What a bidder would find in live UK public tenders.

In autumn 2026 we read 8 live UK public-sector tender packs, 3 on NEC and 5 on JCT, from their published documents, the way an experienced bidder would. No buyer, project or place is named.

8
live tender packs: 6 full reviews, 2 shorter triage reviews

149
issues found across the 8 tender packs

23
issues per full review on average (139 across 6 tender packs)

51
high severity: likely to cost money or time if left in the tender pack

Six issues we found again and again, and the check that catches each one.

6 of 8 tender packs

Ground, structural or asbestos risk sits with the contractor, but the surveys it depends on are missing or incomplete.

Check: every risk given to the contractor has the information needed to price it.

5 of 8 tender packs

The published price-scoring method conflicts with the pricing workbook, or the workbook leaves priced items out of the evaluated total.

Check: score a dummy bid through both and confirm they agree.

5 of 8 tender packs

The return date, clarification deadline or timetable is stated differently across the documents and the portal.

Check: put every date from every document and the portal in one table.

5 of 8 tender packs

Documents listed in the tender, or needed for pricing, were not issued with the tender pack.

Check: tick every referenced document off against the portal upload.

4 of 8 tender packs

Key Contract Data entries were left blank or marked to be confirmed: dates, contract period, damages or values.

Check: no blank or TBC entries when the tender goes out.

4 of 8 tender packs

The contractor takes design responsibility for design produced by others, or has design duties with no contractual mechanism behind them.

Check: every design duty is matched to who produced the design and a clause that governs it.

Severity. High: likely to cost money or time if left in the tender pack. Medium: likely to cause clarification, qualification or dispute. Low: administrative. Of the 149 issues, 51 are high, 63 medium and 35 low.

Limits. 8 tender packs is a small sample and is not representative of all UK public procurement. The findings are issues identified in documents, not proven financial loss. Seven buyers were sent their findings; one amended its evaluation scoring.

What would a bidder find in your tender pack?

Send us the draft, or the notice if it is not ready. Within 5 working days we return up to 5 of the most serious issues, each tied to the document and clause, with its fix. No fee and no obligation. We act only for clients, never bidders.

calon-infrastructure.co.uk/sample-review.html

Calon Infrastructure Limited · No. 17255416 · 029 2271 5767