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Contract

ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme Training and Themed Groups Requirements

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-006939

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d031 ([view related notices](#))

Published 27 January 2026, 10:05am

Scope

Reference

ID 6210936

Description

This contract will be broken down into 2 Lots: • Lot 1 - Face-to-face training for groups of farmers • Lot 2 - Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators Each Lot will be evaluated and awarded independently.

Lot 1- CAFRE require a Supplier to administer, secure access to appropriate venues and deliver training to participants who cannot use e-learning courses without support. The supplier will be required to administer, hire appropriate venues, and deliver training sessions to groups of participating farmers. Each course will have its own specific Learning Outcomes, underpinning knowledge, assessment process (if required) and delivery schedule.

Lot 2 - CAFRE requires a Supplier to administer and deliver specialist technical facilitation

and mentoring to Themed Groups. These groups will be delivered alongside Business Sustainability Groups (BSGs) and are a development from the previous Business development Group (BDG) scheme which operated under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. BSGs are enterprise specific but with a focus on the sustainability of the entire farm. Themed Groups will provide more focused support and advice relating to specific enterprises and topics. Groups will also have a shorter duration of 18-24 months with an estimated 3-6 meetings per group per year dependent on topic.

This will be a demand-led contract and all values are estimates only.

Lot 1. Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

Description

CAFRE require a Supplier to administer, secure access to appropriate venues and deliver training to participants who cannot use e-learning courses without support.

The supplier will be required to administer, hire appropriate venues, and deliver training sessions to groups of participating farmers.

The training courses will be prioritised by DAERA as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme or wider policy programme, with CAFRE responsible for overall planning and development of learning materials for each training course. Each course will have its own specific Learning Outcomes, underpinning knowledge, assessment process (if required) and delivery schedule.

Lot 2. Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

Description

CAFRE requires a Supplier to administer and deliver specialist technical facilitation and mentoring to Themed Groups. These groups will be delivered alongside Business Sustainability Groups (BSGs) and are a development from the previous Business Development Group (BDG) scheme which operated under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. BSGs are enterprise specific but with a focus on the sustainability of the entire farm. Themed Groups will provide more focused support and advice relating to specific enterprises and topics. Groups will also have a shorter duration of 18-24 months with an estimated 3-6 meetings per group per year dependent on topic.

Contract 1. ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 1: Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

Lots

Lot 1. Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

Supplier

- [Countryside Services Limited](#)

Contract value

- £500,000 excluding VAT
- £600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

29 December 2025

Contract dates

- 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2029
- Possible extension to 4 January 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

One optional extension period of 2 years for each Lot. The extension will be utilised at the Buyers discretion.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services
 - 80500000 - Training services
 - 80521000 - Training programme services
 - 80522000 - Training seminars
 - 80531200 - Technical training services
 - 80510000 - Specialist training services
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Contract 2. ID 6210936 - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements – Lot 2: Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

Lots

Lot 2. Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

Supplier

- [Countryside Services Limited](#)

Contract value

- £3,000,000 excluding VAT
- £3,600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

29 December 2025

Contract dates

- 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2029
- Possible extension to 4 January 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

One optional extension period of 2 years for each Lot. The extension will be utilised at the Buyers discretion.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80500000 - Training services
- 80521000 - Training programme services
- 80522000 - Training seminars
- 80531200 - Technical training services
- 80510000 - Specialist training services

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Supplier

Countryside Services Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDLJ-1526-MNDY

97 Moy Road

Dungannon

BT71 7DX

United Kingdom

Email: Andrew.kerr@countrysideservices.com

Region: UKN0B - Mid Ulster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 1: Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

Contract 2. ID 6210936 - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 2: Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

Contracting authority

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYCL-3331-QQMP

45 Tirgracey Road

Antrim

BT41 4PS

United Kingdom

Email: SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Region: UKN0D - Antrim and Newtownabbey

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

CPD - Supplies and Services Division

Summary of their role in this procurement: Summary of their role in this procurement: Construction and Procurement Delivery, Supplies and Services Division, is a Centre of Procurement Expertise and provides a central procurement function for central government in Northern Ireland.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVWG-8426-YWXV

Clare House, 303 Airport Road West

Belfast

BT3 9ED

United Kingdom

Email: SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Contact organisation

Contact [CPD - Supplies and Services Division](#) for any enquiries.