



NOA Addresses the Outsourcing Plans outlined in Election Manifestos

The National Outsourcing Association comments on the outsourcing proposals made by various political parties in their manifestos for the General Election

This week the UK's political parties have released their manifestos for the 2015 Election – but what do these prospective policies mean for the world of outsourcing?

Here **Kerry Hallard, CEO of the National Outsourcing Association (NOA)**, addresses proposals made by the Green Party, Labour Party and the Conservative Party in their respective manifestos that will impact on the UK outsourcing industry.

The Green Manifesto

When opening chapter 11 of their manifesto, the Green Party slated past governments for outsourcing services to the private sector. The manifesto read: “Successive governments, and particularly the current one, have outsourced government to the unaccountable private sector. This hollowing out of government is based on dogma – that the private sector does things better than the public sector.” They also accused the private sector of taking all the profit while taxpayers shoulder the risk.

Kerry Hallard responded: “The UK public sector is the second largest public sector market in the world, providing a huge number of services all within ever decreasing budgets. Outsourcing to the private sector has allowed the Government to deliver the majority of these services on time and frequently to a higher quality than could have been achieved otherwise.

“The benefits of outsourcing are not mere ‘dogma’ – they are proven and entirely logical. Organisations outsource non-core services to third-party specialists who can do them better and cheaper, allowing the organisation to focus on what is core to its business. We suggest that the Government is better served governing the country, rather than running IT, payroll, accounts, customer service centres and so on – leave that to the industry experts.

“The Green Party claims that it will ‘treat citizens as grown-ups, capable of recognising the common good and acting on it’. Truly treating UK citizens as ‘grown-ups’ would mean allowing them to recognise the benefits of outsourcing for themselves, rather than glossing over the subject with vague rhetoric.”

The Labour Manifesto

On page 24 of Labour's Manifesto, it says: “we will guarantee every school leaver that gets the grades an apprenticeship. We will create thousands more apprenticeships in the public sector, including the civil service. Every firm getting a major government contract, and every large employer hiring skilled workers from outside the EU, will be required to offer apprenticeships.”

Kerry Hallard commented: “Upskilling the UK's outsourcing industry is critical to its growing success and is essential if the UK is to become the global strategic hub for outsourcing, which is a very real opportunity.

“As such, the National Outsourcing Association applauds Labour’s plans to require private sector companies working on Government contracts to run high quality apprenticeships, as proposed in their election manifesto.

“Negotiation and relationship skills, as well as much-needed tech and digital skills, are critical in today’s work environment and not currently taught well in schools. Any initiative which provides today’s youths with jobs and upskills the UK’s workforce is more than a good thing – ignoring the requirement for these skills is a threat to the growth of the UK economy.”

The Conservative Manifesto

On page 19 of the Conservative’s manifesto, the party claims that it “will raise the target for SMEs’ share of central government procurement to one-third, strengthen the Prompt Payment Code and ensure that all major government suppliers sign up.”

Kerry Hallard responded: “The coalition ‘supposedly’ met its target of awarding 25 per cent of public sector contracts to SMEs, and increasing this target to 33 per cent is a great boost for the UK’s smaller service providers.

“However, there remains the issue of how many contracts are awarded directly and indirectly. Many SMEs work through subcontractors and these cause the bottleneck in payments – so although it all sounds great for smaller businesses, there is currently no guarantee of speedy payment to sub-contracted SMEs working on Government contracts.”

CONTACT

Kerry Hallard is available for interview – please contact Jeremy Coward on +44 (0)207 292 8691.

About the NOA

The National Outsourcing Association (NOA) is the leading association serving both the outsourcing professional and the global outsourcing industry. Our vision is to grow the size and positive reputation of the outsourcing industry. Our mission is to be both the home and global ambassador of world class outsourcing. www.noa.co.uk

Media enquiries

NOA PR contact:
Jeremy Coward
Tel: 020 7292 8691
Email: jeremyc@noa.co.uk