

NEWS RELEASE  
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## THE HOME OFFICE AWARDS NQC/CAESER WITH THE 'BEST SME' SUPPLIER VALUE AWARD

**The Home Office has awarded NQC, and in turn its best practice assessment toolkit CAESER, the Best Small/Medium Enterprise Award at its recent Supplier Value Awards. The awards recognise excellence in driving value and improving performance, as well as corporate social responsibility and sustainability. In presenting this award to CAESER, the Home Office has highlighted the importance of the sustainability agenda, and is working to drive responsible business practices down its entire supply chain through the use of CAESER.**

The awards were presented by Sir David Normington, Permanent Secretary, and Admiral Lord West, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Security & Counter Terrorism, was also in attendance. The judging panel comprised impartial representatives, looking for entries that delivered against the Home Office's supplier relationships initiatives. These initiatives include value for money delivered through cost savings or enhanced delivery, performance improvement, collaborative working and sustainability. The awards recognise excellence in helping the Home Office deliver value-added benefits demonstrated through efficiency, innovation and creativity, and successful collaboration between the procurement professional and supplier.

Leading the way in sustainable procurement, the Home Office is looking to ensure its supply chain is made up of responsible businesses only, and in utilising CAESER has been able to assess the impact on society and the environment a business has. With thousands of suppliers, finding a way to engage and communicate with them is challenging. Chairman of the CAESER Assessment Centre, John F McClelland C.B.E. comments; "The importance of the sustainability agenda has been growing for some time, but without a straightforward way for companies and organisations to assess their own economic, social and environmental impact, we realised that it would become impossible to formally measure the success of the campaign".

Manchester based professional services consultancy NQC developed CAESER to help companies self assess the impact on the environment, society and the economy of their business operations. The online assessment tool has since been adopted by Central Government organisations including the Home Office and HMRC, as well as large Local Government Councils including Leeds City Council, in order to assess the responsible business practices of the companies that make up their supply chains.

Through CAESER, The Home Office has been able to isolate areas where a particular focus on responsible practices is required, and develop a procurement strategy to address this. John Collington, Home Office Group Commercial Director, says: “The Government has a vision for the UK in terms of sustainability. Whilst it is ambitious - it is not impossible to achieve. As one of the first government departments to be certified by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, we are keen to extend our practices and commitment throughout our supply chain in improving the Home Office position on sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility. CAESER provides us with a framework to assess all of our suppliers and identify any areas of neglect, improvement or potential risk. We will rely on the buy-in and commitment from our suppliers in order for it to be implemented effectively; we want to see our suppliers taking such substantive steps to improve social and environmental impact.”

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#### **Notes to editor**

NQC is an independent management consultancy operating in the public sector throughout the United Kingdom. Our experienced consultants have conducted reviews for local authorities, central government departments and many other public sector organisations in England, Scotland and Wales. In addition to the many areas of governance and management consulting, the practice provides bespoke services in the following areas - sustainable development, procurement and Information management.

CAESER (Corporate Assessment of Environmental Social and Economic Responsibility) is the only interactive AA1000APS CSR web based questionnaire licensed by AccountAbility, the Institute for Social and Ethical Accounting.

CAESER enables any organisation to both comply with the new CSR directors’ duties as required by the Companies’ Act 2006 while contributing to the Government’s sustainability agenda.

Based around responsible business practice, organisations are asked to explore their fundamental policies and practice in areas ranging from CO2 reduction to data handling & assurance.

Bath University together with NQC Ltd, the creators of CAESER, bring together many years of public sector procurement knowledge and research on the impact of business in society, supporting the collaborative efforts of the public and private sector on many areas that are challenging our world.

For more information go to the CAESER website at [www.caeser.org](http://www.caeser.org) or call the CAESER team on 0845 299 2994.

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