

Find a Tender Records

A Guide to the Dataset

September 2026

1. Overview

This dataset provides award-level records of public contracts awarded under the [Procurement Act 2023](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/54) and published on [Find a Tender](https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/), the UK government's central digital platform for procurement notices, enriched with the project's classification of who won each contract. It was produced by the [UK Third and Civil Society Sector Database](https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/) project, which collects, processes and links public administrative data on civil society organisations throughout the UK.

The file covers awards to *all* suppliers. Civil society winners (registered charities, community interest companies, co-operatives and mutuals, and other nonprofit companies) are identified by matching the published registry identifier, and where none is published the supplier name and postcode, to the TCSS Organisation Register; a matched winner carries the organisation's `spine_uid`. Retaining every award is what makes it possible to measure civil society's share of the market, the procurement routes through which civil society organisations win contracts, and the competition they face.

The dataset contains 46,956 awarded contracts from 1,829 public buyer organisations, naming 30,133 distinct suppliers. 4,162 awards (8.9%) have at least one winner that is a register-confirmed civil society organisation; 2,568 such organisations appear. The awards are dated from 2025-02-24 (the day the Act commenced) to 2026-07-30, drawn from the Find a Tender bulk release of 2026-08-04.

46,956

Awarded Contracts

30,133

Suppliers

1,829

Buyer Organisations

4,162

Awards with a CSO Winner

Related dataset. The project's [Contracts Finder Records](https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/guidance/tcss-contracts-finder-guidance.html) cover awards published on Contracts Finder from 2015 under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. This dataset begins where that regime ends: the Procurement Act 2023 commenced on 24 February 2025 and its notices are published on Find a Tender. The two platforms use different notice structures, identifiers and value conventions, so the two datasets should be analysed side by side rather than appended into one series.

2. What is Find a Tender?

Find a Tender is the platform on which UK contracting authorities publish the notices the Procurement Act 2023 requires: planning notices (UK1 to UK3), tender notices (UK4), award notices (UK5 and UK6), contract details notices (UK7) and, for below-threshold procurements, a shorter set of notices. Notices are published as [Open Contracting Data Standard](https://standard.open-contracting.org/) (OCDS) releases and compiled per procurement process (an `ocid`). A process may carry one award or many (one per lot, or one per supplier admitted to a framework), and each award may be linked to a contract details record that publishes the signed value, dates and period.

How the data were collected

The whole Find a Tender OCDS bulk release was downloaded on 2026-08-04 (197,638 compiled releases carrying 252,611 award objects). Every award object was extracted with its tender, lot, party, contract and bid-statistics context. Awards were then kept only where the process is governed by the Procurement Act 2023 and the award is concluded, and a further set of exclusions described in Appendix A2 removed dynamic-market admissions (membership of a supplier list rather than a contract), awards dated before the Act commenced, awards with no winner, duplicate cumulative records and awards whose winners are all outside the UK.

How the data were enriched

Three kinds of enrichment are added to the source records. First, each award's route to award, value, dates, period and threshold position are resolved from the award object and its linked contract object by stated rules, with the object that supplied each value recorded in a `_source` column and known hazards carried as flags rather than corrected. Second, each buyer is classified into a funder type (UK Government, Local Government, NHS and so on) and a nation, using the same typology as the project's other procurement datasets. Third, every winning supplier is matched to the TCSS Organisation Register (the Spine): by published identifier first, then by exact name and postcode, then through a reviewed name-and-postcode pipeline for the remainder. A matched supplier receives `cso_status` = CSO and its `spine_uid`; a supplier that publishes a usable identifier not found in the register is non-CSO; a supplier with neither is unresolved. Appendix A3 describes the tiers.

3. Dataset Contents

The dataset is supplied as two CSV files and a column manifest.

File	Grain	Rows	Columns
findatender-awards.csv	One row per awarded contract (<code>ocid</code> × <code>award_id</code>)	46,956	107
findatender-award-suppliers.csv	One row per winning organisation per award (<code>ocid</code> × <code>award_id</code> × <code>supplier_id</code>)	72,155	21
findatender-column-manifest.csv	One row per released column: file, position, name, internal source column, class, missingness and distinct values	128	8

The awards file carries the winners inline (`winner_supplier_ids` , `winner_supplier_names` , `winner_spine_uids` and the verdict counts), so most analyses need only that file. The supplier file is for work at organisation grain: who the winners are, what identifiers they published, and the evidence behind each civil society verdict. Column names are lower snake case; where a value was resolved from more than one notice object, the bare name is the value to use and its `_source` companion says which object supplied it.

Values. `value_gbp` is the gross (VAT-inclusive) value as published, in pounds, blank where no usable value was published. It is *not* spend: framework establishments carry a ceiling for the whole arrangement, multi-award processes may stamp one process total on every award (`value_repeat_group`) or divide the estimate equally among the winners (`value_equal_split`), and buyers occasionally publish a zero or a mis-keyed figure. Filter or flag before any sum; Section 6 sets out the hazards.

