



FIVE MINUTES WITH

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This year will be a tremendously exciting year for outsourcing. There's going to be a huge opportunity to play a significant role in revitalising the UK economy.

We are beyond the simple dichotomy of public-versus-private provision. The goal should be to inject the best of the commercial world into the provision of public sectors and vice versa.

It is unhelpful to talk about a bonanza in public sector outsourcing. In this country, we have been engaged on a 20-25 year process of the use of the private sector to deliver a range of public sector services. I expect this will continue under the Coalition government and any government of any persuasion.

There are opportunities in both public and private sectors to get better value for money. There are cases where less money will bring greater efficiency but there are also cases where less money will mean less service.

We need a fair and level playing field between private and public sector bidders otherwise it creates a completely unfair commercial environment and unrealistic pension requirements that are a deterrent to suppliers.

MPs want to know more about outsourcing. In every constituency across the UK, outsourcing makes things happen from cooking meals in schools, to running prisons to ensuring the traffic lights work.

Outsourcing may be an answer, but it's not the answer. It's not a magic bullet to the UK's fiscal challenge, but the industry is certainly part of the solution.

Interview: Cathy Hayward