



# HM Prison & Probation Service

**Briefing and Correspondence Team**

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Dear Mr Collins,

Thank you for your recent enquiry to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) about the Prisoner Escort and Custody Service (PECS).

PECS in England and Wales is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and its executive agency HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). The legal arrangements for the letting of contracts with other providers can be found in Section 80 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/53/part/IV/crossheading/prisoner-escorts/enacted>

PECS provides the safe and secure transport of prisoners, including: adults; children and young people to and from Police Stations; Courts; Prisons; Secure Training Centres (STCs); and Secure Children's Schools (SCHs).

The service has been managed by private sector providers since 1994, and the latest generation of contracts commenced on 29 August 2020. Serco Ltd. provides the service across the whole of the South of England region and GeoAmey PECS Ltd. covers the North region. This followed a competitive procedure with negotiation conducted in accordance with public sector procurement directive 2014/24/EU. GEOAmey and Serco offered the best overall bids in terms of quality of service and cost, relative to the other bids received. You can find a redacted copy of the current GeoAmey contract here:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/b9c76509-7ca2-4312-aa64-83162e3e74e9?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

We monitor the service through monthly Contract Management Review meetings to ensure performance is maintained throughout the lifetime of the contracts, and suppliers are held to account.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**W Coonerty,**  
**HM Prison & Probation Service**