Awards file (`findatender-awards.csv`)

Keys and release metadata

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
<code>ocid</code>	Open Contracting process id — one per procurement process	Text	100%
<code>award_id</code>	Award id within the process	Text	100%
<code>award_notice_url</code>	Source link: the public Find a Tender notice page for this award - the award object's link, else the linked contract object's UK7 notice link (<code>contract_notice_url</code>), else an award/contract-type (UK5-UK7) link on the tender object (<code>tender_award_notice_url</code>). <code>award_notice_url_source</code> = "award" / "contract" / "tender"; both NA where no home carries a notice link	Text	100%

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
award_notice_url_source	Which notice object supplied award_notice_url: award, contract or tender	Text	100%
tender_notice_url	The process's tender-stage notice page on Find a Tender, where one was published	Text	25.9%
tender_status	Tender status ("active"/"complete")	Text	100%
release_date	Date the compiled OCDS release was produced	Date	100%

Route to award and process structure

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
related_process_ocids	ocids of related processes (for a call-off, the parent framework), ';' -joined	Text	2.1%
related_process_relationships	Relationship type(s) to the related processes, ';' -joined; 'framework' marks the call-off link	Text	2.1%
procurement_method	OCDS method class (open / selective / limited / direct; NA on most below-threshold-unknown rows)	Text	89.1%
procurement_method_details	The route taxonomy (11 values): Open procedure, Competitive flexible procedure, Direct award, Award under framework, Dynamic market, and the below-threshold classes (open / limited / without competition / under framework / by reference to dynamic market / unknown). Never NA	Text	100%
technique_framework	The process establishes or uses a framework agreement (FALSE where the source omits the flag)	Boolean	100%
technique_dynamic_market	Same for dynamic markets (<code>hasDynamicPurchasingSystem</code>): the procurement used a dynamic market. Admissions to a market (a UK13 dynamic market notice in the process) are dropped as cascade step 2b; TRUE on a surviving row marks a contract awarded through a dynamic market, a route to award in its own right	Boolean	100%
framework_establishment	Model indicator $\equiv$ <code>technique_framework</code> : the award sets a framework up (its value is a ceiling, not spend)	Boolean	100%
framework_calloff	Award is a call-off under a parent framework, identified structurally via <code>relatedProcesses</code>	Boolean	100%
n_lots	Number of lots on the tender	Numeric	100%
award_related_lots	Lot id(s) this award covers (';' -joined). Also the unit key for the roll-up de-duplication: <code>ocid</code> x this raw string	Text	100%

Text and sector (CPV)

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
tender_title	Tender title (one per process)	Text	100%
tender_description	Tender description text, one per process; near-universal coverage	Text	100%
cpv	one main CPV per award, award-level preferred (full 8-digit code; complete)	Text	100%
cpv_source	Which home supplied <code>cpv</code> ("award"/"tender")	Text	100%
cpv_division	First two digits of <code>cpv</code>	Text	100%
award_cpv_all	CPV code(s) from <code>awards[].items[]</code> (direct-award / below-threshold records)	Text	100%
goods_contract	TRUE = CPV division 03–44 or 48 (a contract FOR goods); FALSE = works (45) / services (49–98)	Boolean	100%

VCSE/SME suitability and reservation (tender-stage declarations)

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
has_suitability_object	Any lot carries the suitability checkbox object (NA when the notice types never collect it — missing is NOT false)	Boolean	100%
any_lot_sme_suitable	Buyer marked any lot suitable for SMEs / VCSEs (NA when no suitability object)	Boolean	23.3%
any_lot_vcse_suitable	Buyer marked any lot suitable for SMEs / VCSEs (NA when no suitability object)	Boolean	23.3%
reserved_participation	Reservation codes: <code>smeVcse</code> (below-threshold SME/VCSE reservation), <code>shelteredWorkshop</code> (s.32), <code>publicServiceMissionOrganization</code> (s.33 public-service mutuals)	Text	0.6%
reserved_location_scheme	Geographic reservation (GB-ONS gazetteer; K02000001 = UK-wide, i.e. no restriction)	Text	1.6%
reserved_location_codes	Geographic reservation (GB-ONS gazetteer; K02000001 = UK-wide, i.e. no restriction)	Text	1.6%
reserved_location_desc	Geographic reservation (GB-ONS gazetteer; K02000001 = UK-wide, i.e. no restriction)	Text	0.3%

Buyer

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
buyer_org_id	Buyer organisation id: notice-level buyer ids that share a registry identifier are merged into one organisation	Text	100%
buyer_name	Buyer name as published on the notice; filled from the buyer lookup's canonical name where the notice published none	Text	100%
buyer_postcode	Buyer postcode as published	Text	100%
buyer_region	Buyer region as published	Text	100%
buyer_nation	England / Scotland / Wales / Northern Ireland / Unknown — the England filter variable (kept as a variable at prep; England-only is an analysis-stage rule)	Text	100%
buyer_type	Programme funder-type typology: UK Government / Local Government / NHS / Education Institution / Police, Fire and Rescue / CSO / Private Sector / Other	Text	100%
buyer_type_detail	Finer buyer type within buyer_type	Text	100%
buyer_lg_subtype	Local-government subtype (county, district, London borough, unitary, combined authority, town or parish council); blank for other buyers	Text	42.2%
buyer_lg_ons_code	ONS code of the local authority, where identified	Text	40.1%
buyer_in_spine	The buyer matches the TCSS Organisation Register	Boolean	100%
buyer_spine_uid	The buyer's register uid, where it matches	Text	11.5%

Notices and dates

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
first_notice_type	Notice type of the first notice of the process (UK1 to UK7 codes)	Text	100%
first_notice_published	Publication date of the first notice of the process	Date	100%
award_date	The award date to use: the award object's date, else the contract signature date, else the notice publication date, else the release date	Date	100%
award_date_source	Which date supplied award_date: award, signed, notice or release	Text	100%
award_date_raw	The date on the award object itself, blank where the object carries none	Date	30.2%
award_notice_published	Earliest publication date of an award notice (UK5/UK6) for the award	Date	31.2%
date_signed	Contract signature date, where published	Date	88.1%
notice_date_published	Publication date of the contract details notice (UK7), where one exists	Date	88.1%

