

**The contracting market has in the last few years experienced a period of unprecedented change and all the indicators are that this rate of change is set to continue over the next few years. To stand any chance of influencing these changes positively we need hard evidence from contractors.**

Useful Links

[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

[www.icaew.co.uk](http://www.icaew.co.uk)

[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

[www.shout99.com](http://www.shout99.com)

## A Fair COP for Contractors

Experience has shown us that many decisions made by Government are founded on anecdotal evidence – as currently there is little specific data relating directly to the contracting market. This lack of data often results in incorrect perceptions and makes it almost impossible to challenge these without hard evidence.

Professional Passport has recently launched Contractors' Opinion Poll (COP), a comprehensive survey that enables contractors to express their opinions on all aspects of the contracting marketplace.

This quick and simple online survey gathers significant information from contractors on an anonymous basis and the results will be used to convey an accurate picture of the realities of contracting in the current market to key decision makers and government departments.

COP will enable contractors' collective voices to be heard above the din of commercial lobbying and vested interest – giving contractors a real opportunity to influence service provision and legislation.

Crawford Temple, Professional Passport's COO, said at the launch of the survey "The results from this survey will provide us with the tangible data we need to support contractors' views to Government and enable us to argue for less burdensome regulation."

The survey is for all contractors, across all markets, at all levels because everyone's view is important.

This brief **multiple choice questionnaire** will take no more than a couple of minutes to complete and is completely anonymous.

We do not collect any personally identifiable data and do not record the IP address of responders.

We will use the results of this survey to assist us in the work we do to deliver real solutions to contractors as well as supporting our discussions with Government.

We would ask that you encourage as many contractors as possible to take part in this free survey. As with all surveys the results become more meaningful and influential as the numbers completing the survey increases.

We will share the outcome of the survey with contractors in our Contractor Intell Newsletter.

**Please forward this newsletter to all the contractors you know and encourage them to take part in the survey.**



Just to reiterate; the survey is anonymous and we do not collect any personally identifiable data. Please answer all questions honestly, as there are no right or wrong answers.

Investing a few minutes of your time to complete this survey could be the best investment you make this

year: act now and make your views count. **[Click here to access the COP survey now.](#)**

## Agency Workers Directive

**There is an eight week consultation period and we intend to be actively involved in this consultation and seek clarification to a number of points within the draft regulations. Information obtained through our Contractor Survey will be used to support this work.**

## Members Insurance

Professional Passport has a members PI and PL insurance scheme. At present the scheme only covers contractors working in the IT sector although we are looking to extend this in the coming months.

The scheme provides £1,000,000 of PI and PL insurance.

The policy is underwritten by Hiscox, one of the largest insurers in this market, and allows contractors to pay their premiums monthly.

Unusually, your premiums only need to be paid for the months you are actually on active assignment and will cover you for the whole period of liability after your contract finishes, typically for 6 years.

This new style policy could save you money and you can obtain full details through [this link to the Professional Passport website](#).

The members insurance is open to full sponsored, standard and professional members.

## AWD - The Agency Workers Directive

We are sure that by now many of you will have read articles on the effects that the Agency Workers Directive will have on the contracting market.

Whilst it would be true to say that the recently released draft regulations, if put in to force, would have an impact on the market,

we feel it is highly unlikely that these proposed regulations will actually be the regulations that apply to the market.

It is the Government's stated intention to have the draft regulations on the Statute Book early next year with the implementation now delayed until 1st October 2011; the latest date for implementation allowed under the EU Directive.

The draft regulations have been, in the words of the Shadow Minister for Business Jonathon Djanogly, "gold plated" in an attempt to satisfy union demands.

In reality we are unlikely to see the real legislation until after the general election in the first half of next year. The Conservatives have made it perfectly clear that, if elected, they will significantly change this legislation; removing the gold plated elements.

There is an eight week consultation period and we intend to be actively involved in this consultation and seek clarification to a number of points within the draft regulations. Information obtained through our Contractor Opinion Poll (COP) will be used to support this work.

Energy also needs to be put in to influencing the Conservative Party, as currently it appears they will be the most likely winners of an election, to ensure the final legislation becomes a workable solution for the market. Professional Passport will be involved in this too and once again information obtained through COP will play a key role in this process.

We will keep our members fully informed of developments in this area through Contractor Intell and the website.

Make sure you [complete the survey](#), and encourage others to do so, as this will assist us in our discussions.