**Policy Updates**

# ***Small Businesses to Benefit from one of the largest shake ups to procurement regulations in UK history***

New procurement rules have become law, following the Royal Assent of the Procurement Act. The Act establishes a new public procurement regime following the UK’s exit from the EU and will include:

* Contracting authorities are required assess the particular barriers facing SMEs throughout the entire procurement lifecycle.
* Streamling the way companies bid for public contracts
* Introduction of a new duty for Ministers to proactively consider suppliers for potential debarment investigations. To achieve this, the Government will introduce a new National Security Unit for Procurement.
* Consideration of the national strategic priorities set out in the National Procurement Policy Statement.

Full details can be found in the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/small-businesses-to-benefit-from-one-of-the-largest-shake-ups-to-procurement-regulations-in-uk-history>

# ***New laws to make charging an electric vehicle easier and quicker***

* Prices to be transparent with contactless options.
* Providers will also be required to open up their data, so drivers can easily find an available charge-point that meets their needs.
* Once the regulations come into force, drivers will also be able to contact free 24/7 helplines for any issues accessing charging on public roads.
* These regulations follow the Government’s recent announcement of a range of measures to speed up the installation of charge-points through the Plan for Drivers.

Full details in the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-make-charging-an-electric-vehicle-easier-and-quicker>