Contract record linkage

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
contract_id	Id of the linked contract details record (UK7), where one exists	Text	88.5%
contract_status	Status of the linked contract details record; blank where none has been published	Text	88.5%
contract_cancelled	The linked contract record is cancelled	Boolean	100%
contract_terminated	The linked contract record is terminated	Boolean	100%

Values

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
value_gbp	The analysis value: gross value iff resolved currency is GBP and not a reported zero; NA otherwise (no currency conversion). Strictly positive where present. Framework-ceiling interpretation stays in the separate flags	Numeric	99.4%
value_non_gbp	The resolved value is in a currency other than pounds sterling (value_gbp is then blank)	Boolean	100%
value_zero_reported	TRUE when a value IS reported and equals 0 — buyer chose not to state; treated as missing	Boolean	100%
value_repeat_group	Same buyer + title + value + signing date appears on >1 row (multi-award processes stamping one process total, framework establishments) — de-duplicate before any sum	Boolean	100%

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
value_equal_split	TRUE when the award's value is the process (or lot) estimate divided equally among the winners : all valued awards of the unit share one value, at least two awards, and $n \times \text{value equals } \text{tender_value_amount}$ (or $\text{lot_value_amount_total}$) within 0.5% on the published net figure. An accounting convenience, not the value of the individual contract; flagged, never altered. Logical, never NA; FALSE where <code>value_gbp</code> is NA	Boolean	100%
value_contract_shared	TRUE when the linked contract's value is carried by more than one award of the same process, so it cannot be specific to this award. Logical, never NA	Boolean	100%
value_contract_award_conflict	The award object and its linked contract object both publish a value and the two disagree; reported, not reconciled	Boolean	100%
value_source	Which object supplied the value: contract, or award where the contract value is shared across awards of the process	Text	100%
tender_value_amount	The buyer's estimated total value for the whole process, net, as published (a published zero is blanked)	Numeric	21.7%
tender_value_amount_gross	The buyer's estimated total value for the whole process, gross, as published	Numeric	25.7%
tender_value_currency	Currency of the process estimate	Text	26.1%
lot_value_amounts	Estimated value of each of the award's lots, '-'-joined in <code>award_related_lots</code> order, as published	Text	21.4%
lot_value_amount_total	Sum of the related lots' estimated values (net), only where every related lot carries one	Numeric	21.0%
lot_value_amount_gross_total	Sum of the related lots' estimated values (gross), only where every related lot carries one	Numeric	25.1%
lot_value_currency	Currency of the related lots' estimated values	Text	25.8%
n_related_lots_valued	How many of the award's related lots carry an estimated value	Numeric	100%
estimate_zero_reported	TRUE when any of the four estimate columns above was published as exactly 0 — the buyer did not state an estimate; the zero is blanked in all four, exactly as <code>value_zero_reported / value_gbp</code> . Logical, never NA	Boolean	100%

Periods and durations

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
contract_period_start	Contract start date on the award object	Date	31.2%
contract_period_end	Contract end date on the award object	Date	31.2%
contract_period_max_extent	Latest possible end date including extension options, on the award object	Date	15.1%
contract_period_start_c	Contract start date on the contract details record	Date	88.1%
contract_period_end_c	Contract end date on the contract details record	Date	88.1%
contract_period_max_extent_c	Latest possible end date including extension options, on the contract details record	Date	19.7%
period_start	Contract start date to use (contract record preferred, start and end taken from the same object)	Date	100%
period_end	Contract end date to use (same object as <code>period_start</code>)	Date	100%
period_source	Which object supplied the period: contract or award	Text	100%
duration_days	<code>period_end</code> minus <code>period_start</code> , in days	Numeric	100%
duration_max_days	Duration to the latest possible end including extension options, in days	Numeric	24.7%
duration_placeholder	The period is zero days long and starts on the signing date: a form date entered in both period fields	Boolean	100%
duration_over_10y	The period exceeds ten years	Boolean	100%

Threshold position

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
above_threshold	The award is above the Act's threshold, as published (contract record preferred, award object fallback)	Boolean	100%
above_threshold_source	Which object supplied <code>above_threshold</code> : contract or award	Text	100%

Winners and the civil society outcome

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
n_suppliers	Number of winning organisations on the award after de-duplication: one row per organisation, each organisation credited once per lot. Equals the number of ids in winner_supplier_ids (withheld winners excepted); can reach hundreds on framework panels	Numeric	100%
n_cso_suppliers	Winners that are register-confirmed civil society organisations (UK rows)	Numeric	100%
n_noncso_suppliers	Winners with a usable identifier not found in the register (UK rows)	Numeric	100%
n_unresolved_suppliers	Winners with no usable identifier and no name match (UK rows)	Numeric	100%
n_nonuk_suppliers	Winners whose published country is not the United Kingdom (no verdict). n_cso_suppliers, n_noncso_suppliers, n_unresolved_suppliers and this column sum to n_suppliers	Numeric	100%
any_cso_supplier	At least one winner is a register-confirmed civil society organisation: the outcome variable	Boolean	100%
all_cso_suppliers	Every UK winner is a CSO (≥1 UK winner on every award after step 9)	Boolean	100%
any_vcse_declared	≥1 winner self-declares VCSE (parties[].details.vcse); three-valued — missing stays NA. Self-declaration is a measured signal, NEVER the classifier	Boolean	>99.9%
any_sme_declared	≥1 winner resolves as SME (OCP rule at (ocid , supplier_id): any sme tag wins, else large; three-valued)	Boolean	100%
winner_supplier_ids	Who won, without a join: the supplier_id of every winner, ','-joined where n_suppliers > 1 (one value on single-winner awards). supplier_id is the stable surrogate key of the supplier file and lookup; withheld suppliers (s.94) have no id and are omitted, so an award whose only winner is withheld is NA.	Text	99.9%
winner_supplier_names	The published name of every winner in winner_supplier_ids , in the same order, ' \ ' '-joined (published names contain ';'); built in the same step as the ids. A winner whose published name is blank (identified by identifier only) carries the token "(name not published)". NA iff the ids are NA	Text	99.9%
winner_spine_uids	Spine uid of every CSO winner (UK rows), ','-joined; NA when no winner is a CSO. Joins to the TCSS Organisation Register	Text	8.9%

