

Higher education procurement and contracting during COVID-19

What can and should universities do to set up contracts for September when there is uncertainty about how education will be delivered, or when staff have been furloughed or otherwise engaged?

20 May 2020

This webinar took place on 20 May 2020 and is now available on-demand.

Universities, along with other education providers, are planning for a very different new academic year from September 2020, an academic year which will challenge existing delivery models and demand greater flexibility of people and resources. What can and should universities be doing to set up contracts for September in a climate where it is not possible to follow the usual process for running tender exercises, when there is so much uncertainty about how education will need to be delivered from September, or when staff on both sides of the tendering process have been furloughed or are otherwise engaged?

Join us for 45 minutes of legal commentary followed by Q&A, looking at the following:

- How feasible is it just now to run a tender process and engage with suppliers?
- What are the options for either extending current contracts or awarding new ones without a full tender process?
- Does the guidance issued by government about using provisions in the Public Contracts Regulations to vary or award contracts cover forward planning for contracts required after “normal life” resumes?
- How risky would variations or direct awards be and what can be done to mitigate that risk?
- What terms could you include in any extended or new contracts to provide additional flexibility and protection should your needs change in the new academic year?
- When awarding new contracts, what has Coronavirus taught us about what else a contract should provide for?

Your speakers are [Anja Beriro](#), a Partner experienced in advising higher education and wider public sector clients in relation to procurement and commercial issues and, Paula Dumbill, a Partner in our Commercial team and specialist in complex public sector outsourcing contracts.

We look forward to speaking with you and are happy to take questions in advance to respond to on the day.



Higher Education Webinar Series; HE procurement and contracting during COVID-19

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Speakers

Anja Beriro

Partner

Anja is a partner in Browne Jacobson's government and infrastructure team and is a trusted advisor to numerous public sector clients. Anja is recognised for her experience in public procurement (litigious and non-litigious), outsourcing arrangements, complex governance structures, alternative service delivery models, and joint working between health and local government.

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