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Award

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Assessment Service - Contract Extension - Lot 4

Department for Work and Pensions acting for an on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) formerly the Department for Social Development (DSD) in Northern Ireland

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-002948

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03a180

Published 31 January 2023, 2:43pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Work and Pensions acting for an on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) formerly the Department for Social Development (DSD) in Northern Ireland

Hartshead Square

Sheffield

S1 2FD

Email

healthtransformation@communities-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Assessment Service - Contract Extension - Lot 4

Reference number

UI_DWP_100432

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

DfC shall enter into a Contract Variation of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment services Lot 4 Contract with the incumbent supplier following a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. The Contract Variation provides for an extension of seven (7) months from 01.08.2023 to 01.03.2024.

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: £139,051,383

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

— The objective and independent assessment of the impact of health conditions and disabilities on claimants is central to the process of determining entitlement to PIP. The provider will carry out this assessment and provide information and advice to support the Authority's decision making processes.

— The key elements of the service will include:

— The consideration of a claimant's health conditions or disabilities and the impact on their daily life and mobility,

— Assessing individuals against criteria prescribed by the Authority,

— The delivery of Consultations to support the above,

— The gathering and consideration of evidence to support the above including, where necessary, paying appropriate fees for evidence,

— The completion of reports, including advice, to the Authority,

— The referral of assessment reports and any associated evidence to the Authority,

— Interpretation and advice to the authority on technical evidence,

— Follow up liaison with the Authority in relation to assessments, including the provision of relevant health professional expertise as required,

- The administration and management of the service, including scheduling of Consultations, ensuring that they are completed within timescales set down by the Authority,
- The recruitment, training and ongoing support of Health Professionals, including liaison with relevant professional bodies,
- The development of guidance and training in conjunction with the Authority,
- The provision of an enquiry service for individuals being assessed,
- The provision of a quality control regime, including a complaints function,
- The provision of management information as defined by the Authority,
- Initiatives and liaison with relevant organisations to support the provision of evidence,
- Liaison and collaborative working with local and national partners, including disability organisations, health professional bodies and the devolved administrations,
- Liaison and collaborative working with the PIP Assessment Providers for other Lots as required,
- Support for Test and Learn Activity.

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

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

On 5 March 2020, DWP published a Prior Information Notice 2020/S 046-109668 as notification of its intent to re-procure the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Contracts for assessment services in GB and NI in accordance with Section 7, PCR as part of a larger procurement for other types of assessment services (FAS procurement). Due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic the new procurement was delayed and as a result the PIP Contract in NI was extended for the reasons set out in Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency Notice 2020/S 135-333753. The FAS procurement was launched on 12 November 2021 and, although a light touch regime procurement, was based on a competitive dialogue procedure, the commencement of which included the submission of indicative bids.

During dialogue it became apparent that the contract value envelope for the FAS procurement needed to be revised in order to provide these key public services effectively. The procurement was therefore halted temporarily with a view to re-engaging with stakeholders .

It had also become clear that the ratio of face to face assessments versus remote assessments needed to be reviewed given the continuation of the Pandemic and further time was spent ensuring the contractual arrangements had built-in flexibility to deal with changing circumstances and impact the above changes. DWP and DfC also considered that a further round of commercial dialogue (not originally planned) was necessary to ensure the quality of BAFO submissions in the face of the revised contractual framework. Due to these various activity streams, it was therefore impossible for DWP and DfC to avoid a negative impact on its original procurement timetable.

The procurement is now well underway. DWP do not envisage there will be cause for further delay. However, due to the additional activities and subsequent delay (see above) in order to ensure an efficient and smooth handover between the PIP and the new FAS providers during an appropriate implementation period, DfC consider an extension of 7 months to the existing PIP contract term is necessary. Without an extension there could be a delay to provision of assessments for the critical statutory welfare benefit which PIP

services encompass. As the recipients of PIP constitute a vulnerable section of society, DfC are of the view such an extension is necessary to ensure they are not disadvantaged further.

DfC considers Regulation 72(1)(b) PCR is applicable. For the reasons set out above, the provision of additional services until 1 March 2024 has become necessary and:

(i) interchangeability issues with a new supplier means these key services could be negatively impacted for economic and technical reasons. The implementation of the contract currently being procured necessitates a lengthy handover period therefore it is not possible to introduce a new provider for the additional 7 months. A change in supplier without a full handover programme (which includes transition to a new managed IT service necessitating dual running of systems) would risk delivery of these services which provide critical statutory benefits to vulnerable people;

(ii) appointing a new supplier to cover the extra 7 months (which DWP do not consider a viable option) at the same time as the incumbent was engaged in handover to the new FAS supplier means significant duplication of costs particularly as DWP would be paying additional costs already during the implementation period;

(iii) value of the contract for the extended period does not exceed 50% of value of original contract; and

(iv) DfC will publish a modification notice pursuant to Regulation 72(3) of PCR.

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

20 November 2012

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

Capita Business Services

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £11,948,036

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Suppliers Instructions:

How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once):

<https://dwp.bravosolution.co.uk> & click the link to register - Accept the terms & conditions & click 'continue' - Enter your correct business & user details - Note your chosen username & click 'Save'. You will receive an email with your password (keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender - Login to the portal with the username/password - Click the 'PQQs / ITTs Open To All Suppliers' link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires or Invitations to Tender open to any registered supplier) - Click on the relevant exercise to access the content. - Click the 'Express Interest' button at the top of the page. - This will move the PQQ /ITT into your 'My PQQs/ My ITTs' page. (A secure area reserved for your projects only) -You can now access any attachments by clicking 'Buyer Attachments' in the 'PQQ/ ITT Details' box

3. Responding to the tender - Click 'My Response' under 'PQQ/ ITT Details', you can choose to 'Create Response' or to 'Decline to Respond' (please give a reason if declining) - You can now use the 'Messages' function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification - Note the deadline for completion. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ/ ITT - There may be a mixture of online & offline actions to complete (detailed online help available). To submit your reply use the 'Submit Response' button (top of the page).

For further assistance please consult the online help, or the eTendering help desk.

DWP expressly reserves the rights(i)to use a reverse auction; (ii)to cancel this procurement at any stage; (iii)to not award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; (iv)and in no circumstances will DWP be liable for any costs incurred by potential suppliers.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

DWP

Sheffield

Country

United Kingdom

