



Crown
Commercial
Service



Association
of Colleges

Promoting. Representing. Supporting.



The Awarding Organisations project

FAB Conference
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Agenda

1. Introduction to CCS
2. Examination Landscape
3. Initial Project Findings
4. Challenges
5. Questions & Answer Session



Crown Commercial Service

- The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) is an agency within the Cabinet Office
- It acts on behalf of the Crown and is not for profit
- Its objectives are to:
 - support the improvement of commercial and procurement activity across the public sector
 - drive value for money for the taxpayer
- Our vision is to deliver value through outstanding commercial capability and quality customer service



Examinations Landscape

- Heavily regulated environment.
- Significant changes happening affecting the AO market; for example Skills Plan and Area Reviews.
- Currently there are no national contractual purchasing agreements in place between Colleges and Awarding Organisations (AOs).
- AoC has been working with CCS and Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) to understand the impact of the Public Contract Regulations in this area.
- We are currently engaging with FE, AOs and professional and regulatory bodies to review how colleges purchase from AOs.



Initial Project Findings

- Colleges use a significant number of AOs depending on their courses, results, ease of delivery and student preference.
- Examination expenditure is often the second largest college spend after payroll.
- AOs look to offer and develop new courses to colleges, expanding their offering.
- Colleges don't have easy accessibility and visibility of all the AOs offerings.
- There are a wide variety of terms and conditions which colleges agree with AOs.



Challenges

- Changes in the market
- How can colleges be supported to meet the EU regulations
 - The status quo could create significant administrative burdens for colleges and AOs
- How to minimise the disruption to AOs and colleges
 - Transparency and visibility
- To ensure any approach provides flexibility and choice accommodating changes in the market

Questions & Answer Session

- To help and support this project we need your thoughts and views

- This is your opportunity to feed into the process;
 - What are the key challenges facing AOs in the exam market place?

 - How can we ensure colleges can meet EU regulations without creating an administrative burden for AOs and colleges?

 - How can we help colleges get transparency on pricing?

 - Does the EU Referendum change the project?