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Tender

## **The Inspire Multi Academy Trust (TIMAT) ~ Catering Tender**

The Inspire Multi Academy Trust

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-003621

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0606fb

Published 15 January 2026, 4:05pm

### **Scope**

### **Description**

The successful contractor will be required to provide catering services for the following two Primary Schools within The Inspire Multi Academy Trust (TIMAT):

1. Ernesettle Community School, Biggin Hill, Ernesettle, Plymouth, PL5 2RB
2. Tor Bridge Primary School, Eden Valley Gardens, Estover, Plymouth, PL6 8EE

Trust website: <https://www.timat.co.uk/>

The contract covers the scope for the provision of all catering services within the Schools, which is inclusive of all hospitality and free issue requirements.

The duration of the contract being offered is for an initial three-year period commencing on 25 May 2026, which is the first day of the May half term, with the potential to then extend for a further three 12-month periods. This extension will be granted by mutual consent and on the same terms and conditions as the original contract without the right to further extend beyond the full six years.

The contract being offered within this tender will be on a guaranteed performance basis, with an expected profit share of any betterment to the agreed budget. While the Trust will be the principal contracting authority, each School will have its own individual budget for performance analysis and reconciliation.

The Trust is seeking a suitably experienced contractor who is able to evidence working with multiple Primary Schools with varying requirements. The successful contractor will already have, or need to develop, a strong operational base within the South West, thus allowing for both adequate contract support and operational flexibility that is to be delivered to support the contract as and when needed moving forwards into this contract term.

The services across the Schools are currently outsourced, and TUPE is expected to apply. It is anticipated that a number of the current employees are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and, in this instance, the successful contractor will be expected to gain Admitted Body Status (ABS) in order to continue contributing to the scheme.

The Trust wishes to offer wholesome, healthy eating options within the menus which should be based upon the use of fresh, local produce that is abundant throughout the South West to support the local economy.

The Trust also wishes to achieve as a result of this tender process:

- 1.The provision of a healthy, balanced menu that meets nutritional guidelines and is enjoyed by all users of the service. This menu should be inclusive of those with special dietary requirements.
- 2.An innovative and flexible menu that is in keeping with current food trends. Offering frequent themed menus and initiatives that support the curriculum and various school led activities, ensuring the food offer remains varied and enticing to its customers.
- 3.Experienced and proactive contract management to promote good levels of communication and engagement with each School, as well as provide forthcoming management information regarding the financial and operational performance to the Trust during half-termly operational review meetings.
- 4.Well-trained catering teams at each school, with a focus by the successful contractor on both craft training and customer service.
- 5.An effective marketing campaign that is suitable and appropriate for each school that should be promoted effectively to both pupils and parents alike.
- 6.Total transparency with accounts that are clear and easy to understand.

7.The development of an economically and environmentally sustainable service.

To achieve overall value for money is an objective of this tender. However, please note that the Trust is not obliged to accept the lowest price and the contract award will be in line with the marking matrix published within the tender specification where a balanced focus will be given to food quality and innovation of the catering offer, as well the management support.

Please see PSQ Document for more information.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/tenders/UK-UK-Plymouth:-School-catering-services./359GD8D4EG>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/359GD8D4EG>

### **Total value (estimated)**

- £1,394,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 25 May 2026 to 24 May 2029
- 3 years

### **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 55524000 - School catering services

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## **Submission**

### **Enquiry deadline**

16 February 2026, 12:00pm

### **Tender submission deadline**

16 February 2026, 12:00pm

### **Submission address and any special instructions**

PSQ: <https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/359GD8D4EG>

ITT: <https://litmustms.co.uk/respond/K3U8E3772P>

**Tenders may be submitted electronically**

No

## Languages that may be used for submission

English

## Award decision date (estimated)

23 March 2026

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## Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Criterion 1	Quality	70%
Criterion 2	Price	30%

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## Other information

### Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

### Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Open procedure

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## Contracting authority

### The Inspire Multi Academy Trust

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTJN-4915-MMXD

The Inspire Multi Academy Trust, Central MAT Office, Ernesettle Community School

Plymouth

PL5 2RB

United Kingdom

Telephone: 01276 673896

Email: [tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk](mailto:tenders@litmuspartnership.co.uk)

Region: UKK41 - Plymouth

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government