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Tender

EAS-Education Reform Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

Scottish Government

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001160

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04cfd5

Published 14 January 2025, 11:57am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Government

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

G2 8EA

Contact

Marc Jones

Email

marc.jones@gov.scot

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA10482

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.publictendersscotland.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

EAS-Education Reform Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

Reference number

745992

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73110000 - Research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Scottish Government has a requirement to place a contract with an external service provider for the provision of EAS-Education Reform Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy.

The Scottish Government, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, wishes to commission work to inform the development of a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the Education Reform Programme.

The Scottish Government is undertaking an ambitious programme of education reform which has been informed by the findings from the review of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) conducted in 2021 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), titled “Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence: Into the Future”. While it highlighted the continued relevance and ambition of CFE as the right approach for Scotland, it also pointed to the need for Scotland to adopt a planned and systematic approach to curriculum review and implementation, and enhance the coherence of the policy environment that surrounds CfE.

The aims of this project are to:

1. evaluate the practical considerations for implementing a meaningful evaluation, including data quality and availability, stakeholder engagement, and systemic readiness

2. define the critical questions that will guide the monitoring and evaluation of the reforms, ensuring alignment with existing and new data sources and evidence

3. propose a structured approach to systematically monitor progress and assess the impact of the reforms over time

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £150,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79310000 - Market research services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish Government, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, wishes to commission work to inform the development of a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the Education Reform Programme.

The Scottish Government is undertaking an ambitious programme of education reform which has been informed by the findings from the review of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) conducted in 2021 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), titled “Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence: Into the Future”. While it highlighted the continued relevance and ambition of CFE as the right approach for Scotland, it also

pointed to the need for Scotland to adopt a planned and systematic approach to curriculum review and implementation, and enhance the coherence of the policy environment that surrounds CfE.

Following the publication of the OECD report in autumn 2021, the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Shirley-Anne Somerville, commissioned Professor Ken Muir to provide independent advice on the OECD's recommendations. This advice focused on the recommendations for structural and functional change to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Education Scotland, including the delivery of the national curriculum, assessment, qualification and inspection functions, recognising the wider functions of both these bodies. The Cabinet Secretary also announced an Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment (IRQA), led by Professor Louise Hayward, to look at ways in which the senior phase of qualifications in schools, colleges and wider educational settings could be improved.

Professor Muir advocated for placing children, young people and the teachers and practitioners who support their learning more firmly at the heart of the education system. To support these system users he set out recommendations to simplify the education landscape and ensure greater clarity as to the roles and functions of key national bodies. Published in March 2022, Professor Muir's report formed the basis for the changes we are now taking forward.

In response to the Professor Muir's report, the Scottish Government committed to facilitating a national discussion on the vision for the future of Scottish education. The National Discussion was co-convened by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and it was independently facilitated. The final report from the National Discussion established the following three guiding values for education in Scotland: the Scottish education system should be ambitious, inclusive, and supportive.

The final report of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland was published in June 2023. It set out recommendations for a new approach to qualifications and assessment. In September 2024 the Scottish Government set out our response to the IRQA recommendations.

The aims of this project are to:

1. evaluate the practical considerations for implementing a meaningful evaluation, including data quality and availability, stakeholder engagement, and systemic readiness
2. define the critical questions that will guide the monitoring and evaluation of the reforms, ensuring alignment with existing and new data sources and evidence
3. propose a structured approach to systematically monitor progress and assess the impact of the reforms over time

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 70

Price - Weighting: 30

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

30 April 2025

End date

20 February 2026

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

An optional extension period of up to 2 months will be available at the Scottish Ministers discretion.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

Minimum Insurance Levels

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Public Liability - 5,000,000 GBP

Professional Risk Indemnity - 2,000,000 GBP

Employer's (Compulsory) Liability - 10,000,000 GBP

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of selection criteria

1. Supply Chain Management/Tracking Systems Used.

2. Proportion (%) to be Sub-Contracted.

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

1. Supply Chain Management/Tracking Systems Used: If bidders intend to use a supply chain to deliver the requirements detailed in the Contract Notice, they should confirm they have (or have access to) the relevant supply chain management and tracking systems to ensure a resilient and sustainable supply chain. This will include confirmation that they have the systems in place to pay subcontractors through the supply chain promptly and effectively, and provide evidence when requested of:

a) their standard payment terms

b) $\geq 95\%$ of all supply chain invoices being paid on time (in accordance with the terms of contract) in the last financial year.

If the bidder is unable to confirm (b) they must provide an improvement plan, signed by their Director, which improves the payment performance.

2. Proportion (%) to be Sub-Contracted: Bidders will be required to confirm whether they intend to subcontract and, if so, for what proportion of the contract.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

14 February 2025

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 6 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

14 February 2025

Local time

12:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic ordering will be used

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

The buyer is using PCS-Tender to conduct this ITT exercise. The Project code is 28368. For more information see:

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/info/InfoCentre.aspx?ID=2343>

(SC Ref:787725)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court

27 Chambers Street

Edinburgh

EH1 1LB

Country

United Kingdom