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Award

Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to Associated Land & Property Transactions

University of Keele

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-002675

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05fce4 ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 January 2026, 1:45pm

Scope

Reference

KU/810/DP/PV/2025

Description

Following the publication of a Transparency Notice on 23 December 2025, University of Keele is publishing this Contract Award Notice to announce its intention, in accordance with its statutory obligations, to award a contract to Osborne Clarke LLP for the provision of specialist legal advice relating to complex land and property transactions.

This direct award is justified under Paragraphs 7, 13 and 14 of Schedule 5 of the Procurement Act 2023.

The services require a strategic review of, and advice on, highly complex and long standing legal and financial structures. The successful delivery of these services is contingent upon a deep and specific understanding of a unique transactional history, comprising multi-layered agreements and involving multiple specific parties and intricate relationships.

Osborne Clarke LLP was previously engaged by the University to conduct an initial high level scoping review of this specific matter. As a result, they now possess pre-existing, supplier-specific expertise and a demonstrated understanding of the transaction's particularities. This includes a detailed, phased methodology for the work, developed during the initial engagement.

Appointing any alternative supplier would require them to acquire this specific expertise and experience. This would necessitate a substantial duplication of effort and cost, and an unacceptable period of mobilisation, resulting in:

1. Potential material duplication of cost for the University; and
2. Detrimental delays in the delivery of time-critical advice, which would prevent the University from achieving its immediate and lasting operational and financial objectives.

The award of this contract to Osborne Clarke LLP represents the only viable route to secure the required services in a timely and cost-effective manner, as a competitive procurement process would be objectively unsuitable in these specific circumstances.

Disclaimer

This Contract Award Notice is published by the University of Keele, a contracting authority, in accordance with its statutory obligations under Section 50 of the Procurement Act 2023 to notify its intention to award a contract.

This notice does not in itself constitute an offer, an award of contract, or give rise to any implied contract. The publication of this Contract Award Notice by University of Keele will initiate the mandatory 8 working day standstill period, as required by Section 51(1) of the Act.

The University will not, and cannot lawfully, enter into a contract for the required services until the 8 working day standstill period has been successfully completed. Any contract award will be confirmed through the subsequent publication of a Contract Details Notice.

Contract 1. Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to

Associated Land & Property Transactions

Supplier

- OSBORNE CLARKE LLP

Contract value

- £400,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

1 December 2025

Standstill period

- End: 22 January 2026
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

23 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 26 January 2026 to 25 January 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Supplier

OSBORNE CLARKE LLP

- Companies House: OC397443
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDTY-4264-MBQN

One London Wall

London

EC2Y 5EB

United Kingdom

Email: bidsteam@osborneclarke.com

Website: <https://www.osborneclarke.com/>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to Associated Land & Property Transactions

Contracting authority

University of Keele

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): RC000655
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMPH-8367-VGKY

Procurement Office, Directorate of Finance, Innovation Centre 1, Keele University
Science and Innovation Park,

Keele, Staffordshire,

ST5 5NB

United Kingdom

Contact name: Darren Pearce

Telephone: +44 1782734124

Email: d.pearce@keele.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk>

Region: UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government