Bid statistics (published by rule on competed above-threshold awards)

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
bids_finalStageBids	Number of final-stage bids, as published (competed above-threshold awards)	Numeric	20.8%
bids_smeFinalStageBids	Final-stage bids from SMEs, as published	Numeric	20.9%
bids_vcseFinalStageBids	Final-stage bids from voluntary, community and social enterprises, as published	Numeric	21.2%

Named bidders (published only above £5 million)

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
has_bidder_details	Release carries named bidders; all counts below are NA (not 0) when FALSE	Boolean	100%
n_bidders_identified	Distinct bidder organisations identified in the published bidder list	Numeric	6.0%
n_cso_bidders_identified	Named bidders that are register-confirmed civil society organisations	Numeric	6.0%
n_noncso_bidders_identified	Named bidders with a usable identifier not found in the register	Numeric	6.0%
any_cso_bidder_identified	At least one named bidder is a civil society organisation	Boolean	6.0%
n_joint_bids	Joint (multi-organisation) bids	Numeric	6.0%

Supplier file (findatender-award-suppliers.csv)

Keys and release metadata

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
ocid	Open Contracting process id — one per procurement process	Text	100%
award_id	Award id within the process	Text	100%

Keys and identity as published

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
supplier_name	Supplier name as published	Text	100%
identifier_scheme	Scheme of the primary registry identifier as published (GB-COH, GB-CHC, GB-PPON and so on)	Text	74.2%
identifier_id	Primary registry identifier as published	Text	74.3%
additional_identifiers	Further registry identifiers as published, ';' -joined scheme:id pairs, including the identifiers of duplicate rows collapsed into this one (a row kept under its company number also carries the PPON the discarded row published)	Text	36.7%
supplier_postcode	Supplier postcode as published	Text	100%
supplier_region	Supplier region as published	Text	100%
supplier_country	Supplier country as published	Text	100%
supplier_uk	Published supplier_country is "United Kingdom". FALSE rows keep their id but carry no CSO verdict	Boolean	100%
supplier_scale	Self-declared scale on this row ("sme"/"large"; raw). On a row that absorbed collapsed duplicates the declarations are folded: any "sme" wins, else "large", else blank	Text	100%
supplier_vcse	Self-declared VCSE flag on this row (tier 0 — measured, never the classifier). On a row that absorbed collapsed duplicates: TRUE if any folded row declared TRUE, FALSE only if all declared FALSE, else NA	Boolean	100%
supplier_withheld	Identity withheld under s.94 — no stable id possible	Boolean	100%

Civil society identification

Field	Description	Type	Coverage
cso_status	The civil society verdict: CSO, non-CSO or unresolved; blank on suppliers outside the UK	Text	99.2%
spine_uid	The organisation's uid in the TCSS Organisation Register, on civil society rows; the key for linking to the project's other datasets	Text	7.7%
spine_name	Registered name of the matched organisation	Text	7.7%
spine_cso_type	Organisation type from the register (Charity, CIC, Co-operative/Mutual, Other CSO)	Text	7.7%
spine_cso_subtype	Finer organisation type from the register	Text	7.7%
spine_is_cic	The matched organisation is a community interest company	Boolean	7.7%

Stable ids and SME status

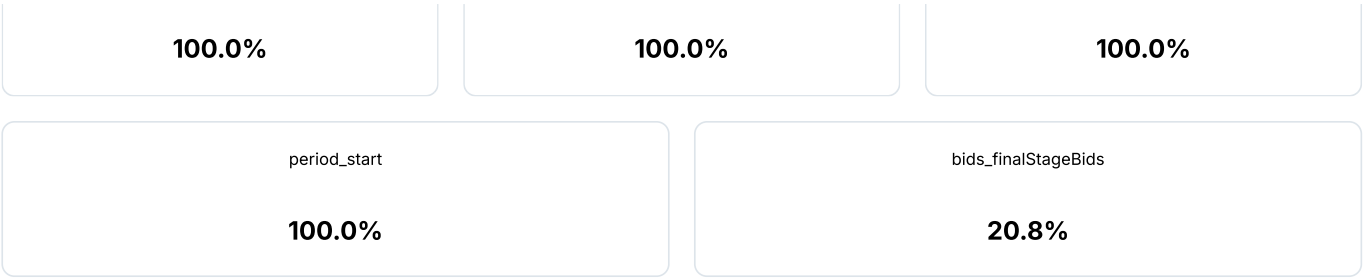
Field	Description	Type	Coverage
supplier_id	Stable surrogate key, one per organisation: civil society rows grouped by register uid, others by their published identifiers or name; blank where the identity was withheld	Text	99.8%
supplier_sme_resolved	Scale resolved within (ocid , supplier_id) — any sme tag wins, else large	Boolean	100%

