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Planning

## Travel and Accommodation TPP Comms to Market

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-005755

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04e3b8

Published 19 February 2025, 10:13am

### Section I: Contracting authority

#### I.1) Name and addresses

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

#### Contact

Katy Reed

#### Email

[katy.reed@defra.gov.uk](mailto:katy.reed@defra.gov.uk)

#### Telephone

+44 7767691614

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Buyer's address

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

**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**

Environment

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Travel and Accommodation TPP Comms to Market

Reference number

P-37560

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 63516000 - Travel management services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Dummy pipeline to allow comms to be issued

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £1

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 63515000 - Travel services

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

## A briefing note for suppliers: Changes to procurement in Defra

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) relates to Corporate Services – Travel category. The intention is to share some updates regarding the application of the new Procurement Act in this area. Other such notices may be published by other category teams within Defra, and if your business operates across multiple categories you should review all relevant notices for updates.

The Procurement Act 2023 is new legislation that will change the way the public sector buys goods and services. It aims to:

- create a simpler and more flexible commercial system
- open up public procurement to new entrants
- take tougher action on underperforming suppliers
- embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle

The changes are expected to start on 24 February 2025.

The existing legislation will apply until 24 February 2025. After 24 February 2025, it will only apply to procurements and contracts that started before this date, i.e. if the Invitation to Tender (ITT) was published, a voluntary transparency notice was published, or a pricing request was issued.

The new features for suppliers include:

- a central digital platform
- a simplified bidding process
- more flexible commercial frameworks
- a new duty on contracting authorities to consider barriers facing SMEs and VCSEs
- a stronger exclusions framework

## What will stay the same

If you are an existing or potential supplier to Defra and have live contracts, are a member of an existing framework, or are planning to bid for a procurement that has or will start prior to the new regime commencing, that arrangement will continue to be subject to the existing Public Contracting Regulations until the contract ends. The same principle applies to any contracts that are subject to any other associated procurement regulations, such as The Utilities Contracts Regulations.

## What you need to do

If you are a supplier, you should:

- read the government guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/transforming-public-procurement>
- sign up for regular TPP updates:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMgwpZ1kwubGUpKMLwu0ZpHS8zdWmXKgaHUJKRI-SwqQT95w/viewform>

- read the government TPP Knowledge Drops:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-official-transforming-public-procurement-knowledge-drops>

We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the new Central Digital Platform using these guidance videos:

- An overview of the central digital platform, an enhanced Find a Tender service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSfxoZoV3yl>

- How to register an organisation and the first administrator in 3 easy steps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InjCa4swtjA>

- Detailed walkthrough: How an administrator completes and updates supplier info

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4ZdbMGRqeQ>

- The central digital platform, an enhanced Find a Tender service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSfxoZoV3yl>

If you have a question about the new procurement act, contact the Transforming Public Procurement helpdesk at: [procurement.reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:procurement.reform@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

Further information

There will be little change due to a continued use of existing frameworks for our Travel requirements.

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

19 February 2025

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## **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