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Planning

VPN Provision

Ofsted

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-010279

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-061223

Published 5 February 2026, 9:54am

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Update - This procurement will now be run via Lot 4a Infrastructure Management (lower value and complexity) due to the overall contract value falling under the £3 Million threshold required for Lot 4

Scope

Reference

CON 1616

Description

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) is issuing this notice to notify the market to that we are engaging with suppliers on the Technology Services 4 (RM6190) to help shape a pending tender process for the provision of a fully managed VPN service.

The current contract that Ofsted has for providing this service is due to end in October 2026 and Ofsted are looking to start the process of procuring a new contract now.

Ofsted intends to appoint a supplier to deliver a fully managed VPN service that provides secure, encrypted network connectivity across the organisation. The appointed supplier will be responsible for the end-to-end design, implementation, operation, monitoring, and support of the VPN service. This approach will remove the requirement for in-house management and ensure that the service is proactively maintained and supported by a specialist provider.

Ofsted is therefore looking at running a procurement exercise, starting as soon as is practicable in 2026, for a supplier to provide this service.

Our chosen route to market will be via CCS Framework Technology Services 4 (RM6190) -Lot 4a Infrastructure Management (lower value and complexity) and engagement is currently limited to suppliers on this Framework.

Total value (estimated)

- £408,333 excluding VAT
- £490,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2029

- Possible extension to 31 May 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Engagement

Engagement deadline

27 January 2026

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Engagement process description

Ofsted issued an Expression of Interest to RM6190 Framework suppliers on 20th January 2026, with a deadline of 27th January 2026. Ofsted will now undertake some pre-market engagement sessions with suppliers who responded to the EOI.

Ofsted do not guarantee that this exercise will result in a procurement exercise.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Contracting authority

Ofsted

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLXD-3382-NDQL

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Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Organisation type: Public authority - central government