4. Coverage & Completeness

Core Field Coverage

Keys, route, buyer type and the main CPV code are present on every award. A value is missing on 290 awards (0.6%) that published no usable figure. Bid statistics are published by rule only on competed above-threshold awards, so their coverage reflects the notice rules rather than data quality: 9,778 awards carry a final-stage bidder count and 2,800 carry a named bidder list.

ocid	value_gbp	award_notice_url
100.0%	99.4%	100.0%
buyer_type	procurement_method_details	cpv



Scope by Buyer Nation

The dataset is UK-wide. Scotland and, in part, Wales and Northern Ireland run their own procurement portals under devolved rules, so their buyers appear here only where a notice was published on Find a Tender under the Act. `buyer_nation` carries the nation; an England-only analysis filters on it.

Buyer nation	All awards	Share	Awards with a CSO winner	CSO share within group	Share of CSO awards
England	43,301	92.2%	3,793	8.8%	91.1%
Wales	2,466	5.3%	292	11.8%	7.0%
Northern Ireland	1,079	2.3%	75	7.0%	1.8%
Scotland	96	0.2%	2	2.1%	0.0%
Unknown	14	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%

Who Buys: Buyer Type Distribution

Buyer type	All awards	Share	Awards with a CSO winner	CSO share within group	Share of CSO awards
Local Government	19,818	42.2%	2,452	12.4%	58.9%
UK Government	9,885	21.1%	791	8.0%	19.0%
NHS	7,935	16.9%	485	6.1%	11.7%
CSO	3,934	8.4%	133	3.4%	3.2%
Education Institution	2,788	5.9%	162	5.8%	3.9%
Police, Fire and Rescue	1,416	3.0%	109	7.7%	2.6%
Other	1,001	2.1%	20	2.0%	0.5%
Private Sector	179	0.4%	10	5.6%	0.2%

Routes to Award

`procurement_method_details` is the route taxonomy: the competitive procedures of the Act (open, competitive flexible), direct award, award under a framework, award through a dynamic market, and the below-threshold classes. The civil society share within each route is the first descriptive answer to the question of how civil society organisations win public contracts.

Route to award	All awards	Share	Awards with a CSO winner	CSO share within group	Share of CSO awards
Below threshold - without competition	18,024	38.4%	1,817	10.1%	43.7%
Below threshold - limited competition	8,385	17.9%	309	3.7%	7.4%
Open procedure	6,250	13.3%	892	14.3%	21.4%
Below threshold - unknown	5,112	10.9%	344	6.7%	8.3%
Below threshold - open competition	4,406	9.4%	396	9.0%	9.5%
Direct award	2,290	4.9%	227	9.9%	5.5%
Competitive flexible procedure	1,604	3.4%	130	8.1%	3.1%
Below threshold - award under framework	487	1.0%	16	3.3%	0.4%
Award under framework	391	0.8%	31	7.9%	0.7%
Below threshold - by reference to dynamic market	7	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%

Who Wins: Supplier Verdict Distribution

Verdicts are given on UK supplier rows only. A supplier whose published country is not the United Kingdom cannot be classified against a UK register and carries a blank verdict (562 rows on 264 awards, mostly large framework panels with overseas members).

Verdict (cso_status)	Supplier rows	Share of rows	Distinct suppliers
non-CSO	65,907	91.3%	27,361
CSO	5,551	7.7%	2,568
(non-UK, no verdict)	562	0.8%	203
unresolved	135	0.2%	12

Which Registers the Civil Society Winners Come From

Prefix	Source register	CSO winner rows	Distinct organisations	Share of CSO winner rows
GB-CHC	Charity Commission for England & Wales	3,575	1,573	64.4%
GB-COH	Companies House	1,545	832	27.8%
GB-MPR	Mutuals Public Register (FCA)	273	97	4.9%
GB-SC	Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	68	28	1.2%
GB-NIC	Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	48	28	0.9%
GB-COOP	Co-operatives UK	42	10	0.8%

Organisation Types among Civil Society Winners

Organisation type (spine_cso_type)	CSO winner rows	Distinct organisations
Charity	3,679	1,625
Other	935	445
CIC	622	391
Co-operative / Mutual	315	107

Awards by Month

Counts are by the resolved award date (award_date). The first month is partial (the Act commenced on 24 February 2025) and the last month runs only to the bulk release date, so both should be read as incomplete.

Award month	All awards	Share	Awards with a CSO winner	CSO share within group	Share of CSO awards
2025-02	200	0.4%	16	8.0%	0.4%
2025-03	1,723	3.7%	208	12.1%	5.0%
2025-04	1,795	3.8%	182	10.1%	4.4%
2025-05	1,705	3.6%	130	7.6%	3.1%
2025-06	2,035	4.3%	134	6.6%	3.2%
2025-07	2,625	5.6%	257	9.8%	6.2%
2025-08	2,397	5.1%	227	9.5%	5.5%
2025-09	3,383	7.2%	282	8.3%	6.8%
2025-10	3,073	6.5%	237	7.7%	5.7%
2025-11	2,725	5.8%	224	8.2%	5.4%
2025-12	3,011	6.4%	242	8.0%	5.8%
2026-01	3,041	6.5%	237	7.8%	5.7%
2026-02	3,496	7.4%	307	8.8%	7.4%
2026-03	4,730	10.1%	483	10.2%	11.6%
2026-04	3,179	6.8%	333	10.5%	8.0%

Award month	All awards	Share	Awards with a CSO winner	CSO share within group	Share of CSO awards	
2026-05	2,582	5.5%		201	7.8%	4.8%
2026-06	3,024	6.4%		252	8.3%	6.1%
2026-07	2,232	4.8%		210	9.4%	5.0%

Buyer Flags versus Register Match

The Act's notices carry two voluntary-sector signals: a tender-stage checkbox marking a lot as suitable for voluntary, community and social enterprises, and a supplier-level self-declaration of VCSE status. The table compares each with the register match. Neither is used to classify a winner; the register is the sole criterion.

