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Planning

## **Provision of the NMC OSCE delivery services**

Nursing and Midwifery Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-001494

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-028d2c

Published 25 January 2021, 5:55pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Nursing and Midwifery Council

[www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org)

London

W1B 1PZ

#### **Contact**

Zoran Kahvo

#### **Email**

[procurement@nmc-uk.org](mailto:procurement@nmc-uk.org)

#### **Telephone**

+44 2076815480

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UK - UNITED KINGDOM

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.nmc.org.uk](http://www.nmc.org.uk)

Buyer's address

[www.nmc.org.uk](http://www.nmc.org.uk)

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Other type

UK Healthcare Regulator

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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## Section II: Object

### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

Provision of the NMC OSCE delivery services

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80490000 - Operation of an educational centre

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

#### II.1.4) Short description

This is a prior information notice for the forthcoming concession contract for more than 1 but a maximum of 5 partners who will deliver the Objective Structured Clinical Examination the (OSCE) on behalf of the NMC. The OSCE will need to be made available to nurses, midwives and nursing associates who trained outside England and who want to apply to join our register or those seeking to re-join our register after a long period away from practice. Please find the link to our website which provides more information about our registration process [www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register](http://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register)Currently three universities throughout the United Kingdom deliver these services, however these contracts are due to expire in February 2022. Additionally the NMC strategic priority to review the route to registration for overseas trained applicants will begin in 2022. Therefore, to continue delivering the OSCE beyond 2022 for overseas and readmission applicants, we are required to retender the current contracts. We are looking to re-procure these services for maximum contract duration of five years, comprising of an initial term with extension options.

#### II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £100,000,000

#### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

### II.2) Description

#### II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80530000 - Vocational training services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - UNITED KINGDOM

Main site or place of performance

United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

This is a Prior Information Notice (PIN) to advertise that the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) plans to run a procurement process during 2021 to identify and appoint a number of partners who will work with us to provide the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) part of our Test of Competence. The appointed service provider(s) will deliver the OSCE examination on behalf of the NMC and be responsible for delivering their services with the targets as described within the NMC's relevant statement of requirements and supporting documentation. The existing Test of Competence comprises two parts, the Computer Based Test (CBT) consisting of a number of multiple choice questions and a practical objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Together, these components seek to provide a holistic assessment of a candidate's ability to practise safely and effectively in the UK. Please find the link to our website which provides more information about the OSCE [www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/register-nurse-midwife/trained-outside-the-eueeea/new-application/how-to-guide/about-the-osce/](http://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/register-nurse-midwife/trained-outside-the-eueeea/new-application/how-to-guide/about-the-osce/).

As part of our remit to support both health and social care across the four countries (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), the NMC has committed to working closely with the NHS to ensure ongoing OSCE capacity to support their international nursing recruitment programme, aimed at expanding additional supply and supporting trusts to reduce their nursing vacancies. The government have committed to recruit 50,000 new nurses to the register by 2024. A significant proportion of that number are expected to come from overseas. The new OSCE delivery contracts will continue to be concession contracts, similar in form to the existing contracts. The re-procurement exercise allows us to build upon and improve the existing partnering model we have already established. The maximum contract duration will be five years, comprising of an initial term with extension options. Concessions Contract Regulations 2016 (CCR) allows for a two stage 'restricted' style tender process to be used. This process would allow the NMC to assess and shortlist bidders in two stages. Only shortlisted bidders are then invited to submit a tender. This approach fits within our timeline and ensures there is sufficient contingency to on-board new concessionaires if they are successful in the tender process. The NMC has issued this Prior Information Notice (PIN) in order to

conduct a market engagement exercise ahead of a forthcoming tender for the provision of the OSCE services. Before tendering for these services the NMC wishes to better understand the market and variety of options available which will help inform the eventual procurement exercise. Providers interested in partaking in this market engagement exercise are requested to express an interest in this PIN via the In-tend e-Sourcing portal <https://www.in-tendhost.co.uk/nmc> where Market engagement stage has been published (Project Name: Provision of the NMC OSCE Delivery Services, Project reference: REG-00000295). The questionnaire may be completed and returned via the In-tend portal by midday 15/02 /2021 to allow us to gather feedback from the market and assist in developing the procurement strategy.

#### **II.2.14) Additional information**

Please note no tender documents have been issued at this stage - the functional requirements and capability specification will be published in the future SQ and Invitation to Tender documents with the Find a Tender Contract Notice. The procurement will use the Intende-Sourcing portal <https://www.in-tendhost.co.uk/nmc>

#### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

15 March 2021

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### **Section IV. Procedure**

#### **IV.1) Description**

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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### **Section VI. Complementary information**

#### **VI.3) Additional information**

The NMC reserves the right to not progress to a full potential procurement exercise as a result of this PIN until they are fully ready to do so which will be communicated to the marketplace by the issuing of the formal Contract Notice which at this stage is estimated to be published in March 2021. For more information about this opportunity, please visit the In-tend e-Sourcing portal at: <https://www.intendhost.co.uk/nmc> .The contract value stated in this PIN is the current best estimate test income over a maximum 5 year contract/s. This may be revised if required prior to the issue of the Contract Notice.

