

Constructing the Best Government Client

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Abstract

Launched on 29th October 1998, this report by the Agile Construction Initiative (ACI) at the University of Bath looks at why government construction clients and their suppliers may not be performing as well as possible and perhaps not as well as best practice.

The report shows that in terms of management, current practice compared to best practice from other sectors is poor. Construction procurement processes are often inconsistent, and thus hinder development of continual improvement. The reports shows that a construction performance gap exists due to:

- Poor management
- A risk averse culture
- A lack of integration in design and construction
- Poor project flow
- A non-value oriented approach to procurement
- Misinterpretations of the need for public accountability

The report also suggests that the role of the project sponsor is central to the good performance of construction projects and this role should be developed. It also suggests that other innovative approaches to procurement should be considered and management processes should be more flexible within the bounds of current regulatory frameworks.

Keywords

benchmarking; public sector; procurement; risk management; good practice; construction

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