Signal	Awards flagged	Share of all awards	...of which register-matched CSO winner	CSO share among flagged	Share of all CSO awards captured
any_lot_vcse_suitable = TRUE (buyer marked a lot suitable for VCSEs)	4,948	10.5%	1,147	23.2%	27.6%
any_vcse_declared = TRUE (a winner self-declared as VCSE)	2,633	5.6%	1,754	66.6%	42.1%

What Civil Society Organisations Are Contracted For

CPV division	Division title (main CPV code)	Awards to CSOs	Share of CSO awards
85	Health and social work services	1,431	34.4%
80	Education and training services	686	16.5%
79	Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security	549	13.2%
98	Other community, social and personal services	240	5.8%
73	Research and development services and related consultancy services	204	4.9%
75	Administration, defence and social security services	162	3.9%
71	Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services	112	2.7%
72	IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support	96	2.3%
92	Recreational, cultural and sporting services	69	1.7%
60	Transport services (excluding waste transport)	66	1.6%

Largest Buyers from Civil Society

Buyer	Buyer type	Awards to CSOs	Distinct CSOs
Bristol City Council	Local Government	97	35
UK Research and Innovation	UK Government	90	52
NHS England	NHS	81	53
Norfolk County Council	Local Government	55	46
Bath & North East Somerset Council	Local Government	53	25
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government	UK Government	53	40
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	Local Government	51	47
Durham County Council	Local Government	47	40
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Local Government	46	36
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Local Government	44	27
Sheffield City Council	Local Government	42	32
Staffordshire County Council	Local Government	42	18
The North Yorkshire Council	Local Government	37	25

Buyer	Buyer type	Awards to CSOs	Distinct CSOs
Middlesbrough Council	Local Government	33	30
Wirral Council	Local Government	33	25

Contract Values

Values are entered by buyers and are highly skewed. The table excludes the 3,690 framework establishments, whose value is the ceiling of the arrangement rather than a contract; medians are more informative than totals even so.

	Awards with a value	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile	90th percentile	Total (£bn)
All awards (framework establishments excluded)	43,059	£36,900	£72,360	£181,622	£720,000	74.6
Awards with a CSO winner (same rule)	3,732	£45,000	£96,608	£289,642	£1,072,170	3.7

Hazard Flags

Nothing in the value or duration columns is corrected. Each known hazard is carried as a logical flag, never blank, so a user can exclude or treat the affected rows.

Flag	Awards flagged	Share of awards	What TRUE means
value_zero_reported	194	0.4%	A value was published and equals 0: the buyer chose not to state one; value_gbp is blank
value_repeat_group	3,066	6.5%	The same buyer, title, value and signing date appear on more than one award (one process total stamped on every award, or a framework ceiling); de-duplicate before any sum
value_equal_split	305	0.6%	The award's value is the process or lot estimate divided equally among the winners: an accounting convenience, not the contract price
value_contract_shared	2,366	5.0%	The linked contract's value is carried by more than one award of the same process, so it cannot be specific to this award
value_contract_award_conflict	1,114	2.4%	The award object and its linked contract object both publish a value and the two disagree; reported, not reconciled
estimate_zero_reported	306	0.7%	One of the four buyer-estimate columns was published as 0; the zero is blanked in all four
duration_placeholder	339	0.7%	The period is zero days long and starts on the signing date: a form date entered in both period fields
duration_over_10y	61	0.1%	The period exceeds ten years
framework_establishment	3,690	7.9%	The award sets up a framework agreement; its value is the ceiling of the arrangement, not spend
framework_calloff	922	2.0%	The award is a call-off under a parent framework, identified through the related-process link

5. What Can You Learn?

Because the dataset retains every award and records the route, the competition and the value of each, it supports questions about civil society's place in the post-Act procurement market that award-only or civil-society-only sources cannot.

Research Questions

- **Routes to award:** through which procedures do civil society organisations win contracts, and how does the mix of open competition, competitive flexible procedure, direct award and framework call-off compare with the routes through which private suppliers win?
- **Competition:** on competed above-threshold awards, how many bidders did a civil society winner face, and how often was the field itself made up of civil society organisations (bids_finalStageBids , bids_vcseFinalStageBids , and the named-bidder block where published)?
- **Market share:** what share of awards, by number and by value, goes to civil society, and how does it vary by buyer type, nation, service category (CPV) and threshold position?
- **Buyer practice:** do buyers who mark lots as suitable for the voluntary sector, or who reserve procurements, in fact award to civil society organisations?
- **Framework and dynamic-market participation:** how present are civil society organisations on framework panels and dynamic markets, and how much of what they win arrives as call-offs?
- **Cross-dataset linkage:** spine_uid links every civil society winner to the TCSS Organisation Register and the project's financial datasets, so contract income can be set against an organisation's size, age, location and accounts.

Tip: The awards file is enough for most questions. Join the supplier file on `ocid` and `award_id` when you need the identifiers a winner published, the evidence route behind its verdict, or the winners of multi-supplier awards as separate rows.

