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Planning

Preliminary market engagement notice - National Centre for Arts and Music Education

Department for Education

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

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-011239

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-052863

Published 9 February 2026, 9:45am

Changes to notice

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

Expression of Interest link added to notice

Scope

Reference

ssq_587 - Market Engagement - National Centre for Arts and Music Education

Description

On 18 March, the Secretary of State for Education announced* that young people across the country will have greater access to high-quality arts education and wider creative opportunities as part of the wider mission to break down barriers and ensure every child can achieve and thrive.

This will be achieved through the development of a new National Centre for Arts and Music Education that will support the delivery of high-quality arts education in subjects such as art and design, dance, drama and music. It will do this through: a new online training offer for teachers, promoting opportunities for children and young people to pursue their artistic and creative interests in school; and by boosting partnerships between schools and cultural providers. The National Centre will also become national deliver partner for the existing Music Hubs programme.

The Department will be seeking organisations with the capacity and experience to implement and start delivering quickly on this programme.

The ITT is now due to be published before the end of the calendar year with a 10-week period for bids to be submitted. The intention remains for the National Centre to be established in September 2026, with a phased work programme to be agreed with the successful bidder.

The purpose of this engagement notice is to notify organisations of the Department's intention to establish the National Centre and to enable interested parties, including prospective bidders, to sign up for one of three 60-minute online information events as follows:

- Thursday 19 June 2025 at 1pm
- Monday 23 June 2025 at 10.30am
- Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 2pm

Information regarding these sessions will be available to those who register their interest on our e-tendering portal Jaggaer, <https://education.app.jaggaer.com> under ref. ssq_587 - Market Engagement - National Centre for Arts and Music Education.

It is also mandatory for any interested suppliers to register on the new CENTRAL DIGITAL PLATFORM which is part of the enhanced Find a Tender Service.

This procurement will be progressed using the Open procedure under the Procurement Act 2023.

This is a zero-value notice for early market engagement and is not a call for competition. The Department for Education reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not proceed with contract award.

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-to-benefit-from-creative-education-boost>

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 August 2025

Engagement process description

The information events will provide an opportunity for interested parties to receive further information on the Department's plans for The National Centre for Arts and Music Education and what we expect from prospective suppliers.

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Information regarding these sessions will be available to those who register their interest on our e-tendering portal Jaggaer: <https://education.app.jaggaer.com>, under ref. ssq_587 - Market Engagement - National Centre for Arts and Music Education.

****UPDATE 15th July 2025**

The Department is currently seeking expressions of interest from organisations with an interest in bidding, and this includes academy trusts. Responses are encouraged by Thursday 24 July.

Please use the following link to express your interest:

<https://forms.office.com/e/71WgqY7W9T>

The information provided at the recent information events can be found on Jaggaer.

****UPDATE 19th September 2025**

The intention is for the ITT to be published in October 2025 rather than September as set out that the information events. A more detailed update of the procurement timetable will be provided shortly.

****UPDATE 24th October 2025**

The ITT is now due to be published before the end of the calendar year with a 10-week period for bids to be submitted. The intention remains for the National Centre to be established in September 2026, with a phased work programme to be agreed with the successful bidder.

****UPDATE 28th November 2025**

The ITT is now due to be published in the new year. More information will be provided soon.

****UPDATE 6th February 2026**

The Department for Education has now published a Preliminary Procurement Notice for the National Centre for Arts and Music Education, which you can find here:

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/011134-2026>

This notice will therefore not include any further updates.

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P3BT

United Kingdom

Email: anne.hardy@education.gov.uk

Website: <https://education.app.jaggaer.com>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government