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Award

Legal Services Framework

NATIONAL ENERGY SYSTEM OPERATOR LIMITED

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

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-003658

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-052237 ([view related notices](#))

Published 15 January 2026, 7:04pm

Scope

Description

National Energy System Operator (NESO) is awarding a framework agreement under competitive flexible procedure across a full range of legal services to support NESO's requirements and activities.

Suppliers will partner with the internal NESO Legal team to provide high quality advice and support NESO to meet its objectives.

The framework agreement is split into 2 Lots and amounts to £30.5m (including VAT):

LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

Advising on all aspects of the United Kingdom (UK) and, where relevant, European Union (EU) regulatory regimes and frameworks for gas and electricity, including sector-specific European legislation and rules (where relevant) and Great Britain (GB) primary and secondary legislation that impacts on or are relevant to the business activities of NESO (licensed and unlicensed). This includes:

1. Advising on the specific rules applicable to NESO, as well as on the regimes applicable to other sector participants including transmission networks, distribution networks, interconnectors, generators, storage and suppliers as are or may be relevant to NESO's

activities.

2. Advising on matters relating to the interaction of the UK and EU regulatory regimes with the gas and electricity arrangements, including relationships with European institutions such as ENTSO-E and ENTSG.

3. Advising on any innovation matters that arise as the gas and electricity markets and regulatory regimes develop.

4. Advising on all matters relating to the compliance with the UK and EU regulatory regimes for electricity and gas and how they impact on all the activities of NESO in Great Britain, including the impact on contractual arrangements NESO has with third parties.

5. Advising on the specific legal framework applicable to NESO as the designated independent system operator and planner under the Energy Act 2023 including:

5.1 Advising on the application of NESO's general statutory duties to its activities, including its duty to have regard to the Strategy and Policy Statement.

5.2 Advising NESO on the use of its power to request information.

5.3 Advising on NESO's independence requirements and requirements relating to conflict of interest.

6. Advising on the sector specific commercial arrangements relevant to NESO's energy activities, as set out in further detail below.

More specific areas within Lot 1 are detailed below - no subcontracting is allowed cross Lot 1 disciplines:

1 Electricity/ gas codes

2 Electricity connections

3 Balancing services (electricity)

4 Electricity interconnectors

5 Electricity Market Reform

6 Network competition

7 Gas markets

- 8 Developing/adapting to new energy legal frameworks
- 9 Licence change, investigations and other regulatory issues
- 10 Public Investigation and inquiry processes
- 11 Planning and major infrastructure projects
- 12 Information management (energy)
- 13 Public Law (energy)
- 14 Competition law and dawn raids (energy)
- 15 Litigation (energy)

The requirements for advice and support set out in this Lot 1 relate to both non-contentious and contentious matters unless expressly stated otherwise.

LOT 2 - GENERAL SERVICES

This lot includes advising NESO on all corporate and commercial aspects of its operations to support its organisational functions, taking into account NESO's status as a public corporation.

More specific areas within Lot 1 are detailed below -subcontracting permitted only for specific Lot 2 disciplines (Trademark & Patent Services, Pensions, and Insurance):

- 1 General commercial and transactions
- 2 Public procurement
- 3 Technology expertise (including Cyber Security, AI, ICT & IoT)
- 4 Innovation
- 5 Commercial property/ construction
- 6 Corporate
- 7 Finance
- 8 Intellectual Property (including trademark and patent services)

9 Health, safety and environmental

10 Employment

11 Pensions

12 Insurance (including insurance claims)

13 Information Management (non-energy)

14 Public Law (non-energy)

15 Competition law & dawn raids (non-energy)

16 Litigation (non-energy)

The requirements for advice and support set out in this Lot 2 relate to both non-contentious and contentious matters unless expressly stated otherwise.

