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Contract

## OpenAthens Authentication

Digital Health & Care Wales

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-002803

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-054826 ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 January 2026, 4:03pm

### Scope

### Reference

P21.85

### Description

OpenAthens Authentication for NHS Wales e-Library Users not based at a fixed location/IP address

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## Contract 1. OpenAthens Authentication

## **Supplier**

- JISC SERVICES LTD

## **Contract value**

- £157,820 excluding VAT
- £189,383.99 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

## **Date signed**

23 July 2025

## **Contract dates**

- 23 July 2025 to 30 June 2028
- Possible extension to 30 June 2030
- 4 years, 11 months, 9 days

Description of possible extension:

With the option to extend for a further two (2) years in annual increments.

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

## Contract locations

- UKL - Wales

## Key performance indicators

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reporting frequency</b>
Contract Management	6 months

## Signed contract documents

[KPI\\_Schedule\\_P21.85.docx](#)

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## Other information

### Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Direct award

## Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

OpenAthens remains essential to ensuring continuous and secure access to NHS Wales e resources, a capability that has been in place since 2003 and remains fundamental to service delivery. The previous contract was due to expire on 30th June 2025, the awarded arrangement ensures there is no interruption to access or risk to operational continuity. OpenAthens is a trusted third party authentication solution that is already fully integrated within NHS Wales infrastructure and now works seamlessly with the Entra directory system. This integration continues to provide user friendly, efficient access by allowing staff to authenticate without repeated log ins when using authorised devices. Maintaining this level of accessibility after award is critical for supporting staff productivity and reducing technical barriers to resource use. The shift towards remote and flexible working across NHS Wales further reinforces the ongoing need for OpenAthens. Remote authentication capability is now a business critical function. Without OpenAthens, NHS Wales would lose the ability to support secure off site access to e Library resources, significantly affecting staff who rely on these tools for clinical decision making, training and daily operational tasks. Post award, reliance on alternative authentication methods particularly IP based access, would be inappropriate. IP authentication is outdated, insecure, and unable to verify user identity or support department specific access. Continuing to use OpenAthens ensures precise, auditable access control aligned with NHS Wales information governance and cyber security standards. Maintaining OpenAthens under the awarded contract therefore remains justified by the ongoing need for secure, flexible and remote access to NHS Wales digital resources. This supports both user security and the continuity of essential NHS Wales services.

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## Supplier

### **JISC SERVICES LTD**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZZC-9926-PRNM

4 Portwall Lane

Bristol

BS1 6NB

United Kingdom

Email: [phil.leahy@openathens.net](mailto:phil.leahy@openathens.net)

Region: UKK11 - Bristol, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. OpenAthens Authentication

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## **Contracting authority**

### **Digital Health & Care Wales**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHXM-8593-WBPZ

Ty Glan-yr-Afon

Cardiff

CF11 9AD

United Kingdom

Contact name: Stacey Jones

Telephone: +442920502108

Email: [stacey.jones10@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:stacey.jones10@wales.nhs.uk)

Website: <https://dhcw.nhs.wales/>

Region: UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Wales