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Planning

Early Engagement: Department for Work and Pensions - Provision of Legal Services for the Child Maintenance Service in Scotland- Litigation and Debt Recovery

Department for Work and Pensions

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003222

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04da6d

Published 31 January 2025, 10:30am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Work and Pensions

Quarry House, Quarry Hill

Leeds

LS2 7UA

Contact

Cathryn McCrink

Email

cd.debtservices@dwp.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.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Early Engagement: Department for Work and Pensions - Provision of Legal Services for the Child Maintenance Service in Scotland- Litigation and Debt Recovery

Reference number

Project _26115

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), acting on behalf of the Child Maintenance Service who would be the principal user of the service, wishes to consult with interested suppliers on its outline plan to re-procure its legal service in Scotland.

The service is principally required for the Child Maintenance Service but may include occasional ad hoc work for other parts of the DWP on debt recovery or more generic areas of legal advice.

Our existing contract with a single supplier will be expiring in August 2025.

DWP will be seeking a single supplier to cover the whole of Scotland to provide advice, court representation at Liability Order and Committal (Sanctions) stage together with a wide range of enforcement actions as needed.

DWP wishes to consult on the approach to the re-procurement and is particularly interested in engaging with legal firms who are registered to operate in Scotland and have the skills and resource to deliver a large scale, end to end service in close collaboration with the Child Maintenance Service.

In addition we will also be seeking to appoint a secondary supplier for a small number of cases that the main supplier is unable to handle eg conflict of interest.

Current trends indicate that a supplier could expect to receive approximately 1,000 Liability Order stage referrals and 300 Committal (Sanctions) stage referrals per year. Many cases can be long term in nature before conclusion with some requiring long term monitoring and repeat interventions. The active caseload is currently around 1,500 cases across Scotland.

Initial planning is based on a proposal to award a contract with a minimum initial term of 4 years plus further extension options of up to 24 months.

It is anticipated that the opportunity will be tendered in March/April 2025.

More information on the proposed route to market will be shared at the market engagement session.

The early engagement session will enable suppliers to find out more about the service required and raise any questions around the proposed procurement process.

Some areas identified for early consultation may include: -

1. The nature and extent of reporting and cost transparency required by the DWP
2. Proposed KPI's
3. The most appropriate approach to Social Value in Scotland
4. Pricing approach - including pricing linked to length of contract
5. Any Supplier issues arising from the route to market proposals

There may also be other areas identified for inclusion at the market engagement session.

Expressions of Interest in attending the online market engagement event of approximately two hours duration to be held on either:

- Thursday 20th February 2025 AM or PM , and/or

- Friday 21st February 2025 AM or PM

should be emailed to cd.debtservices@dwp.gov.uk by close of business on Friday 14th February 2025 indicating your availability for one or both dates/times.

Confirmation of events date and times will be provided by Monday 17th February 2025.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £5,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of Litigation and Debt Recovery activity plus all associated enforcement activity required in Scotland.

The service will by its nature require management of an end to end supply chain including instruction of sheriff officers.

Information around estimated quantities and nature/length of service interventions will be provided at the market engagement event.

II.2.14) Additional information

The estimated value of the contract includes all legal fees and disbursements arising as a result of contract activity for the initial four year fixed term of the contract.

If extended the value of the contract may be higher than the value quoted.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

24 March 2025

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: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Enquiries on the market engagement event should be addressed to
cd.debtservices@dwp.gov.uk