

"New Debarment Regime for UK Government Suppliers to have Broad Implications for the Supply Chain Industry," *Supply Chain*

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By: Joanna Ludlam

The Procurement Act is part of a broader overhaul aimed at creating an independent, streamlined, and more accountable public procurement framework. “Both the Labour government and its predecessor have committed to a more transparent, flexible, and risk-conscious approach to how public money is spent,” says Partner Joanna Ludlam, as she looks at the legal implications of the 2023 Procurement Act for the supply chain landscape and debarment process, in an article for *Supply Chain*.

At the heart of this legislation is a powerful tool: the debarment regime — marking a significant shift in how the UK government engages with suppliers. “It reflects growing public and political expectations that companies benefiting from public money must meet the highest standards of integrity and responsibility, this impact is magnified within the supply chain industry, where the interconnectedness of suppliers means that the actions of one company can have far-reaching consequences for the rest of the chain,” explains Joanna.

By raising the bar, the government is also leveling the playing field. Those who meet these higher standards — and can prove their trustworthiness — may find it easier to secure contracts in a more risk-aware market. For businesses, the rules have changed. The risks of non-compliance are greater than ever — but so are the rewards for those demonstrating strong risk management, sustainability, and ethical leadership.

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Related Attorneys



Joanna Ludlam

Partner

jludlam@jenner.com

+44 330 060 5465

Related Locations

London

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