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Award

Cornwall Badger Vaccination Pilot

Defra Network eTendering Portal

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001935

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04d4d3

Published 20 January 2025, 4:38pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Defra Network eTendering Portal

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Contact

Melanie Swain

Email

melanie.swain@defra.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Buyer's address

<https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Cornwall Badger Vaccination Pilot

Reference number

C27752

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85200000 - Veterinary services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice, indicating that Defra intends to enter into a contract with the National Farmers Union (NFU) to undertake a three-year project of badger vaccination and research activities in three (3) pilot areas in Cornwall.

Defra aims to award this contract in February 2025 so this Notice confirms that a voluntary standstill period will be in effect for ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,370,231

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Three (3) sites in mid-Cornwall.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This is a voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notice, indicating that Defra intends to enter into a contract with the National Farmers Union (NFU) to undertake a three-year project of badger vaccination and research activities in three (3) pilot areas in Cornwall.

Defra aims to award this contract in February 2025 so this Notice confirms that a voluntary standstill period will be in effect for ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 100

Cost criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 0

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 IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:

- absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

This unique pilot aims to provide scientific evidence in support of the Government manifesto pledge to stop badger culling and move to badger vaccination as the main form of TB control in badgers.

This project focuses solely on three (3) pilot areas in Cornwall. Defra recognise that the National Farmers Union (NFU), alongside their main subcontractor Zoological Society London (ZSL), are uniquely placed in Cornwall to deliver this project, starting in March 2025.

The NFU is the recognised industry body that has delivered licensed badger control operations since its inception in 2013. For many years in Cornwall, the NFU has worked closely with landowners, farmers and industry, organising badger culls alongside small badger vaccination projects. They have developed extensive networks and groups, including those developed specifically to oversee these types of operations. For reasons of privacy, security and sensitivity, information on their networks is not publicly available or collectively accessible by any other third party or organisation.

ZSL has undertaken badger vaccination research and delivery projects in Cornwall since 2012. They are able to provide technical expertise in trapping and vaccinating badgers, and also the procedures required for the research aspects of this project. This includes highly specialized processes such as anaesthetising and blood sampling badgers in the field under Home Office licence. In addition, they are APHA accredited badger vaccination trainers and will train a field force of local industry contractors to vaccinate badgers.

Based on the information detailed above, the conclusion is that the NFU is the only contractor able to provide these services to Defra.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 January 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

NFU

Agriculture House Stoneleigh Park Stoneleigh Warwickshire

Stoneleigh

CV8 2TZ

Telephone

+44 02476858500

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG1 - Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,370,231

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,370,231

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Value or proportion likely to be subcontracted to third parties

Proportion: 60 %

Short description of the part of the contract to be subcontracted

Activities including sett surveying, trapping, vaccination, blood sampling, training, deployment of cameras and associated monitoring and data analysis.

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

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London

SW1P 4DF

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures

Public Procurement Review Body

N/A

N/A

N/A

Email

publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>