgent and longer time limit is impractical as a result** | **Qualifying Planned Procurement Notice has been issued** |
| **All documents published at the same time** | **Not all documents provided at the same time** | **All documents published at the same time** | **Not all documents provided at the same time** |
| **Competitive Tendering Procedure (open/competitive flexible)** |
| Despatch of contractnotice to receipt of responses | 30 days | 35 days | N/A | 25 days | 30 days | 10 days | 10 days |
| Standstill | 8 working days beginning with the date of publication of the Contract Award Notice to FTS |  |  |  |  |

Where there are multiple tendering rounds, it is expected that the minimum tendering period will apply to each tendering round, unless the contracting authority considers further tenders to simply be updates to previously submitted tenders (for example as an outcome of negotiations). In this case it is expected that a reasonable time limit is set, which is the same for all suppliers, having regard to the factors set out in section 54(1).

\* There are certain specific instances where timescales can be reduced for sub-central contacting authorities, these are (1) where the contract is subject to a negotiated tendering period; and (2) where tenders may only be submitted by preselected suppliers.