



# Agora Legal Explained: Transforming Legal Services Procurement

**26th September | 13:00 – 13:45**

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# About Constellia

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Constellia is a leading procurement solutions provider, managing over **£400 million** spend for public and private sector clients. With a marketplace of over **3,000 pre-qualified suppliers** across **425+ subcategories** of spend for goods, works and services, Constellia ensures that Agora Legal operates with the highest standards of compliance, efficiency, and transparency.

Agora Legal clients benefit from Constellia's wrap-around procurement support services:

- Full procurement support 'wrap-around' services at no cost
- Procurement compliance & risk mitigation
- Expert procurement guidance & category expertise



# Welcome to Agora Legal

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Agora Legal is transforming public sector legal services procurement - making it **faster**, **fairer**, and **fully compliant**.

Agora Legal's **Flexible Purchasing System (FPS)** makes it easier for the UK public sector to find and appoint legal firms. This agile and efficient solution helps public sector organisations and suppliers work together effectively.

Agora Legal's FPS provides quick access to a dynamic marketplace of pre-approved legal services providers, ranging from **micro-SMEs**, **SMEs**, and **large corporations**, including **local**, **regional**, and **national** specialists.

**Legal Services fall under a 'light touch regime' within PCR 2015 regulations...no EOI or standstill period required.**

# Why Agora Legal?

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## Bristol City Council: The Need

- Access to a broader, more diverse marketplace of legal providers
- Greater control and visibility of legal services spend
- Flexibility to self-manage or use Constellia's support

## Constellia: From Need to Solution

- Completing the professional services circle
- More opportunities to legal firms of all sizes — local, SME, national
- Co-created solution shaped by client needs



# What is Agora Legal?

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Unique in the marketplace, **Agora Legal** is a nationally available **Flexible Purchasing System (FPS)** for legal services, hosted by **Bristol City Council** and operated by **Constellia**.

- Always-open and dynamic marketplace
- Contracting authorities and law firms can join for free at any time
- Enables contracting authorities to run direct awards, mini-competitions or shortlisted mini-competitions
- One centralised digital platform to procure legal services quickly and compliantly

# How Agora Legal Works

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Clients can choose to operate Agora Legal's FPS via the following options:

1. **Self-serve:** Run your own procurement process with direct access to pre-approved law firms. *(Constellia can also onboard suppliers on your behalf.)*
2. **Managed Service:** Constellia manages direct awards and mini-competitions for you as part of our wrap-around procurement service, saving time and resource.

As per the **contract notice**, the FPS is open to new entrants at any point during its lifetime, which is until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031.

Contract Notice Link: [here](#)



**Flex to your  
needs**

# How Agora Legal Works

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Service options to support your organisation for competitions:

- **Level 1: Light Touch** – Constellia runs the tender, and bids are passed directly to the organisation.
- **Level 2: Advice** – Constellia runs the tender, advises on shortlisting, specs & criteria; with bids sense-checked before sharing.
- **Level 3: Fully Managed Service** – Constellia runs the tender, drafts documents, supports assessment, manages process; bids sense-checked before sharing.

# Who Can Access?

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Agora Legal's solution is available for use by all UK public sector bodies and utilities. Whether for **local or central government, NHS trusts, education institutions, or housing associations**, the FPS system ensures fast, compliant, and cost-effective legal services procurement that aligns with your goals and regulations.



# Legal Services You Can Access

The FPS system covers **all legal specialisms** across 27 lots, which are further divided by region.



**Business  
Law**



**Commercial  
Law**



**Health & Social  
Care**



**Regulations**



**Tax Law**



**Environment**



**Employment**



**Housing  
Disrepair**



**Immigration**



**Technology**

# Legal Services You Can Access

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- Cross Category
- Business and Corporate Services
- Health and Social Care
- Adult Care and/or Court of Protection
- Education
- Local Authority Education
- Planning and Environmental
- Employment and Pensions
- Regulatory and Compliance
- Local Authority Licensing
- Local Authority Prosecutions
- Commercial
- Public Procurement
- Commercial Litigation

- Construction, Regeneration and Infrastructure Projects
- Property and Real Estate
- Housing Disrepair
- Local Authority Housing
- Property Litigation
- Private Rented Sector Housing Regulation
- Public Sector and Government
- Technology
- Immigration
- Judicial Review
- Anti-social Behaviour Actions and Powers
- Intellectual Property Law
- Tax

# Current Legal Firms Onboarded\*

- Anthony Collins Solicitors
- Barcan + Kirby
- Bevan Brittan
- Birketts
- Biscoes
- Burgess Salmon
- Capital Law
- Clarke Willmott
- CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang
- Cobb Warren Limited
- Forbes Solicitors
- Forresters
- Gateley PLC
- Geldards
- Greenhalgh Kerr
- Hill Dickinson
- Hugh James
- Lyons Davidson Solicitors
- Stone King
- Tozers
- Veale Wasbrough Vizards (VWV)
- Weightmans
- Womble Bond Dickinson (UK)

# Key Benefits for Your Organisation

Flexible



Supplier  
Diversity &  
Inclusion



Procurement  
Support



Compliance



Drive  
Competition



Speed



Maximise  
Value



Social &  
Economic Value



Simplicity

Dynamic

# Key Benefits for Your Organisation

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- **Connects law firms directly with public sector clients** – giving access to central and local government, NHS trusts, education, housing and utilities.
- **Covers the entire breadth of the public sector requirement** – 27 specialist legal services lots with geographic sub-lotting covering the UK.
- **Removes complexity** – A quick, streamlined solution that is run like a DPS without the usual drawbacks.
- **Levels the playing field** – ensuring businesses of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds can compete for contracts.

# Why it Matters to Your Organisation

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- **Better value for money and budget control:** Ongoing competition and tailored contracts to promote efficiency in legal services spend.
- **Faster, easier procurement:** Streamlined processes resulting in quicker turnaround times for urgent legal needs.
- **Regulatory assurance:** Fully transparent and compliant, reducing risks of procurement challenges.
- **Adaptable solutions:** Access a dynamic supplier base that evolves with your requirements.
- **Encourages SMEs and local legal expertise:** Helping you invest in local and regional economic growth.

# How to Access & Next Steps

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1. **Register & Login:** To the Cimple platform and sign the access agreement.
2. **Choose a route to market:**
  - a. Direct award, mini-competition or shortlisted mini-competition.
  - b. Or, if preferred, Constellia can manage a mini-competition or a shortlisted mini-competition for you — no EOI required.
3. **Publish:** Your award to the selected supplier.
4. **Run:** Process and appoint a legal services firm.



Log on

to the Cimple platform

[cimple.uk/profile/dps/459903](https://cimple.uk/profile/dps/459903)

and sign the access  
agreement

# FAQs

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## What is a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS)?

FPS is an always-open procurement model allowing law firms to join at any time during its lifetime. It enables quick, cost-effective access to legal services suppliers via **direct awards** and **mini-competitions**.

## What is the difference between a Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) and a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)?

FPS allows for both **direct awards** and **mini-competitions** to be conducted, making it **more flexible** than DPS, which requires a mini-competition to be run for every procurement.

## How Long Does the Call-Off Process Take?

From as little as 24 hours.

## Can I Onboard my Own Suppliers?

Yes, absolutely. Simply provide us with the supplier's contact details, and we will take care of the rest.

## What are the Fees?

3% of the invoice value for every call-off contract put in place; however, this is paid by suppliers to Constellia.

# Join Today

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Explore how Agora Legal can further benefit your organisation - our team is ready to support and assist with any questions or provide a personalised demo.

## Contact:

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