



April 2023

FAQs: Dealing with the end of PSP 3

The Professional Services Partnership 3 (PSP 3) framework was extended beyond 27 April 2023 to ensure that sufficient time was set aside for procurement and effective mobilisation for the launch of PSP 4.

The current PSP 3 framework now expires on **27 August 2023**, with the new PSP 4 framework due to commence on **28 August 2023**.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on continuing to use PSP 3 between now and 27 August have been added to the Professional Services landing page. You can download a copy [here](#).

You are advised to take a moment to read through the advice now so that you can plan your work accordingly, particularly if you need internal approvals to enter a contract under the framework.

If you have further questions or need advice, please contact [Karen Notman](#).

Reminder - the annual uplift to PSP 3 'people rates' is at the end of April

Please be reminded that, on each anniversary of the PSP 3 framework (27 April), the annual price adjustment factor for inflation is applied. The Price adjustment applies to the 'people rates' based on the March Highway Term Maintenance Indices Working Category10/3 produced by BCIS for HTMA. March was the last value of the index published before the Contract Date.

It takes about six weeks or so for the indices to be published, so the adjustment needed is usually clarified in May and comes through on invoices in June. The uplift will apply from 28 April onwards so please consider the potential impact on your budgets.

Modern Slavery in Construction

Modern slavery can take many forms including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude, and slavery. Construction is considered a high-risk industry where there is a wide spectrum of potential exploitation. Rubber products, construction materials, and minerals are in the top five risk products (together with cocoa and tea) because of the way they are produced, provided, or used.



New Guidance

Peter Yates, Constructing West Midlands, and Vice Chair of the National Association of Construction Frameworks (NACF) was involved in the Local Government Association (LGA) modern slavery assurance guidance published in July 2021. He invited Helen Carter, Lead Consultant at Action Sustainability, and author of the guidance, to talk to the NACF Group on 30 March about the guidance on modern slavery in construction and ethical sourcing.

The guidance had input from the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham, and representatives from the Local Government Association and Local Authorities, including Rachel Best from Telford and Wrekin Council, and Carol Glenn from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

New British Standard

A new British Standard, BS25700: Organizational responses to modern slavery — Guidance, was issued in 2022, and is expected to become a new ISO standard in the next 3-4 months. It gives organizations guidance on due diligence and how to manage modern slavery risks in their operations, supply chains and wider operating environment, including prevention, identification, response, remediation, mitigation, and reporting. It is free to download from BSI [here](#).

Further developments and tools

Helen is now working on guidance for purchase of materials, such as solar panels which are cause for concern regarding ethical labour and human rights. This should be available later this year. Other tools such as an awareness model, learning pathways, and toolbox talks are also being developed through the Supply Chain Sustainability School (part-funded through the CITB).



MHA+ training on Modern Slavery and Trafficking is available on the learning management system

This wide-ranging course covers modern slavery, trafficking, and sexual exploitation for children, young people, and adults. It outlines the differences between these issues, gives information on how to identify vulnerable people, and how to report and act on such knowledge.

SIG Updates February – April 2023

We continue to have excellent levels of attendance and participation from group members across the MHA Plus region and are looking forward to two in-person/hybrid SIG meetings planned for May 2023 – Flood Water Management and Winter Services.

Flood Water Management – Presentation from PJA consultants about the upcoming enactment of Flood & Water Management Act Schedule 3 and the lessons learned from establishing SUDS Approval Bodies (SAB) in Wales. An additional meeting is to be held in May 2023 to further discuss and work through the potential issues, resource implications, and technical expertise needed to administer the approval of SUDS schemes for new developments.

Transportation Data & Analysis – Two presentations were given by industry experts from Miovision (new product Scout Explore) and French company Eco Counter (GeoVelo, GPS cycle data app). Presentations will be made available on the MHA Plus SIG member's website.

Low Carbon Travel & Transport – First meeting of this group since May 2022. Mat Bonomi from Derbyshire County Council is the new chair following Richard Lovell's retirement.

Highways Records & Searches – Excellent attendance with 17 member authorities represented

Highways Structures – Presentation from Kieran O'Connor about the Net Zero Bridges Group

Winter Services – Planning to hold the next Winter Services SIG at the Museum of Making in Derby on 4th May 2023. The meeting will be in a workshop format to

discuss the potential for efficiencies and innovation in the provision of winter maintenance. Several winter service providers will be attending the workshop.

