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Planning

*****Pre-Market Engagement*** BSP-24-017 Review of EA Catering Service Delivery Model**

the Education Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-015542

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050400

Published 16 April 2025, 1:00pm

Scope

Reference

BSP-24-017

Description

This is a Pre-Market Engagement Exercise The purpose of the preliminary market engagement exercise is to inform suppliers in the current market and gain information to inform a potential future procurement. At this stage, any information gathered through this Exercise will inform internal business planning and any possible subsequent procurement process and will NOT be appraised in any future tender evaluation exercise. For the avoidance of doubt, this is the scoping phase and is not part of a formal procurement process. The EA's Catering Service in Northern Ireland is responsible for producing approximately 155,000 - 160,000 meals per day to children within nursery, primary, special, and post-primary schools. The cost of production versus the school meal charge is one of a

number of challenges the service is experiencing within the current delivery model. The EA Catering service wishes to look at possible other models which will address the risks and issues currently being experienced. This exercise will not include Post Primary Schools (133 locations). The EA is seeking to establish the costs of alternative catering model which will produce meals, package, deliver and serve in the school sectors detailed.

Total value (estimated)

- £0 excluding VAT
- £0 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 29 August 2025 to 30 June 2026
- 10 months, 3 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services
- 79420000 - Management-related services
- 79411000 - General management consultancy services

Engagement

Engagement deadline

13 May 2025

Engagement process description

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Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 July 2025

Contracting authority

the Education Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPHJ-6982-JPXY

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Belfast

BT12NQ

United Kingdom

Email: business.procure@eani.org.uk

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland