



The Business Services Association
130 Fleet Street,
London.
EC4A 2BH

BSA News - April 2024

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Highlights

- The BSA has a busy schedule of meetings, roundtables and events in April across our core policy areas including skills, procurement, work to support SMEs and supply chains, Net Zero and tackling modern slavery.
- March saw a busy programme of engagement in these areas, including meetings with Andrew Forzani, Director General Commercial, Ministry of Defence; Jacqui Rock, Chief Commercial Officer, NHS England, and Simon Hoare, Local Government Minister. We held our Technology and Future of Procurement event with BSA member KPMG, which explored opportunities that advances in technology bring to procurement.
- Over 400 members registered to attend BSA meetings in March. Thank you for your continued support of, and engagement with, the BSA.
- We continue to engage with the Cabinet Office on the Procurement Act, including regular meetings to discuss the Playbooks. The Procurement Regulations 2024, secondary legislation to the Procurement Act, have now been laid in Parliament, and the first batch of guidance notes has been published. We have now held the first two in our series of briefings on the Procurement Act and are planning further sessions going forward. We will also be arranging a roundtable with Cabinet Office following the launch of the Contract Management Playbook.
- Our engagement with the Labour Party continues. Labour frontbenchers we are due to meet soon include the Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Shadow Prisons Minister; Shadow Defence Procurement Minister; and Shadow Immigration Minister. We recently met with the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury's team to discuss PFI exit.
- We have a busy programme of devolved and regional events this month in advance of the mayoral elections. We will meet with the Conservative candidates for the West Yorkshire



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and West Midlands mayoralities, following previous meetings with Labour candidates. This month also sees a meeting with Transport for the North and an online meeting with the Liverpool City Region, and the BSA Scotland Group meets for a roundtable with Fiona Hyslop, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport.

- We continue to focus on the importance of cyber security. Following a webinar with DSIT colleagues on the Cyber Governance Code of Practice in February, we have published our response to the proposed Code. Thank you for those who contributed to the BSA response.
- We have arranged a roundtable with Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Justice to discuss social value practices in central government and Arms-Length Bodies in application of the Social Value Model.

Events

- In collaboration with BSA member Sharpe Pritchard LLP, we are holding a workshop on local government procurement. The workshop is designed to explore the opportunities for efficiencies and value for money in procurement from the perspective of suppliers. Discussion will be led on the government side by Nick Griffin, Crown Representative for Local Government, and we will be joined also by Cabinet Office, CCS and DLUHC. The workshop follows our meeting in March with Martin Reeves, the LGA's National Procurement Champion.
- We are planning a BSA Spring Reception in London, bringing together members and stakeholders from across the range of sectors we operate in. Further details will be circulated in due course.
- We are due to meet with DESNZ to discuss members' work with SMEs supply chains on Net Zero. Further information will be circulated in due course.
- A workshop on supply chain management is being arranged with BSA member Mazars, with speakers to include Cabinet Office representatives.
- Further Women in Business Services events are being planned for 2024.
- The BSA is planning an event on the next Parliament in July.

Devolved and Local Government

- Later this month, the BSA Scotland Group meets Fiona Hyslop, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, in Scotland. Members will receive an update on the Scottish Government's transport policies and implications for service and infrastructure providers.
- A summary of the manifesto pledges of the new Welsh Government First Minister has been circulated to BSA Wales members. Please contact the BSA if you would like a copy.



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- We have arranged a roundtable with Arnold Craven, Conservative candidate for the West Yorkshire Mayor, in central Leeds. The roundtable follows a previous meeting with the Labour candidate, Mayor Tracy Brabin.
- This month we also meet with Andy Street, CBE, Mayor of the West Midlands and Conservative candidate in the Mayoral elections, in Coventry. This follows a roundtable we previously held with Labour's candidate, Richard Parker.
- The BSA meets for an online roundtable with the Liverpool City Region.
- We meet with Transport for the North (TfN) in Manchester. Members will receive an update on the work of TfN, including work on a revised Strategic Transport Plan, and wider issues relating to roads and rail infrastructure.
- We are arranging a meeting in Newcastle to discuss the new North East deal and an online meeting to update on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

