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Award

Fresh Fruit, Vegetables and Related Products

the Education Authority

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-016258

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0559b9 ([view related notices](#))

Published 23 February 2026, 5:24pm

Scope

Reference

CAT-25-004

Description

Supply and delivery of Fresh Fruit,

Vegetables and Related Products to school meals kitchens within Northern Ireland for a period of 3 years with options to extend for any additional period(s) of up to and including 36 months.

This Contract is established by the Education Authority and is open to the EA, including NI educational bodies as follows, who at some point, during the life of the Contract may wish to utilise the agreement and should have access at any point, with the permission of EA.

This Contract is not intended to replace any current agreements that participating or nonparticipating institutions may already have in place.

Department of Education - Schools Plus

<https://www.educationni.gov.uk/services/schoolsplus>

Primary and Post Primary schools under the control of the EA,

Catholic Maintained Schools

Independent Schools in NI, Irish Medium Schools in NI, both Controlled and Voluntary

Grammar Schools, Nursery School for NI (both controlled, and Catholic Maintained),

Schoolmeals kitchens on-site at all of these schools, and Controlled Youth Centres.

Further Education Colleges in NI :

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/furthereducationfecolleges>

NICIE - <https://nicie.org/>

Grant Controlled Integrated Education Schools in NI

Independent Schools in NI <https://www.isc.co.uk/schools/northern-ireland/>

EA Teachers' and Educational Centres

Council for the Curriculum, Examination and Assessment NI (CCEA)

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

Middletown Centre for Autism

Controlled Schools Support Council (CSSC)

Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)

Pre-Schools and Nurseries included within the EA Pre-School Education Programme(PSEP)

Preliminary market engagement notice Procurement identifier (OCID):
ocdsh6vhtk-0559b9 was published on 7 July 2025

N.B. Estimated values stated, both including and excluding VAT are the same as VAT is not applicable to the goods included under this procurement.

Contract 1. Fresh Fruit, Vegetables and Related Products

Supplier

- HENDERSON FOODSERVICE LIMITED

Contract value

- £16,800,000 excluding VAT
- £16,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

23 February 2026

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

23 February 2026

Standstill period

- End: 4 March 2026
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

6 March 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2032
- 6 years

Description of possible extension:

options to extend for any additional period(s) of up to and including 36 months

Main procurement category

Goods

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Additional items may be added to the Contract throughout the Term with the agreement of both the Buyer and the Supplier. This may include any Fruit and Vegetables options that may be required throughout the duration of the Contract.

CPV classifications

- 15300000 - Fruit, vegetables and related products

Contract locations

- UKN - Northern Ireland
-

Information about tenders

- 4 tenders received
 - 3 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 1 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
 - 1 supplier awarded contracts
 - 2 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
-

Unsuccessful suppliers

- [Sillis Green Veg Limited](#)
 - [SYSCO FOODS IRELAND UNLIMITED COMPANY](#)
-

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Suppliers

HENDERSON FOODSERVICE LIMITED

- Companies House: NI006894
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTDD-2623-PPYP

1 Hightown Avenue

Newtownabbey

BT36 4RT

United Kingdom

Email: HFLContracts@henderson-group.com

Website: <http://www.henderson-foodservice.com>

Region: UKN0D - Antrim and Newtownabbey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Fresh Fruit, Vegetables and Related Products

Sillis Green Veg Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBDM-5995-JJRJ

Sillis

Glaslough

H18DT80

Ireland

Website: <http://www.sillisprepveg.ie>

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

SYSCO FOODS IRELAND UNLIMITED COMPANY

- Companies House: BR016994
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PQWX-2758-JTXJ

77 Nutts Corner Road

Crumlin

BT29 4SJ

United Kingdom

Website: <http://www.syscoireland.com>

Region: UKN0D - Antrim and Newtownabbey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contracting authority

the Education Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPHJ-6982-JPXY

40 Academy Street

Belfast

BT1 2NQ

United Kingdom

Email: catering.procure@eani.org.uk

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland