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Award

## **Older Buildings Research (OBR) Professional Engineering Expert Advice Role**

Department for Education

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

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-002812

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f8c9 ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 January 2026, 4:05pm

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

Project\_10272

### **Description**

The Department for Education (DfE) requires further specialist technical services from an existing supplier to support the final phase of the Older Building Research (OBR) project. The OBR project has already been procured and a consortium bid was successful; of which the supplier was a party, fulfilling the Engineering Expert role as a subcontractor to the prime supplier. This supplier is Useful Simple Group Limited.

Through the OBR project, the Department is investigating, cataloguing and extrapolating the condition of the post-war education estate, including through onsite intrusive investigations. This research project will enable the Department to improve its understanding of the post-war education estate. This work is underpinned by a bespoke risk model, designed using research and investigations conducted to date and based on the technical assumptions and interpretative approach applied by the Engineering Expert Advice role. The project requires a further final phase not originally included in the

contract with the prime supplier successful in the original procurement. This final phase involves interpreting and enhancing fieldwork inputs for model development, support on Large Language Model (LLM) workflows to support LLM development, providing engineering-led interpretation of fieldwork findings to enhance model relevance and insight, and applying the already established fieldwork approach across up to six additional schools, developing proposals for alternative methodologies to enhance data quality and fieldwork insights.

To ensure continuity and compatibility with the research and model developed to date, the services under this additional appointment must be delivered by the supplier who fulfilled the Engineering Expert Advice role in the original procurement and using the same technical assumptions and interpretative approach previously developed by them and applied. This consistency is essential; the model and supporting analysis have been built incrementally as a single coherent system.

Introducing outputs based on different assumptions and knowledge base would require significant re-engineering and re-validation of existing work, creating disproportionate technical complexity and undermining the integrity of the model.

The appointed supplier will provide engineering-led interpretation of the above scope to integrate new data into the current risk model without compromising its structure or functionality. These services will enable the Department to maintain a consistent technical approach, ensuring that new findings complement and strengthen the existing evidence.

While the "Notice Linking" section of this notice states no other have been published, this is infact an error and a limitation of system this notice was published via. This notice is infact linked to the Contract Award Notice 33c8f7e5-1b28-45a8-b750-f00d7f6471d3 (<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/33c8f7e5-1b28-45a8-b750-f00d7f6471d3>).

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## **Contract 1. Older Buildings Research (OBR) Professional Engineering Expert Advice Role**

## **Supplier**

- Useful Simple Group Limited

## **Contract value**

- £116,333 excluding VAT
- £139,600 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

## **Award decision date**

8 January 2026

## **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

23 January 2026

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 23 January 2026 to 31 March 2026
- 2 months, 9 days

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **Additional procurement category**

Works

## **Options**

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The Department reserves the right to commission additional services from Useful Simple Group, within the scope of this contract, to support the OBR project.

## **CPV classifications**

- 71000000 - Architectural, construction, engineering and inspection services

## **Contract locations**

- UK - United Kingdom

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## **Procedure**

### **Procedure type**

Direct award

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## **Supplier**

### **Useful Simple Group Limited**

- Companies House: 03831898

Temple Chambers, 3-7 Temple Avenue

London

EC4Y 0HP

United Kingdom

Email: [info@expedition.uk.com](mailto:info@expedition.uk.com)

Website: <https://expedition.uk.com/>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Associated people/organisations:

Not applicable, subcontracting will not be required for this contract.

Contract 1. Older Buildings Research (OBR) Professional Engineering Expert Advice Role

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## **Contracting authority**

### **Department for Education**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

United Kingdom

Email: [PolicyAssurance.COMMERCIALQUERIES@education.gov.uk](mailto:PolicyAssurance.COMMERCIALQUERIES@education.gov.uk)

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government