Details of all upcoming Service Improvement Group meetings are available on the MHA+ Calendar and further information on each service improvement group is available from [Alice Russell](#).

Health and Safety at Work

Ensuring the safety and well-being of employees at work is essential for any business to thrive. One way we support the health and safety of our members is by providing effective training programmes that educate employees on safety protocols and procedures.

We offer comprehensive training on the LMS platform and would encourage you to take the time to have a look at some of the following modules available to you:

- Awareness of Health and Safety at Work
- PAT Testing Course
- Manual Handling in the Workplace
- Mental Health Awareness
- Personal Safety for Lone Workers

By investing in employee training, we can create a workplace safety culture that benefits everyone. You can access the training by logging into the LMS [here](#).

Rees Jeffreys Road Fund

The Rees Jeffreys Road Fund Trustees are pleased to announce that we will once again be running our Transport MSc Bursary programme for the academic year 2023-24.

Bursaries are available for a wide range of transport-related topics and are aimed at students who would not be able to afford to study without the Bursary. There will be up to eight bursaries of £10,000 each awarded for the academic year starting 2023-24.

People interested in studying for a transport-related MSc should initially speak to one of the 13 universities that run transport-related MSc programmes. To find out who runs the programmes, along with more information, click [here](#).

The deadline for universities to apply for a Bursary on behalf of students is **10 am, Monday 3 July 2023**.

MHA+ learning, training, and development

NEC4: ECC Project Manager Accreditation

We have commissioned this for our members from Thomas Telford – the knowledge business of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), providers of technical training for ICE members and those in the wider construction sector.

Face-to-face training elements (of the three-part programme) (2 x 2 days) will be held on **25/26 May** and **31 May/1 June** 2023

Kents Hill Park Training & Conference Centre Swallow House, Timbold Drive. Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes MK7 6BZ between 9 am-4 pm.

This programme is designed to equip delegates with the skills necessary to be able to manage a project under an NEC4 Contract, with specific reference to the role and importance of the Project Manager under the NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC). Click [here](#) for more information from NEC.

Participants can book this event using the [MHA+ LMS](#) – look under available events.

NACF Webinar

The next NACF webinar is taking place on **9 May** and will be focussing on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), exploring the practicalities, challenges, and opportunities revealed by initial schemes.

BNG is one of the least understood topics and with new regulations and requirements of construction and development, this is a great opportunity to learn more and gain valuable insights from their expert panel.

Please follow this [link](#) to register.

MHA+ Editorial Group – A call for members!

The new MHA+ Editorial Group is now in place and aims to provide a focus to all matters pertaining to the effective communications of MHA+. We are keen to secure a small number of additional enthusiastic members to join the group and drive forward the delivery of the Communications Plan.

If you want to get involved and make a difference in how we promote MHA+, this group will ensure you can help improve our communications both internally and externally to the Alliance.

If you are interested in joining, please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#), or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

MHA+ Carbon Steering Group (CSG) – Update.

The CSG continues to provide focus for all things pertaining to Carbon Reduction & Net Zero for MHA+. So, what's going on in the CSG? See below for some of the items covered at the last meeting:

- The second Carbon News Bulletin was sent out to all members and key stakeholders, with over 31 items relating to carbon matters ranging from Live Labs 2 successes, and bio-asphalt materials projects, through to hydrogen generators. The next edition is due out in May/June.
- The National Highways & Transport Network (NHT) are liaising with the CSG membership over their development of a carbon tool to assess the 'Value of Carbon' in Highways for Local Highway Authorities. They provided an update on the progress at the last CSG meeting.
- MEON Highways provided a very interesting presentation on their Project Highways Zero, based around significantly reducing carbon impacts, particularly, in lining and defects management. Items covered included: 60% reduction in carbon emissions, sustainability & durability, improved night-time visibility, lower wet night risk, & reduced requirement for repeat visits and associated TM, etc.
- Lancashire County Council provided an update on its Bio asphalt materials trials with three sites due to be completed in May, more updates to follow.
- Active Travel – was a key topic discussed with a significant focus on this vital issue planned over the next few months.

If you are interested in the group or want more information, please contact MHA+ Support, [Ian Bamforth](#), or give him a ring on **07842 034616**.

