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Tender

DHSC: CSA: NIHR Research Commissioning and Management Services (2027-2032)

Department of Health and Social Care

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003525

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-048940

Published 3 February 2025, 4:21pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0EU

Contact

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Email

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Telephone

+44 1132546070

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Buyer's address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

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

DHSC: CSA: NIHR Research Commissioning and Management Services (2027-2032)

Reference number

C326411

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73110000 - Research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

NIHR's mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. Today, NIHR is the nation's largest funder of health and care research and it invests over £1.5bn annually in domestic and international research. NIHR's core workstreams, operating principles and areas of strategic focus are set out in the document Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter (2021).

The day-to-day operations of the NIHR are carried out by coordinating centres - the NIHR Coordinating Centre (NIHRCC) and the NIHR Research Delivery Network Coordinating Centre (RDNCC). The NIHRCC is currently made up of the following five DHSC contracts, which went live on 1st April 2018:

- NIHR Evaluations, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC)
- Central Commissioning Facility (CCF)
- NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI)
- NIHR Academy
- NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination (CED)

These contracts will end on 31st March 2027 and through this procurement, the Authority will put in place contracts in May 2026, with Operational Services under those contracts due to commence on 1st April 2027, in order to ensure continuity of operational services for the NIHRCC.

This procurement will however seek to reconfigure the services provided by the NETSCC, CCF, NOCRI and NIHR Academy contracts when they come to an end on 31st March 2027 into a new NIHRCC structure comprised of contracts procured across six Lots.

The Services going forward are divided into the following lots:

Lot 1 – Strategic Business Services and One NIHR hub

Lot 2 – Research Commissioning: Individual Level and Global Health Programmes

Lot 3 – Research Commissioning: Population and Policy Level Programmes

Lot 4 – Research Infrastructure Commissioning: Translational and Delivery

Lot 5 – Research Infrastructure Commissioning: Applied, Public Health and Social Care

Lot 6 – Research Commissioning: Career Development and Capacity Building

The Authority is seeking to appoint a range of suppliers to ensure that it maximises resilience across NIHR and brings to NIHR the benefits of implementing ways of working and best practice from multiple organisations.

Therefore, whilst there is no limitation on a single Tenderer submitting a bid for multiple Lots, the Authority is placing restrictions on the number of Lots any single Tenderer can win, and the Authority will only allow an entity to be involved in one bid submission per Lot. More information on this is set out in the procurement documents.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £364,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 4

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - Strategic Business Services and One NIHR hub

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services
- 79315000 - Social research services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Deliver the following Strategic Business Services:

- Communications and partner engagement
- Impact monitoring and evaluation
- Programme Management and Assurance
- Intellectual property (IP) and Contracting
- Open research and publication
- Research Inclusion
- Climate, health and sustainability
- Business development
- Commission and manage the NIHR Horizon Scanning Centre

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £101,900,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - Research Commissioning: Individual Level & Global Health Programmes

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

- End-to-end commissioning, management and oversight of domestic research programmes, with an expected annual budget of approximately £300 million;
- End-to-end commissioning, management and oversight of the global health research (GHR) programme, with an expected annual budget of approximately £170 million; and,
- Coordination and management of the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST)

and UK Vaccine Network.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £127,260,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3 - Research Commissioning: Population and Policy Level Programmes

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

- End-to-end commissioning, management and oversight of domestic research programmes, with an expected annual budget of approximately £170 million; and

- Coordination and management of the following functions on behalf of NIHR:
 - o James Lind Alliance
 - o Liaison with NHSE, ALBs and the devolved administrations, ensuring their contributions are effectively managed.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £45,480,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 4 - Research Infrastructure Commissioning: Translational and Delivery

Lot No

4

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

- End-to-end commissioning and monitoring of infrastructure and infrastructure-like schemes, focussed on individual level interventions, with an expected annual budget of approximately £350 million; and,
- Provide the Research Capability Funding (RCF) function on behalf of NIHR.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £28,380,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 5 - Research Infrastructure Commissioning: Applied, Public Health and SC

Lot No

5

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

End-to-end commissioning and monitoring of infrastructure and infrastructure-like schemes, focussed on population, policy, service and public health investments, with an expected annual budget of approximately £170 million.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £13,320,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 6 - Research Commissioning: Career Development and Capacity Building

Lot No

6

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services
- 79994000 - Contract administration services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services
- 73210000 - Research consultancy services
- 79315000 - Social research services
- 75120000 - Administrative services of agencies
- 79990000 - Miscellaneous business-related services
- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI32 - Westminster

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

- End-to-end administration and monitoring of domestic academic training schemes, with an expected annual budget of almost £300 million;
- End-to-end administration and monitoring of global research academic training schemes; and,
- Deliver NIHR research capacity building services.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £47,500,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Start date

1 May 2026

End date

31 March 2032

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Optional 4 year extension

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Optional 4 year extension

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 III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.2) Contract performance conditions

Please refer to procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive dialogue

IV.1.4) Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during

negotiation or dialogue

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-025178](#)

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

5 March 2025

Local time

5:00pm

IV.2.3) Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

17 March 2025

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 9 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

VI.3) Additional information

This Tender process will be issued by in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended). Competitive Dialogue Procedure will be used for this procurement. The opportunity will be available on the Authority's e-Sourcing Portal. Select this link to access and register your organisation to the Authority's e-Sourcing Portal: <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>, if you have not already done so.

To find this opportunity in the e-Sourcing system, select “Find Opportunities” and then search by project number or title. Once you have found the Opportunity, press the ‘Register Interest’ button to register your interest. This will make the project to appear on ‘My proposals and quotes’. From there you can review documents, send clarification messages, submit the response, or decline to respond, if you decide not to participate in the opportunity. For full details on the instruction for the selection stage, please refer to the SQ Guidance Document.

Earlier this year a PIN was issued relating to this procurement, as an early market engagement only. The link is as follows: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/025178-2024>

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/courts-and-tribunals/high-court/>