

[News story: Suppliers announced for housing and facilities management contract framework](#)

The FDIS contracts will provide FM services across the UK defence estate, replacing existing arrangements when they come to an end. Each contract will be seven years in length, with options to extend up to a further three years, subject to satisfactory performance and other considerations.

The contracts are being procured as part of the CCS workplace services FM marketplace framework. This is a new way of working for DIO and enables access to a more diverse supplier base, while improving value for money for the taxpayer by leveraging government buying power.

This phase of the FDIS programme will procure new hard FM arrangements for 4 regional contracts and 5 contracts that will replace the current National Housing Prime. The replacement for the current national training estate prime will be procured through a subsequent framework during the next phase of the programme.

[Video: The FDIS programme will provide improved value for money for the taxpayer](#)

DIO's Commercial Director Jacqui Rock said:

DIO spends around £3 billion every year buying infrastructure services for our armed forces both in the UK and overseas. These new contracts will form a significant part of this and will provide improved value for money for the taxpayer. They will also allow us access to a wider supply base including both large multinational companies and small and medium enterprises.

Sam Ulyatt, CCS's Buildings Strategic Commercial Director, said:

CCS has engaged extensively to design a framework structure which meets the needs of customers and incorporates social value. Our public sector contract has also been simplified to aid procurement for customers and suppliers alike.

The next stage of the process is the call-off or Invitation to Tender for the suppliers who were awarded a place on the CCS FM Marketplace Phase 2 framework, to be able to bid for the new contracts. This is currently scheduled to begin with the Built Estate competition in spring 2019, followed by the accommodation management and maintenance competition in summer 2019.

News story: Cleaning chemicals companies' merger probed

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been investigating Ecolab's acquisition of Holchem.

The companies make and supply cleaning chemicals for businesses that manufacture food, drink and dairy products. Access to competitively-priced, safe and effective cleaning products and services is an important part of the supply of food and drink within the UK.

Following its Phase 1 investigation, the CMA has identified concerns that the acquisition could adversely affect these businesses as a result of higher prices or lower quality services. This is because Ecolab and Holchem are two of the largest suppliers of cleaning chemicals and would face limited competition from other suppliers after the merger.

Ecolab now has until 17 April to offer a solution to the CMA's concerns. Otherwise, the merger will be referred for an in-depth Phase 2 investigation, to be carried out by a group of independent CMA panel members.

Further information can be found on the [Ecolab/Holchem case page](#).

Press release: Small business shines light on success of automatic enrolment

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) found the revolutionary reform had brought almost half of the country's small business workforce into workplace pensions, increasing participation rates by a huge 44%.

With more than a quarter of private sector employees in the UK working for a small business, the figures shine a light on how automatic enrolment is improving the pension prospects of millions of people.

While fewer than 1 in 6 of these workers were saving for retirement before automatic enrolment was introduced in 2012, that figure has now reached 7 in 10. The IFS study asserts that just 26% of small business workers would have been saving into a workplace pension today without the dawn of automatic enrolment.

The research also revealed 91% of private sector employees work for an employer that offers a workplace pension.

Minister for Pensions and Financial Inclusion Guy Opperman said:

Automatic enrolment has been an extraordinary success, transforming pension saving and improving the retirement prospects of more than 10 million workers already.

As this report shows, small business owners all over the UK have made this possible, with participation rates estimated to have been increased from 26% to 70% due to automatic enrolment. This radical reform is creating a new relationship between the employee and their employer.

This government is committed to making sure that small business owners throughout UK are able to thrive and grow.

Official research shows that 70% of small and micro employers found the ongoing administration of their workplace pension scheme easy.

[Employers' pension provision survey 2017](#)

[Automatic enrolment: quantitative research with small and micro employers](#)

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 3267 5115

Follow DWP on:

[Press release: M6's purple pipes kick off new life on school sports pitch](#)

Highways England used the pipes to hold electricity cables while it carried out the biggest improvement scheme since the motorway first opened in Cheshire in 1963, adding extra lanes and new technology to tackle congestion and improve journey times.

The pipes ran the length of the 19-mile scheme and were temporarily secured to the top of the concrete safety barrier in the central reservation while work was taking place at the edge of the motorway.

