

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/002273-2023>

Planning

## **Independent Review Mechanism for fostering and adoption**

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002273

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-039a74

Published 25 January 2023, 11:47am

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

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

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

#### **Email**

[Rose.HOWELL@education.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.HOWELL@education.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

**I.3) Communication**

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

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

National or federal Agency/Office

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

---

**Section II: Object****II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Independent Review Mechanism for fostering and adoption

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice will be published at the relevant time. The requirements and values set out below may be subject to change.

The Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) provides an essential statutory service to prospective and existing foster parents, adopters, and adult adoptees. The main function

of the IRM is to offer an objective and independent route for applicants to request a review of decisions made by fostering and adoption services about their approval status and access to their records. The service offered by the IRM is unique within the sector and enables applicants to have their case heard by an independent panel of children's social care experts.

We will be holding an initial market engagement session to talk about the service requirements and seek feedback from the sector on 15th February at 11-11:45 am.

Following this initial market engagement session we will be offering 30-minute 1-2-1 meetings w/c 20th February.

A question and answer log will be circulated after all sessions have taken place via the commercial Jaggar system.

To confirm your attendance please email [Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk).

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.2) Description**

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

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice will be published at the relevant time. The requirements and values set out below may be subject to change.

The Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) provides an essential statutory service to

prospective and existing foster parents, adopters, and adult adoptees. The main function of the IRM is to offer an objective and independent route for applicants to request a review of decisions made by fostering and adoption services about their approval status and access to their records. The service offered by the IRM is unique within the sector and enables applicants to have their case heard by an independent panel of children's social care experts.

We will be holding an initial market engagement session to talk about the service requirements and seek feedback from the sector on 15th February at 11-11:45 am.

Following this initial market engagement session we will be offering 30-minute 1-2-1 meetings w/c 20th February.

A question and answer log will be circulated after all sessions have taken place via the commercial Jaggaer system.

To confirm your attendance please email [Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk).

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

Estimated Contract Value: £800,000 for the total contract period including the optional extension (2 years +1 year optional extension)

Information about lots: n/a

Place of performance: England

Description of the procurement:

The IRM is provided for in regulations and as a result, some elements of its delivery are prescribed in legislation. The service was introduced in 2005 through secondary

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

1 June 2023

---

## **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: Yes

---

## Section VI. Complementary information

### VI.3) Additional information

Title: Independent Review Mechanism for fostering and adoption

Type of contract: Service

Short Description:

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice will be published at the relevant time. The requirements and values set out below may be subject to change.

The Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) provides an essential statutory service to prospective and existing foster parents, adopters, and adult adoptees. The main function of the IRM is to offer an objective and independent route for applicants to request a review of decisions made by fostering and adoption services about their approval status and access to their records. The service offered by the IRM is unique within the sector and enables applicants to have their case heard by an independent panel of children's social care experts.

We will be holding an initial market engagement session to talk about the service requirements and seek feedback from the sector on 15th February at 11-11:45 am.

Following this initial market engagement session we will be offering 30-minute 1-2-1 meetings w/c 20th February.

A question and answer log will be circulated after all sessions have taken place via the commercial Jaggar system.

To confirm your attendance please email [Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Howell@education.gov.uk).

Estimated Contract Value: £800,000 for the total contract period including the optional extension (2 years +1 year optional extension)

Information about lots: n/a

Place of performance: England

Description of the procurement:

The IRM is provided for in regulations and as a result, some elements of its delivery are prescribed in legislation. The service was introduced in 2005 through secondary legislation, under Sections 9 and 12 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 . The purpose was to offer prospective adopters an opportunity to have decisions (Qualifying Determinations) reviewed by an independent panel if they had not been approved to adopt by their local authority or agency and were unhappy with the decision. The Independent Review of Determinations (Adoption and Fostering) Regulations 2009 expanded the original remit to provide a similar service to prospective and existing foster parents who are deemed ineligible to foster, or who face changes to their approvals; and to adult adoptees wishing to review historic decisions made about accessing their birth records.

Further information about the IRM can be found here: Independent Review Mechanism - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))