

Dear **NAME**,

I am writing to let you know about a new online system that will be used by all NHS commissioners, including **our PCT/Collaborative Procurement Organisation**, to advertise service opportunities in health and social care.

NHS Supply2Health (www.supply2health.nhs.uk) is an online resource where PCTs can post information about tender opportunities and contract awards. From 1 October 2008 all statutory NHS commissioning bodies will be mandated to use the system to advertise available contracts that fall under Part B of the European Procurement Directives and are competitively tendered clinical services. NHS Supply2Health will not be used for advertisements and awards for non-pay goods and services (such as facilities management and supplies), nor will it be used for advertising tender opportunities where the Local Authority is the lead contractor.

Using NHS Supply2Health, providers can search for available opportunities by location and by category; they can also search for information on who has been awarded a contract. Providers can register to receive email notifications of what opportunities have recently been posted on the site in areas that interest them.

The introduction of the NHS Supply2Health system does not affect existing contracts. It requires that any new contracts are advertised on the site and that contract award notices for contracts advertised through NHS Supply2Health are posted on the website.

NHS Supply2Health is not an electronic procurement system and therefore does not mean there will be any change to our current procurement policies. The website merely advertises service opportunities and records contract awards.

Further information is available in the Q&A enclosed with this letter. If you have any questions, please contact **NAME (CONTACT DETAILS)** at **PCT/ORGANISATION NAME**.

Yours faithfully,

NAME
JOB TITLE

Questions and Answers

Why is NHS Supply2Health being introduced?

NHS Supply2Health is part of a suite of system management products, introduced in the NHS Operating Framework 08/09, which are designed to support the principles of transparency, objectivity, local accountability, non-discrimination and consistency in NHS commissioning.

NHS Supply2Health will assist commissioners in adhering to EU procurement regulations for Part B services and obtaining best outcomes for patients through improved quality for competed tenders.

How will NHS Supply2Health help me?

NHS Supply2Health will help to lower barriers to entry into the market for NHS healthcare services by ensuring that Part B services that are competitively tendered by PCT commissioners in England are advertised in one place and consistently and comprehensively described. This will ensure there is full visibility and transparency in the market.

As a provider, NHS Supply2Health will help you to keep abreast of new opportunities to provide health and social care services, with all opportunities accessible in one place.

Will you still advertise in the local and national press?

We may still choose to advertise our health and social care service opportunities in other media; however, all our adverts that meet the criteria will be published on NHS Supply2Health.