

Writing for the PPLR

There are three sections of the PPLR – articles, news & analysis, and book reviews.

Articles

Anyone may submit an article to the articles section. Whilst the Editorial Board is responsible for commissioning Special Issues, individual contributors are also welcome to propose ideas for Special Issues.

Please note that the PPLR operates a double-blind peer review policy. The article will be subject to a preliminary review by a member of the Editorial Board to determine its suitability. It will then be sent for review to at least two reviewers. We do ask our reviewers to complete these reviews within **8-10 weeks** (journals now typically take between 10 – 12 weeks or longer) and some manage to do it even sooner.

One of the following determinations will then be made:

- Accept (without corrections)
- Accept with suggested corrections (authors are strongly advised to take these into consideration as a product of a rigorous peer review process)
- Revise and resubmit
- Reject

Usually, we can publish an article within the one or two issues after acceptance. However, PLEASE NOTE that we will not always be in a position to allocate an article to an Issue right away (e.g. in case of Special Issues being commissioned which will take priority) or give exact dates and times of publication as this is a matter for the publisher (based on the time taken to copy edit files etc).

There are no particular deadlines for final versions of articles following a determination – the earlier we receive them the earlier they can be processed and published within the system.

Regarding submission format, articles are generally between **4,000 and 10,000 words (although we do consider longer articles)**, and should in all cases be no longer than needed to cover the subject matter. Whilst relevant background needs to be explained to make pieces accessible, such explanations should be as succinct as possible; contributors are discouraged from including lengthy background explanations that merely cover well-trodden ground and go beyond what is needed in this respect. Articles should refer to relevant key literature. All articles must explain clearly at the start what is the contribution they provide to scholarship in public procurement – for example, if you are covering a topic already addressed in several articles you need to explain at the start how your article is different (for example, that it includes analysis of new case law not previously examined, or offers a different interpretation of the legal rules from previous articles).

Articles should be sent by e-mail to luke.butler@nottingham.ac.uk. You are welcome to email in advance of sending an article to enquire about the suitability of the subject matter (though this should be a brief

enquiry about the general subject matter only; as explained below we do not look at drafts or papers that are not in the form of final submissions).

Sweet & Maxwell provide a light touch style guide. The PPLR no longer prescribes a particular style guide. However, all submissions must follow at least the following basic conventions:

- All articles must feature a short Abstract (150-200 words) on the subject.
- All articles must NOT include contents pages or bibliographies.
- All articles must contain footnotes (not endnotes). Typically, authors are advised to follow the OSCOLA referencing system.

News & Analysis

There is also a news and analysis section of the PPLR for shorter pieces, which is not subject to review: pieces considered suitable for this section by the editor are normally published without delay in the next available Issue.

This section mainly covers new developments in legislation and case law i) at European Union level, and ii) in the United Kingdom, and also covers key international developments on procurement – for example, in UNCITRAL and the WTO.

Notes on these topics are done by a designated team of contributors from the editorial board who are responsible for covering all developments in a particular area, and they have “first refusal” on the relevant notes. This is a system we have to make sure everything is always covered in a timely manner. However, if they have not already written the relevant note they are often very happy to use notes offered by others, so if you are interested in contributing a note please email the News and Analysis editor (Professor Sue Arrowsmith) who will forward your email to the relevant person on the editorial board. We also welcome contributions for the news and analysis section on matters not referred to above that will be of interest to our readers. This includes judicial decisions/legislation from jurisdictions not mentioned above that are of wide interest (for example, because they raise a novel point or offer a particularly interesting solution to, or perspective on, an issue), or any international agreements on procurement.

If you are interested in contributing such a note please send it by e-mail to sue.arrowsmith@nottingham.ac.uk.

Book reviews

We are always pleased to receive books for review or to receive offers from anyone willing to review books for us. If you have a book to send for review or would like to review a book, you should first contact the Professor Luke Butler who will forward it to the Book Reviews editor.

There is a separate guide on writing a book review for PPLR available on the on the Public Procurement Research Group website (www.nottingham.ac.uk/law/pprg)

Terms and Conditions of submission

Note that submission to PPLR implies that the article has not been submitted to any other journal and will not be submitted elsewhere until our review process is complete. If the article has been submitted elsewhere during this time, the PPLR reserves the right to reject the submission. The PPLR will also not accept articles that are essentially reproductions of articles accepted for publication elsewhere or with substantial overlap in topic as such work is not sufficiently original.