Individual workpackages will be allocated to the awarded suppliers based on the call-off mechanism detailed in the framework agreement.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Lot 1. ENERGY REGULATION & FRAMEWORKS

Description

LOT 1 - ENERGY REGULATION & FRAMEWORKS

- 1 Electricity/ gas codes
 - 2 Electricity connections
 - 3 Balancing services (electricity)
 - 4 Electricity interconnectors
 - 5 Electricity Market Reform
 - 6 Network competition
 - 7 Gas markets
 - 8 Developing/adapting to new energy legal frameworks
 - 9 Licence change, investigations and other regulatory issues
 - 10 Public Investigation and inquiry processes
 - 11 Planning and major infrastructure projects
 - 12 Information management (energy)
 - 13 Public Law (energy)
 - 14 Competition law and dawn raids (energy)
 - 15 Litigation (energy)
-

Lot 2. General Legal Services

Description

LOT 2 - GENERAL SERVICES

- 1 General commercial and transactions
- 2 Public procurement

3 Technology expertise (including Cyber Security, AI, ICT & IoT)

4 Innovation

5 Commercial property/ construction

6 Corporate

7 Finance

8 Intellectual Property (including trademark and patent services)

9 Health, safety and environmental

10 Employment

11 Pensions

12 Insurance (including insurance claims)

13 Information Management (non-energy)

14 Public Law (non-energy)

15 Competition law & dawn raids (non-energy)

16 Litigation (non-energy)

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

Lots

Lot 1. ENERGY REGULATION & FRAMEWORKS

Suppliers (5)

- ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP
- DENTONS UK AND MIDDLE EAST LLP
- DLA PIPER UK LLP
- GOWLING WLG (UK) LLP
- SHAKESPEARE MARTINEAU LLP

Contract value

- £16,500,000 excluding VAT
- £19,800,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

15 January 2026

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

15 January 2026

Standstill period

- End: 26 January 2026
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

31 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 January 2026 to 31 January 2029
- Possible extension to 31 January 2031
- 5 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

NESO may, by giving the Supplier not less than one months' written notice prior to expiry of the Initial Term, extend this agreement in respect of the whole (or part) of the Services, for a period of up to two years, in one year increments, from the day following expiry of the Initial Term

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Contract 2. Lot 2 - General Legal Services

Lots

Lot 2. General Legal Services

Suppliers (4)

- ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP
- DENTONS UK AND MIDDLE EAST LLP
- DLA PIPER UK LLP
- TLT LLP

Contract value

- £8,900,000 excluding VAT
- £10,700,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

15 January 2026

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

15 January 2026

Standstill period

- End: 26 January 2026
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

31 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 January 2026 to 31 January 2029
- Possible extension to 31 January 2031
- 5 years, 1 day

Description of possible extension:

NESO may, by giving the Supplier not less than one months' written notice prior to expiry of the Initial Term, extend this agreement in respect of the whole (or part) of the Services, for a period of up to two years, in one year increments, from the day following expiry of the Initial Term

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Information about tenders

Lot 1. ENERGY REGULATION & FRAMEWORKS

- 11 tenders received
- 11 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 0 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 5 suppliers awarded contracts
- 6 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Unsuccessful suppliers

- [TLT LLP](#)
- [WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON \(UK\) LLP](#)
- [HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS KRAMER LLP](#)
- [HOGAN LOVELLS INTERNATIONAL LLP](#)
- [NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT LLP](#)
- [BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP](#)

Lot 2. General Legal Services

- 12 tenders received
 - 12 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 0 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
 - 4 suppliers awarded contracts
 - 8 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
-

Unsuccessful suppliers

- [SHAKESPEARE MARTINEAU LLP](#)
 - [GOWLING WLG \(UK\) LLP](#)
 - [WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON \(UK\) LLP](#)
 - [HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS KRAMER LLP](#)
 - [BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP](#)
 - [BRODIES LLP](#)
 - [BIRD & BIRD LLP](#)
 - [DWF LLP](#)
-

Submission

Submission type

Tenders

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Suppliers

ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP

- Companies House: OC318149
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRWH-7564-XRYD

