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Planning

Independent Review Mechanism for fostering and adoption

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-017087

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03d6bf

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Beth.Lord@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

National or federal Agency/Office

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Independent Review Mechanism for fostering and adoption

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This PIN is for market engagement only. It does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Department for Education. If the Department for Education decides to commence any procurement process as contemplated by this notice, a separate notice will be published at the relevant time. The requirements and values set out below may be subject to change.

The Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) provides an essential statutory service to prospective and existing foster parents, adopters, and adult adoptees. The main function

of the IRM is to offer an objective and independent route for applicants to request a review of decisions made by fostering and adoption services about their approval status and access to their records. The service offered by the IRM is unique within the sector and enables applicants to have their case heard by an independent panel of children's social care experts.

We will be holding a market engagement session to discuss our draft specification including the statutory requirements, indicative timeline, costing model, intended procurement process including the likely procurement asks within the tender documents.

The departments intention is to seek feedback from the sector through 1-2-1 engagement sessions on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June. These will be allocated on a first come first service basis.

Following this market engagement session, we will be circulating a feedback questionnaire seeking your input on timelines, costing and contract mobilisation period.

To confirm your attendance and receive the draft documents please email Beth.Lord@education.gov.uk.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £730,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The IRM is provided for in regulations and as a result, some elements of its delivery are prescribed in legislation. The service was introduced in 2005 through secondary legislation, under Sections 9 and 12 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 . The purpose was to offer prospective adopters an opportunity to have decisions (Qualifying

Determinations) reviewed by an independent panel if they had not been approved to adopt by their local authority or agency and were unhappy with the decision. The Independent Review of Determinations (Adoption and Fostering) Regulations 2009 expanded the original remit to provide a similar service to prospective and existing foster parents who are deemed ineligible to foster, or who face changes to their approvals; and to adult adoptees wishing to review historic decisions made about accessing their birth records.

Further information about the IRM can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/independent-review-mechanism

Adoption and Children Act 2002 can be found here:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/38/section/12

Independent Review of Determinations (Adoption and Fostering) Regulations 2009 can be found here: www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/395/made

II.2.14) Additional information

Estimated Contract Value: £600,000-735,000 for the total contract period including the optional extension (2 years +1 year optional extension)

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

3 July 2023

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

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