



## Welcome

**Welcome to this week's newsletter**

### **Lawful award criteria**

On 24 January 2008, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) handed down a preliminary reference clarifying two important points relating to the obligations of contracting authorities with regard to award criteria. The proceedings arose by way of a challenge to a tender process in the Greek courts for the award of a services contract by a Greek local authority under Directive 92/50, coordinating the procedures for the award of public service contracts (the Services Directive). The Greek court asked the ECJ to clarify under what circumstances a contracting authority may subsequently stipulate weighting factors and sub-criteria to be applied to award criteria stated in the contract notice. In its ruling, the ECJ made two important findings:

A contracting authority cannot apply weightings and sub-criteria to award criteria set out in tender documentation unless those weightings or sub-criteria have been previously brought to the tenderers' attention;

A contracting authority cannot take account of a tenderer's experience, manpower, equipment or ability to perform the contract by an anticipated deadline as part of the award criteria. Such criteria can only be taken into account at pre-qualification stage.

For more information, please click [here](#)

## News

### **Health Minister announces freeze on prescription charges**

Northern Ireland's Health Minister Michael McGimpsey has announced that there will be no increase in prescription charges in Northern Ireland. [More...](#)

### **Improving autism services**

New guidance is to be made available to enhance community health and social care services for people with autism. [More...](#)

### **Prescription charges cut to £5**

Hundreds of thousands of Scots will see the cost of their prescriptions reduced from £6.85 to £5.00, a cut of 25 per cent. [More...](#)

**Preventative health checks will save lives**

The Prime Minister has set out the Government's plans for a national programme of preventative health checks that is expected to save up to 10,000 lives a year. [More...](#)

**Vascular checks will prevent thousands of heart attacks and strokes**

A national programme to identify vulnerability to vascular diseases will prevent up to 9500 heart attacks and strokes every year and save 2000 lives, Health Secretary Alan Johnson has announced.

[More...](#)

**News can be read at:** <http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk>

## This Week's Reports

**[Proposed Changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework for the Financial Year 2008-09](#)**

The Department of Health has written to all general practices to inform them of proposed changes to the Quality and Outcomes Framework, which apply from 1 April 2008. The Department will make and publish the changes, once they have been agreed, as soon as possible.

**[Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme: instructions and guidance for the NHS](#)**

This document provides information and guidance to NHS organisations on the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme, which replaces the current hospital travel costs scheme.

**[Refocusing the Care Programme Approach: policy and positive practice guidance](#)**

This document updates policy and sets out positive practice guidance for trusts and commissioners to review local practice to refocus the child programme approach within mental health services.

**Reports can be found at:**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/reports/>

## Events

**[Government Opportunities \(GO\) magazine Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2008](#)****Less than two weeks to GO!**

Once again the *Government Opportunities (GO)* Excellence in Public Procurement Awards promise to be the Awards that everyone working within the sector wants to win.

The *GO* Awards for 2008 have been boosted by the addition of two

contemporary categories: Collaborative Procurement (sponsored by Pearl Linguistics) and Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector Involvement (sponsored by the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning). These new categories make the GO Awards the most comprehensive recognition of innovation, dedication and achievement within the procurement sector, and build on the success of previous years.

Nominations for the 2008 Awards are welcomed across all categories:

[GO Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[GO Individual Excellence Award](#)

[GO Team Excellence Award](#) - sponsored by BSI Product Services

[GO Sustainability Award](#) - sponsored by OGCBuying.solutions

[GO Collaborative Procurement Award](#) - sponsored by Pearl Linguistics

[GO Award for Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector](#)

[Involvement](#) sponsored by the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning

[GO Best Service Award](#) - sponsored by Central Telecom

[GO Young Procurement Professional Award](#)

[GO Best Small Supplier Innovation Award](#) - sponsored by Supply2.gov.uk

To ensure that everyone has the chance to take part, the deadline for entries has been extended to close of business on **14 April**. Entry forms can be requested from the [www.goawards.co.uk](http://www.goawards.co.uk) website, and once completed should be returned to [awards@govopps.co.uk](mailto:awards@govopps.co.uk) before this time.

The GO Awards will be presented at National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) 2008, which will once again be held at the prestigious Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London on 5 June.

All finalists for the GO Awards will be invited to attend N3PD, where they will hear pivotal keynote speeches from some of the most influential decision makers in the UK, including Deputy Director-General of the CBI, John Cridland and Minister for the Third Sector, Phil Hope.

Further information on the GO Awards can be found at [www.goawards.co.uk](http://www.goawards.co.uk)

All questions relating to your submission should be directed to Shellie Toal at [shellie.toal@goawards.co.uk](mailto:shellie.toal@goawards.co.uk) or by telephone on 0141 270 7327.

**Update your diary by visiting**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/events/index.htm>

## Discussion Forum

Do you have a burning issue or a hot topic that you wish to share with members? Then why not post it on the Discussion Forum in the members area of the website.

**To read the current topics, or to begin your own discussions, visit the Health Care Supply Association Discussion Forum by clicking [here](#)**

Health Care Supply Association [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk)  
Members Area - Hosts Access to CPV Codes Online, Members Directory, Members Discussion Forum, World-wide Procurement Links & Contract Search Services, as well as E-tendering and Electronic Supplier List Facilities, for further information on these services please visit <http://www.bipsolutions.com/Delta/delta.html>

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