BSA Committees

- This month, Defence Committee (DIO) meets with Major General Clements, Director Army Basing and Infrastructure. We are also arranging further workshops with DIO on future Defence FM delivery.
- The Defence and Security Committee meets with Andy Start, DE&S CEO, this month following a recent meeting with Andrew Forzani, MoD Director General Commercial in March.
- The Modern Slavery Council and the Legal Committee are invited to an online briefing on PPN 02/23: Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains, this month. Julia Lau, Partner at BSA member Sharpe Pritchard LLP, will lead the briefing. The session will focus on the Modern Slavery PPN and the implications for BSA members working with government. In March, the Modern Slavery Council met with Greater Manchester Police and MSIN to discuss their work with business and intelligence sharing on modern slavery.
- Health Committee met with Jacqui Rock, NHSE Chief Commercial Officer, to receive an update on the Strategic Framework for NHS Commercial, the SME action plan and category management. The Committee also met to discuss a draft paper on how collaboration and partnership arrangements can support integrated care systems in the delivery of their objectives. In the Summer, we will hold a workshop on estates digitalisation with NHS England.
- Welfare Committee attended a workshop with DWP on Universal Support in March. In February, the Committee met to discuss a draft BSA paper on opportunities to signpost to wider services as part of the assessments process.



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- The HR Committee recently received an Employment Law Update from BSA member DWF Law which discussed the latest cases they are seeing come through the courts and tribunals, as well as a raft of recent and upcoming legislation.
- The Legal Committee met with BSA member Sharpe Pritchard to discuss Information Security in Contracts. This topic was identified as a key policy area for the Committee in previous meetings.

Upcoming Events - April and May 2024

Online unless otherwise specified

Roundtable with Arnold Craven, Conservative Candidate for West Yorkshire Mayor - Wednesday 10th April (in-person, Leeds)

Roundtable with Liverpool City Region - Tuesday 16th April

Roundtable with Andy Street, CBE, Mayor of the West Midlands and Conservative candidate in the Mayoral election - Wednesday 17th April (in-person, Coventry)

Roundtable with Major General Clements, Director, Army Basing and Infrastructure - Wednesday 17th April (in-person, London)

Online Briefing on Modern Slavery PPN - Thursday 18th April

Local Government Procurement workshop with BSA member Sharpe Pritchard LLP - Tuesday 23rd April (in-person, London)

Roundtable with Transport for the North - Wednesday 24th April (in-person, Manchester, now full)

Roundtable with Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport - Thursday 25th April (in-person, Edinburgh)

Roundtable with Andy Start, CEO, Defence Equipment & Support - Friday 26th April

Social Value discussion with Cabinet Office and MoJ - Wednesday 1st May

VCSE Forum - Tuesday 14th May

Roundtable with Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - Tuesday 14th May

Defence Committee (DIO) - Monday 20th May

Education Committee - Tuesday 21st May

Publications

BSA [response](#) to the Cyber Governance Code of Practice call for views

BSA Scotland [response](#) to Community Wealth Building consultation

BSA [Summary](#) of the Spring Budget 2024

BSA [Economic Tracker Report 2023](#)



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BSA [Who We are](#)

BSA [report](#) on the work of the Business Services sector in driving innovation

BSA 2023 [Manifesto](#)

EDI in Procurement Guidance [Note](#)

[Toolkit](#) for Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Service and Infrastructure Projects Sectors

BSA [case studies](#) on leaving lasting legacy in communities

BSA [report](#) showcasing the good work of members in supporting the Net Zero agenda

About the BSA

The BSA News update is a monthly summary of all current workstreams and forthcoming activity. If you would like to attend any of our events, or have questions or comments on anything we are doing, please [contact](#) Mark Fox, Chief Executive.

The BSA - Business Services Association - brings together large and small businesses and VCSE organisations delivering services and projects across the private and public sectors. All members have access to the members section of the BSA website where research, policy papers, and details of forthcoming events and Committees, can be found.