Some of the pipes were donated to Sandbach School ahead of the scheme's completion to mark out sports pitch boundaries and they are already playing their part in the students' sporting successes.

Since the purple pipes were introduced, the under 12 and under 16 hockey squads have both become North of England Schools Champions with the under 16s also qualifying for the national finals at the Olympic Park in London.

Jake Davies, Groundsman at Sandbach School, said:

We'd been looking at purchasing pitch dividers for our all-weather pitch but they can cost thousands of pounds so we'd been considering other options.

I was driving on the M6 to the football one day and it suddenly popped into my head that the purple pipes that ran along the motorway would be the perfect solution for what we needed.

Everyone's been massively impressed with the pipes since they were donated to the school as we can use them to create smaller pitches for the different year groups and they stop balls disappearing. They've saved us a lot of money and work really well!

Sandbach School hockey team with the purple pipes marking their sport pitches

The M6 upgrade between Crewe and Knutsford is the first of four smart motorway schemes to be finished that will increase the M6's capacity by a third on 60 miles of the motorway between Coventry and Wigan.

Highways England's main contractor for the project, Kier, also worked with local community groups during the upgrade to provide extra benefits. The construction team turned a scrap piece of land into disabled parking spaces at St Oswald's Church in Brereton, resurfaced the access road to Holmes Chapel community centre, and provided cones and signs for the Winter Wonderland charity event in Weston and the Sandbach Transport Festival.

The scheme, which employed over 6,000 workers including 16 apprentices during the three-year upgrade, was also recently awarded the Gold Award in the national Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Arun Sahni, Project Manager at Highways England, said:

The improvements we've made to the M6 are benefiting the tens of thousands of drivers who travel on the key route between the Midlands and North West every day.

We've also been keen to make sure that local communities have been able to benefit from the scheme while the work has been taking place, and it's great to see the purple pipes we used on the motorway have now found a new life at Sandbach School.

I'd like to pass on my thanks to everyone who worked on the scheme for going the extra mile to get the project finished ahead of schedule, and to local residents for bearing with us while we

carried out the upgrade.

The donation of the purple pipes to Sandbach School isn't the only sporting link to the M6, with a new Highways England partnership with the Football Association also set to benefit Manchester City fans heading down the motorway to Wembley Stadium for the FA Cup Final next month.

Highways England has teamed up with The FA to help drivers plan their journeys and warn them of any incidents, delays or congestion, using social media and the extensive array of digital messaging signs on motorway gantries.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[Press release: Magistrates order 15 anglers to pay almost £9,000 for illegal fishing activity](#)

Twelve anglers were fined for unlicensed fishing, two people were fined for possession of unlicensed instrument with intention to fish, and one person was fined for unlicensed fishing and providing a false name and address.

Fines issued during a day of sentencing at Luton Magistrates' Court last month ranged from £330 to £660 and each angler was ordered to pay £127.47 in costs and a victim surcharge of between £30 and £60.

The total amount of fines came to £6,410, the total costs amounted to £1912.05 and the victim surcharge total was £637.

Those appearing before magistrates included:

- Four people caught in Suffolk – two at Chantry Park in Ipswich and two at Suffolk Water Park
- Six people caught in Essex – three at Newland Hall Fishery, one at

Hanningfield Reservoir and two at Weeley Lakes

- Five people caught on the Norfolk Broads – two on the River Bure, two at Rollesby Broad and one at Womack Water.

The majority of offences were identified during routine patrols and partnership patrols, where Fisheries Enforcement Officers were joined by colleagues from partner agencies such as Norfolk Police and the Broads Authority.

The two cases relating to Chantry Park were identified during a patrol carried out in response to a call received through the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline from a member of the public.

Environment Agency Enforcement Team Leader Lesley Robertson said:

These cases show that anyone found fishing illegally or fails to provide their name and address to an Officer carrying out their duties may face prosecution and a fine.

The money raised through the sales of rod licences is re-invested and enables us to improve all fisheries including rivers for anglers. Our officers routinely undertake licence checks and we urge anyone with information about illegal fishing activities to contact us.

Illegal fishing should be reported to the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.