

Updated Outsourcing Playbook

- The Outsourcing Playbook was designed to improve the working relationship between the private, public and third sectors
- Refreshed Playbook sets out how government and private sector will continue driving forward innovation
- New guidance is welcomed as a 'huge step forward' by business leaders

A project designed to make sure the government and the private sector work well together has been updated to help guarantee good services for the public.

The [Outsourcing Playbook](#), which was launched in February 2019, was designed to improve the way the government works with private companies following the collapse of Carillion in 2018.

After being strongly supported by the private sector and charities, it has now been updated to highlight the importance of continuing to drive forward innovation in public sector projects.

This includes the creation of Delivery Model Assessments, which help determine whether the public or private sector is best placed to deliver a public service, an improved focus on delivering social value in contracts and guidance on building and maintaining successful relationships with companies delivering services.

Cabinet Office Minister, Lord Agnew, said:

The Outsourcing Playbook is a vital tool to ensure we can work effectively with the private sector to deliver the best possible public services and value for money for the taxpayer.

This update builds on the improvements we have seen in the past year, and I'm pleased it has been well received by the private sector as we continue to develop collaboration and drive innovation.

The Outsourcing Playbook contains rules, principles and guidance on how government departments should make decisions about outsourcing projects, making sure the focus is always on delivering the best possible outcome at the best possible value for the public.

The updated version makes it clear that companies should also comply with the prompt payment code and sets out how government officials should look at all possibilities for how services should be delivered before contracts are awarded as well as giving extra advice on insourcing.

The update follows detailed consultation with industry and builds on the highly successful implementation of the initial programme, which has seen

attendance rates at training sessions for Playbook policies hit more than 9,000.

Mark Fox, the Chairman of the Business Services Association, said:

The updated Playbook represents a huge step forward in the government's ability to procure goods, services and projects, consistently and efficiently.

All those who work with the government to deliver projects and services, across the voluntary and private sectors, recognise the enormous amount of work the Cabinet Office has put into this work.

The Outsourcing Playbook has also helped to guide vital work between government and the private sector during the coronavirus crisis.

The CBI's chief UK Policy Director, Matthew Fell, said:

During these testing times, partnership working between the public and private sectors to tackle shared challenges has become ever more important.

This latest guidance builds on the Cabinet Office's commitment to improve how local and central government work together with enterprise and charities to deliver high quality public services.

New provisions supporting better contract management, an increased focus on value rather than cost and encouraging a more collaborative approach to managing risk are all aspects that will be welcomed by public sector suppliers.

For more details, [see the latest version of the Outsourcing Playbook here](#).

ESFA Update: 10 June 2020

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1. 10 June 2020

We have added information to the FE edition of Update on the provider relief schemes.

2. 10 June 2020

First published.

[Independent review into the Post Office Ltd Horizon IT system](#)

News story

The review will consider whether Post Office Ltd has learned lessons from the Horizon dispute and court case.



- Review will consider whether Post Office Ltd has learned necessary lessons from the Horizon dispute
- will also provide an independent assessment of the Post Office's work to rebuild its relationship with its postmasters
- draft terms of reference published in the House of Commons today

The government will shortly launch an independent review to consider whether Post Office Ltd has learned lessons from the Horizon dispute and court case, and made the changes needed to ensure a similar case cannot happen again.

Today, Small Business and Postal Affairs Minister Paul Scully announced the draft terms of reference for the review via a [written ministerial statement](#) laid in the House of Commons.

It follows Post Office Ltd reaching a settlement of £57.75 million in December 2019 to conclude a long-running civil court case brought against it by a group of postmasters over issues related to its Horizon IT system.

Small Business and Postal Affairs Minister Paul Scully said:

The Horizon dispute and court case has had a devastating impact on the lives of many postmasters, and I have been deeply moved by the individual stories of those I have spoken to.

It is so important that a case like this can never happen again.

That is why this government is committed to establishing an independent review to ensure that lessons have been learned, and that concrete changes have taken place at Post Office Ltd.

We are keen to see the review launch as soon as possible, and the publication of draft terms of reference today is an important step toward this.

The terms of reference and the final timings for the review are subject to confirmation by the chair, who will be fully independent of Post Office Ltd. and the government. A chair will be appointed and announced in due course.

Published 10 June 2020

[SLC extends student finance deadline for full-time, returning students in England and Wales](#)

News story

Student finance deadline extended to 30 June for full-time, returning students in England and Wales



As Universities and colleges are now starting to confirm their teaching arrangements for the forthcoming academic year in response to Covid-19, SLC is extending the deadline for full-time returning students to apply for

finance, from 12th June (Wales) and from 19th June (England) to 30th June.

Derek Ross, Executive Director of Operations at SLC said, “SLC recognises that students may still be gathering information on which to base their plans for next year. On that basis, we want to give them more time to complete their application before the ‘returner’ deadline.

“The clear advice to returning students is to submit their funding applications as quickly as possible and by extending the deadline we are providing students with valuable additional time. “

While SLC does everything in its power to process all applications as quickly as possible, more complex cases do take time. Students submitting late applications may not receive their full maintenance loan for the start of the new term. While the basic non income assessed payment will be made, any additional entitlement will only be paid once the application and assessment process is completed.

Derek Ross added “Submitting an application as soon as possible is the only way to ensure funding will be in place for the start of next term. For maximum peace of mind, students are encouraged to note the extension to the deadline and submit their applications as quickly as possible.”

Applications can be made online at www.gov.uk/student-finance or www.studentfinancewales.com. Information is also available on [Facebook.com/SFEngland](https://www.facebook.com/SFEngland) and [Twitter.com/SF_England](https://twitter.com/SF_England) or [Facebook.com/SF_Wales](https://www.facebook.com/SF_Wales) and [Twitter.com/SF_Wales](https://twitter.com/SF_Wales)

The student finance deadline for new students has already passed but for anyone who may have missed it, the advice is still to get an application in as soon as possible. Even when someone is not sure of their eventual course, University or college, new students should apply based on their first preference, as there is no penalty for withdrawing an application or amending details later.

Applications can be made online at www.gov.uk/student-finance or www.studentfinancewales.com. Information is also available on [Facebook.com/SFEngland](https://www.facebook.com/SFEngland) and [Twitter.com/SF_England](https://twitter.com/SF_England) or [Facebook.com/SF_Wales](https://www.facebook.com/SF_Wales) and [Twitter.com/SF_Wales](https://twitter.com/SF_Wales)

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[Blue Belt Programme Annual Update now](#)

[published](#)

News story

Read about the work of the Blue Belt Programme in UK Overseas Territories in the 2019-2020 annual update.



Earlier this week on World Ocean Day, 8 June, we published our [annual update](#) on the achievements and progress of the Blue Belt Programme over the past year.

Lord Zac Goldsmith, Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister for Pacific and the Environment said:

The Blue Belt Programme, one of the UK government's most ambitious environmental policies ever, is on course to establish 4 million square kilometres of protected and managed oceans around the UK Overseas Territories.

The update for 2019-2020 showcases how the Blue Belt Programme is helping strengthen governance, protect biodiversity, support sustainable fisheries, support compliance and manage human activities across the UK Overseas Territories.

You can also read the latest [Blue Belt newsletter](#).

The Blue Belt Programme supports the delivery of the UK government's commitment to enhance marine protection of over four million square kilometres of marine environment across UK Overseas Territories. The programme is a partnership between two world-leading agencies of the UK government, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

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