6. Limitations & Caveats

Scope and Regime

The dataset covers awards published on Find a Tender under the Procurement Act 2023 from 24 February 2025. Procurements that began under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and concluded after that date remain under the old regime and are not here; nor are awards published only on Contracts Finder, Public Contracts Scotland, Sell2Wales or eTendersNI. Below-threshold notices are included where published, but publication below the threshold is partial. Coverage of Scotland in particular is thin.

Awarded Values

`value_gbp` is the published gross value. Framework establishments (3,690 awards) carry the ceiling of the whole arrangement; call-offs (922) carry the call-off value where published. Where several awards of one process share a value the flag `value_repeat_group` is set, and where the shared value is the process estimate divided equally among the winners `value_equal_split` is set: such a value is an accounting convenience, not the value of the individual contract. A published zero is treated as unstated and blanked, and recorded in `value_zero_reported`. Values in other currencies are left in place and `value_gbp` is blank. A small number of published values are known data-entry errors and are left as published; band or winsorise rather than trusting the extremes.

One Award, One Row

Find a Tender publishes cumulative "roll-up" records on some processes, in which a later award notice restates the winners of an earlier one. These are de-duplicated so that each organisation's win in a lot is credited once; the columns `rollup_suppliers_removed`, `duplicate_rows_collapsed` and `rollup_org_suppliers_removed` record what was removed from each award. A process that awards the same lot to the same winner on two or three separate award objects is left as published.

Civil Society Identification

A winner is civil society only if it matches the TCSS Organisation Register; the buyer's VCSE flags are measured, never used to classify. Identifier matching is exact after normalisation, and a supplier that publishes an identifier is verdicted on that identifier alone, so an organisation registered under a different scheme from the one quoted on the notice can be released as non-CSO although its name and postcode appear in the register. The name route accepts an exact normalised name match with the published postcode as tie-break and does not reject a match to an organisation that has since left its register. Both choices favour recall and are documented in the project's rulings register; their effect is confined to a few dozen suppliers.

Suppliers outside the UK

A winner whose published country is not the United Kingdom carries no verdict. The test is the published country alone, and buyers occasionally mis-key it, so a handful of UK organisations carry a blank verdict for that reason.

Bid Statistics

Final-stage bidder counts are mandated only on competed above-threshold awards, and named bidder lists only above £5 million. Blanks elsewhere are by rule. Counts are joined at lot grain; where the lots of a process disagree the count is left blank and `bid_stats_ambiguous_lot` is set.

Buyer Classification

Buyers are typed by identifier lookup, register match, keyword rules and owner rulings in that order. Notice-level buyer ids that share identifiers are merged into `buyer_org_id`; a small number of buyers may still appear under more than one organisation id where a notice published no usable identifier.

What's NOT in the Data

- Planning and tender notices for processes that had not reached award by the release date
- Admissions to dynamic markets (membership of a supplier list, not a contract)
- Awards under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, on Find a Tender or Contracts Finder
- Payments made under the contracts (see the project's Procurement Payments dataset)

- Unsuccessful bidders' identities, except where a named bidder list was published
- Supplier characteristics beyond the register match (link to the Organisation Register for these)

7. Citation & Licence

Licence: This dataset is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). You are free to share, adapt, and build upon this data for any purpose, provided you give appropriate credit. The underlying notices are published by HM Government on Find a Tender under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>).

Suggested Citation

McDonnell, D. et al. (2026). *TCSS Find a Tender Records*. UK Third and Civil Society Sector Database. Available at: <https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/data/> (<https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/data/>). Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

If you would like to learn more about this dataset and how it can be applied to your project or research programme, please contact research@brawdata.com (<mailto:research@brawdata.com>).

8. Changelog

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	September 2026	First public release: 46,956 awards and 72,155 winner rows from the Find a Tender bulk release of 2026-08-04, Procurement Act 2023 regime, UK-wide, awards dated from 24 February 2025. Civil society winners identified against the TCSS Organisation Register (Spine-only rule). Values, dates, periods and threshold position resolved by stated rules with source columns and hazard flags; roll-up records de-duplicated; dynamic-market admissions and all-non-UK awards excluded.

A1. Pipeline Overview

The dataset is produced by a six-stage chain of scripts, run end to end from the bulk file; the chain is deterministic and reproduces the release files byte for byte. The code is in the `rq4/data-preparation` folder of the project repository.

Stage	Script	Purpose
0	<code>rq4-fts-00-download.sh</code> , <code>rq4-fts-01a-extract.py</code>	Download the Find a Tender OCDS bulk release and extract every award object with its tender, lot, party, contract, bid-statistics and notice-link context into flat tables.
1	<code>rq4-fts-01-prepare-awards.R</code>	Sample construction steps 1 to 4b; value, date, period, CPV and threshold resolution with source columns and hazard flags; roll-up de-duplication; supplier identification tiers 0, 1 and 1b against the Organisation Register.
2	<code>rq4-fts-01e-awards-final.R</code>	Owner rulings applied; regime-boundary and route exclusions (steps 5 to 7); stable supplier ids, within-award duplicate collapse, organisation-grain roll-up and the non-UK rule (steps 8 and 9); the CSO outcome block.
3	<code>rq4-fts-01i-buyer-typing.R</code>	Buyer organisation ids, funder type, nation and local-government subtype.
4	<code>rq4-fts-01l-bidders.R</code>	Named-bidder block: bidder organisations identified, classified against the register and cross-checked against the winners.
5	<code>rq4-fts-02-checks.R</code>	Structure and consistency checks on the analysis files, halting on any failure.