Whatever happened to Cumbria?

Cumbria County Council appear on some of our old regional area maps and attended some Service Improvement Groups. I occasionally get asked whether they are still members. My understanding is that they never gave a written commitment to joining as full members of MHA+ but kept in touch through the late Peter Clay. The last contact I had was in June 2021.

In July 2021, it was announced that Cumbria was to be split into two new unitary authorities. When I caught up with county council officers last October, the arrangements for re-organisation were very much ongoing and there was no clear contact to replace Peter.

On 1 April, Cumbria's County and six district councils were replaced by two new unitary councils – Cumberland Council to the west, and Westmorland & Furness to the east.

I am sure that our colleagues at West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Councils can appreciate the upheaval that people in Cumbria are experiencing.

On 1 April 2021, Northamptonshire's 8 councils were replaced by two unitary authorities. West Northamptonshire Council provides public services to the areas of Daventry, Northampton, and South Northamptonshire. North Northamptonshire Council provides public services to the areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, and Wellingborough.

North Yorkshire and Somerset are also reorganising, but those councils have been charged with creating a single unitary council for the whole county, which is a lot easier.

National Group Membership / Participation

We're interested in determining which of our members actively participate or hold membership to national groups. It'd be great to hear where MHA+ might be represented across the industry.

If you are part of any national groups, we'd be grateful if you could let us know via [email](#).

Knowledge Point: Active Travel

This will be a new regular feature in the MHA+ Newsletter where we consider a subject area and provide links to where you can find out more or highlight recent industry developments. This could be particularly useful for trainees wanting to extend their knowledge to help with professional development.

Active Travel England (ATE) is the government's executive agency responsible for making walking, wheeling, and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around in England. It is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department for Transport, and came into effect in 2022.

Their objective is for 50% of trips in England's towns and cities to be walked, wheeled, or cycled by 2030. They intend to do this by working alongside councils to:

- give people an alternative to driving by delivering new, protected routes and junctions, and quieter roads and neighbourhoods
- put active travel at the heart of towns and cities, including ensuring that government investment in active travel delivers to new high national standards
- embed active travel into major new developments, reducing local congestion
- provide the tools to deliver ambitious active travel programmes, including training local officers and councillors in active travel delivery best practice
- make active travel safer, including developing new solutions and guidance on safe infrastructure design based on solid insight and evidence to reduce the risk of near-misses and collisions

They also provide funding for schools that would like Bikeability training for children and give people who wouldn't think cycling is for them an opportunity to try it.

Find out more about ATE responsibilities and its relationship with the Department for Transport (DfT), and the government's ambition to make cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey by 2040, through the government website [here](#).

Fees and Subscriptions

The level of fees is reviewed annually, in March, by the MHA+ Executive Board as part of its approval of the Business Plan.

Annual Subscriptions:

- The subscription rate (2022/23) for all members is £3,750 per annum.

Framework and other fees:

- For all users of the **Medium Schemes Framework 3** the fees are related to the value of the work order at the start of construction which will be 0.25% with a minimum fee of £2,500 and a maximum fee of £50,000.
- For users of the **Professional Services Partnership 3** the fee is a standard 1% of the total value of work charged through the framework. This fee has been

included in the rates provided by the framework suppliers. The Alliance will recover this amount by invoicing each supplier on an annual basis for 1% of the agreed value of work that has been carried out by that supplier over the financial year.

- Generally, fees for **all other activities** (e.g. commodity purchase) will be based on 10% of the predicted savings for members of MHA+ and, where appropriate, 15% for non-members.

You can read about the fees and subscriptions going forward into 2023, [here](#).
Please click on the drop-down labelled ‘Fees and Subscriptions’.

Annual Event 2023

Just another reminder to save the date – Wednesday 20 September!

Our annual event will be held at Hollywell Park Conference Centre, Loughborough, and the theme this year is ‘Value and Skills’.



For enquiries about this bulletin or to suggest any future articles please contact Jacqui Wooldridge/ Karen Notman. If you have colleagues who may not have received this email please share it with them, so that they can contact us directly to confirm that they wish to receive our bulletin, alternatively if you wish to unsubscribe from this bulletin email MidlandsHighwayAlliancePlus@leics.gov.uk

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