41 Lothbury

London

EC2R 7HG

United Kingdom

Email: bdtenders@addleshawgoddard.com

Website: <http://www.addleshawgoddard.com/>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

Contract 2. Lot 2 - General Legal Services

BIRD & BIRD LLP

- Companies House: OC340318
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTJN-2397-QWJT

12 New Fetter Lane

London

EC4A 1JP

United Kingdom

Website: <https://www.twobirds.com>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

BRODIES LLP

- Companies House: SO300334
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBWZ-8513-MWGP

Capital Square

Edinburgh

EH3 8BP

United Kingdom

Website: <https://brodies.com/>

Region: UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

- Companies House: OC315919
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZCX-3815-ZBJX

Governor's House

London

EC4R 0BR

United Kingdom

Website: <https://www.bclplaw.com/en-US/>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

DENTONS UK AND MIDDLE EAST LLP

- Companies House: OC322045
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTDT-5345-RQMP

One Fleet Place

London

EC4M 7WS

United Kingdom

Email: rachel.harris@dentons.com

Website: <http://www.dentons.com>

Region: UKI43 - Haringey and Islington

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

Contract 2. Lot 2 - General Legal Services

DLA PIPER UK LLP

- Companies House: OC307847
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMPT-8255-CHYG

160 Aldersgate Street

London

EC1A 4HT

United Kingdom

Email: GovernmentTenders@dlapiper.com

Website: <https://www.dlapiper.com/en-us>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

Contract 2. Lot 2 - General Legal Services

DWF LLP

- Companies House: OC328794
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZTP-2177-WBYM

1 Scott Place

Manchester

M3 3AA

United Kingdom

Website: <https://dwfgroup.com/en>

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

GOWLING WLG (UK) LLP

- Companies House: OC304378
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMTV-6479-YMNX

4 More London Riverside

London

SE1 2AU

United Kingdom

Email: tenders@gowlingwlg.com

Website: <https://gowlingwlg.com/en-gb>

Region: UKI44 - Lewisham and Southwark

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS KRAMER LLP

- Companies House: OC310989
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRZW-5635-VGJW

Exchange House, Primrose Street

London

EC2A 2EG

United Kingdom

Website: <https://www.hsfkramer.com>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

HOGAN LOVELLS INTERNATIONAL LLP

- Companies House: OC323639
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXML-4791-NQGQ

Atlantic House

London

EC1A 2FG

United Kingdom

Website: <https://www.hoganlovells.com/en>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT LLP

- Companies House: OC328697
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNXT-4669-GCBV

3 More London Riverside

London

SE1 2AQ

United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.nortonrosefulbright.com>

Region: UKI44 - Lewisham and Southwark

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

SHAKESPEARE MARTINEAU LLP

- Companies House: OC319029
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXPX-4658-DTQQ

No 1 Colmore Square

Birmingham

B4 6AA

United Kingdom

Email: tenders@shma.co.uk

Website: <https://www.shma.co.uk/>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. LOT 1 - Energy Regulation & Frameworks

TLT LLP

- Companies House: OC308658
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHZR-1968-PDCV

One Redcliff Street

Bristol

BS1 6TP

United Kingdom

Email: tenders@tlt.com

Website: <http://www.TLT.com>

Region: UKK11 - Bristol, City of

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - General Legal Services

WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON (UK) LLP

- Companies House: OC317661
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYBM-6288-WNYY

4 More London Riverside

London

SE1 1AU

United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.womblebond dickinson.com>

Region: UKI44 - Lewisham and Southwark

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contracting authority

NATIONAL ENERGY SYSTEM OPERATOR LIMITED

- Companies House: 11014226
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PHQL-5234-MWWV

St Catherine's Lodge Bearwood Road

Wokingham

RG41 5BN

United Kingdom

Email: nesoprocurement@neso.energy

Region: UKJ11 - Berkshire

Organisation type: Public undertaking (commercial organisation subject to public authority oversight)