

**PRESS RELEASE****9 June 2020****Procurement specialist launches innovative scheme to help churches welcome worshippers back safely as lockdown eases**

- 2buy2 is a procurement specialist that already works with more than 10,000 churches
- Buying in aggregation will ensure better rates for all members that sign up
- The service will ensure equipment is quality-assured, ethically sourced and procurement procedures are followed
- The deadline for signing up to the scheme is 6pm, Wednesday June 17
- Churches can sign up here: [www.churchbuying.org.uk/covid-19-response](http://www.churchbuying.org.uk/covid-19-response)

A UK procurement specialist has launched a unique service to help congregations and parishioners reconnect with their place of worship safely as lockdown is eased, by helping churches secure personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and hygiene supplies easily and at better prices.

2buy2, which already supports more than 10,000 UK churches with their procurement ([www.churchbuying.org.uk](http://www.churchbuying.org.uk)), will source and purchase PPE for churches that sign up (by Wednesday June 17). Its innovative service will negotiate preferential prices by buying on behalf of all members (aggregation buying). It will also ensure equipment is quality-assured, ethically sourced and all procurement procedures are correctly followed.

2buy2's purchasing services, launched in 2009, support many of the UK's biggest faith organisations including The Church in Wales, The Church of England, The Catholic Church for England and Wales, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and Assemblies of God. It works with church wardens, treasurers, ministers, administrators, finance managers, district managers, property managers and church leaders to deliver better value across a range of contracts and supplies including energy.

In partnership with the National Churches Trust, 2buy2 also runs MaintenanceBooker, a service which makes it easy for churches, chapels and historic buildings to plan and arrange high-quality building maintenance services.

The COVID-19 crisis prompted 2buy2 to add PPE to its offering. It has partnered on the supply with Crown Agents, the well-respected UK-based international development company that helps governments around the world to increase prosperity, reduce poverty and improve health by providing consultancy, supply chain, financial services and training. Critically, this also means it can procure the PPE without impacting on the supply to the NHS.

2buy2 has a track record in this space. The company previously helped source PPE supplies for the UK Government as part of its role in the international response to the Ebola health crisis in West Africa in 2014-15. It also worked with Crown Agents on that project.

2buy2 will be making a range of PPE equipment as well as cleaning and hygiene products available to members. But because 2buy2 creates buying groups to get the best deals, it also works to firm deadlines on members signing up. The first deadline for this is 6pm on Wednesday June 17.

Rob Kissick, CEO, 2buy2 (see attached jpeg photo of Rob), said:

“I am delighted that 2buy2 have been able to respond so quickly to the needs of the Church of England, Church in Wales and the schools and churches within the Catholic Church in England and Wales to support their collective needs for increased personal protective equipment (PPE) at this incredibly challenging time for everyone.

“Using our experience of running large procurement buying groups, and working in partnership with international procurement agents, Crown Agents, we are procuring supplies of PPE which support churches without impacting on the supply to the NHS. In addition to these two national organisations, our buying group is available to charities, care homes, the wider health sector and the wider business sector as we seek to support the economy and cornerstones of society in preparing for re-opening in the coming weeks and months.

“2buy2 is supporting clients in the procurement of PPE by providing expertise in international sourcing and delivery of high quality, inspected goods. We will be running a number of buying groups over the coming weeks to support businesses, charities and others.”

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information on the service please find a video interview with Rob Kissick, CEO of 2buy2 here: <https://vimeo.com/424102241>

2buy2 was founded in 2009 by chief executive Rob Kissick with the support of his brother-in-law Russell Stables. It expanded and relocated to Wales in June 2012; as its growth continued, it moved to the Sony Technology Centre in Bridgend in 2013.

The company is committed to helping organisations of all sizes and in all sectors save money on their day-to-day costs - enabling them to use that money where it matters most. The business also saves

them time by providing a professional procurement service to vet suppliers, manage contracts and get the best deals.

2buy2's highest priority is to provide excellent customer service to all its members and focus on achieving savings in the prevalent purchasing areas including energy, IT, telecoms, office products, and photocopying.

The real plus of its service is their buying power, as a result of having a large membership. By uniting the buying power of its members, they receive quality products and services at specially negotiated prices. This is matched with excellent customer service at every point in the client's needs.

While it is a private sector, commercial company, 2buy2 also has a philosophy of making sustainable but never excessive profits. It also gives 10 per cent of its net profits to charities chosen by its staff every year.

Rob Kissick is also the National Procurement Officer for the Church of England where he was responsible for the formation of Parish Buying, a service that helps churches, schools, dioceses and cathedrals to reduce their running costs.

Before starting 2buy2, he worked for the Department for International Development's UK Emergency Response Team where he was responsible for buying relief goods sent by the UK government to emergencies all over the world.

2buy2 was one of the first 50 companies in Wales to achieve the Living Wage for all staff. It is also a member of the Business Wales Accelerated Growth Programme, which is designed to help fast growing businesses in Wales achieve the next phase of growth.