Stage	Script	Purpose
6	<code>rq4-fts-03-release-view.R</code> , <code>rq4-fts-03a-release-check.py</code>	The public column selection and renames, the column manifest, and an independent check of the released CSVs written in a different language from the chain.

A2. Sample Construction

Every exclusion is a stated rule, applied in order. The table is the exclusion cascade of the release build, from the award objects in the bulk file to the released awards.

Step	Rows remaining	Excluded
All award rows extracted	252,611	
1. keep UKPGA legal basis	59,353	193,258
2. keep concluded awards (status = active)	50,353	9,000
2b. drop dynamic-market admissions (UK13 dynamic market notice in the process; ruling ae)	50,112	241
3. drop resolved award date before 2024 (ruling a)	50,022	90
4. drop zero-supplier awards (ruling b)	49,724	298
4b. drop awards emptied by roll-up de-duplication (ruling w)	49,711	13
5. drop resolved award date in 2024 (ruling i)	49,482	229
6. drop awards with no route (ruling s)	49,481	1
7. drop resolved award date before 24 February 2025 (ruling z)	49,265	216
8. drop awards emptied by the organisation-grain roll-up pass (ruling ac)	49,264	1
9. drop awards whose winners are all outside the UK by published country (ruling af)	46,956	2,308

A3. Civil Society Identification

The TCSS Organisation Register (the Spine) is the only authority: a supplier is civil society if, and only if, it resolves to a register entry. Registered organisations whose register subtype is a dormant company or a property management company are excluded from the civil society sample. Identification proceeds in tiers, each applied only to the rows the previous tier left unresolved.

Tier	Evidence	Rule
0	Self-declared VCSE flag (<code>supplier_vcse</code>)	Measured and released; never used to classify.
1	Published registry identifier (<code>identifier_scheme</code> , <code>identifier_id</code> , <code>additional_identifiers</code>)	Each identifier is normalised (upper case, spaces removed; company numbers padded to eight digits; charity numbers with leading zeros stripped; Northern Ireland prefixes and padding rewritten to the register's form) and looked up directly and through the register's alias map (for example a company number that stands for a charity). A hit gives CSO and the <code>spine_uid</code> ; a usable identifier with no hit gives non-CSO; an identifier only in a scheme the register does not hold leaves the row unresolved.
1b	Twins and exact names	A verdict propagates to a row that publishes the same identifier elsewhere in the data; an exact normalised name match to the register is accepted with the published postcode as tie-break. Names that carry conflicting identifier verdicts go to review and propagate nothing.
2	Name and postcode pipeline	The remaining rows pass through a reviewed name-and-postcode matching pipeline; a civil society verdict is kept only where a register entry stands behind it, and mismatched names were reviewed and ruled individually.
rulings	Owner adjudications	Individual cases ruled on review (recorded in the project's rulings register) override the tiers; a ruling may carry a <code>uid_override</code> .

Buyers are classified in the same spirit: a buyer is civil society only on a register match; other types come from identifier lookups, keyword rules and rulings, and `buyer_type_source` records which route decided each buyer.

A4. Linking to Other TCSS Datasets

Civil society winners link to the rest of the UK Third and Civil Society Sector Database on `spine_uid` (the register's `uid`). The two files of this dataset join on `ocid` and `award_id`.

Dataset	Join key	What it adds
Organisation Register (https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/guidance/tcss-organisation-register-guidance.html)	<code>spine_uid = uid</code>	Organisation name, postcode, registration and removal dates, source registers, SIC codes
Charity Financial Records (https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/guidance/tcss-charity-financial-records-guidance.html)	<code>spine_uid</code>	Annual income, expenditure and detailed financial breakdowns for registered charities
Nonprofit Financial Records (https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/guidance/tcss-nonprofit-financial-records-guidance.html)	<code>spine_uid</code>	Companies House accounts data for nonprofit companies
Contracts Finder Records (https://uk-third-sector-database.github.io/guidance/tcss-contracts-finder-guidance.html)	<code>spine_uid = uid</code> (organisation grain only)	The same organisations' awards under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 regime; no award-level key is shared between the platforms

Example: Civil Society's Share of Awards by Route

```
import pandas as pd

aw = pd.read_csv("findatender-awards.csv", low_memory=False)

# The outcome: at least one winner is a register-confirmed civil society organisation
aw["cso"] = aw["any_cso_supplier"].astype(str).str.upper() == "TRUE"

# England only: filter on the nation variable, the release itself is UK-wide
eng = aw[aw["buyer_nation"] == "England"]

share = eng.groupby("procurement_method_details")["cso"].agg(["size", "mean"])
share["mean"] = (100 * share["mean"]).round(1)
print(share.sort_values("size", ascending=False))
```

Example: Linking Civil Society Winners to the Organisation Register

```
import pandas as pd

sup = pd.read_csv("findatender-award-suppliers.csv", low_memory=False)
spine = pd.read_csv("TSCS_spine.spine.csv", low_memory=False)

cso = sup[sup["cso_status"] == "CSO"]
merged = cso.merge(spine[["uid", "organisationname", "postcode", "dateregistered"]],
                  left_on="spine_uid", right_on="uid", how="left")

# Which registered organisations win the most contracts?
print(merged.groupby(["spine_uid", "organisationname"]).size()
      .sort_values(ascending=False).head(10))
```

Tip: Sum `value_gbp` only after excluding framework establishments and de-duplicating `value_repeat_group` rows, and treat `value_equal_split` values as a share of a process estimate rather than a contract price.

