

# Are EU procurement rules to blame for the NHS's PPE crisis?

*Graham Andrews, owner of Hydro Project Engineering Ltd., explains how bureaucratic EU procurement requirements have contributed to the current PPE shortage in the NHS. Why are firms' offers of help being repeatedly ignored by the British government?*

I have been watching with some interest, but also much dismay, the number of companies that have been clamouring to produce much-needed PPE, only to be [rebuffed or worse ignored](#) by those we are told desperately need these items.

The problem is not new. It is a result of EU rules on procurement that have been dogging the industry for a few years now.

For decades, suppliers of products would deal with a buying department based in the company or organisation being supplied. They would build trust and relationships with these people, as I have done with my customers for many years.

Sadly, this is not PPE, on industry, P

Authorities, the NHS and government departments. I have had to register with the two main players in this game: ProContract in England and Wales (registered as Due North Ltd), and Public Contracts Scotland. These companies publish information regarding contracts, goods and services required by my customers in the UK. They will only accept quotes and offers from companies registered with them

I have councils that I have supplied services to for over

*stands, we're fulfilling direct orders for 10 large hospitals in Leicestershire and Derbyshire including Royal Derby Hospital, Leicester General Hospital, and Leicester Royal Infirmary. We hope to help more if possible.'*

The media is missing the mood of the people at this time we don't want the arguments and blame that we have at the time of an election. What we need is a national effort from all that are able to assist in this time of crisis. This means we must set aside procurement formalities to get stock moving.