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Contract

Functional Assessment Services (FAS) 2023 – Lot 5

Department for Work and Pensions acting for and on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC)

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-018066

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050a5e

Published 30 April 2025, 2:49pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Work and Pensions acting for and on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC)

Hartshead Square

Sheffield

S1 2FD

Email

healthtransformation@communities-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Functional Assessment Services (FAS) 2023 – Lot 5

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Functional Assessment Services (FAS) 2023 – Lot 5

Lot No

Lot 5: Northern Ireland

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 at the time of conclusion of the contract:

Contract Award Notice reference: 2023/S 000-030453

Published 16 October 2023

This contract will be for the use of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (Lots 1 to 4) and the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland (Lot 5). The service provision will be primarily contracted through this procurement to the Authority but may allow other Government Departments and their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, and devolved administrations (including but not limited to HM Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Defence, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, National Health and Social Care) to access the services.

To support the determination of an individual's entitlement to benefit, the Authority requires the delivery of a range of compatible and sympathetic Functional Health Assessments (FAS). The results of these assessments form one part of the evidence utilised by the Authority Decision Maker in making the ultimate decision on benefit entitlement on behalf of the Secretary of State (or in the case of Lot 5, the Department for Communities).

FAS Suppliers will be expected to deliver functional health assessments in relation to the following benefits:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)- <https://www.gov.uk/pip>
- Employment Support Allowance (ESA)- <https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance>
- Universal Credit (UC)- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-if-you-have-a-disability-or-health-condition-quick-guide/universal-credit-if-you-have-a-disability-or-health-condition>
- The delivery of assessments/advice associated with 15 other specialist benefits, for both DWP and other Government Departments, including Veterans UK, HM Courts and Tribunals Service and HM Revenue and Customs

DWP ran a procurement using the Light Touch Regime and a modified process with commercial dialogue in accordance with Regulations 74 to 76 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. For Lot 5, DWP conducted aspects of the procurement process on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) in Northern Ireland. The procedure is set out clearly in the published Invitation to Tender document.

The service will be divided into five (5) geographical lots:

Lot 1 – Northern England and Scotland

Lot 2 – Midlands and Wales

Lot 3 – South West England

Lot 4 – London, South East & East Anglia

Lot 5 – Northern Ireland

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

19 September 2023

End date

6 September 2031

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

ecm_11583

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

19 September 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract/concession has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED

First Floor, 2 Kingdom Street

London

W2 6BD

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £157,080,007

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Suppliers Instructions:

How to Express Interest in this Tender:

1. Register on the eSourcing portal (this is only required once):

<https://dwp.bravosolution.co.uk> & click the link to register - Accept the terms & conditions & click 'continue' - Enter your correct business & user details - Note your chosen username & click 'Save'. You will receive an email with your password (keep this secure)

2. Express an Interest in the tender - Login to the portal with the username/password - Click the 'PQQs / ITTs Open To All Suppliers' link. (These are Pre-Qualification Questionnaires or Invitations to Tender open to any registered supplier) - Click on the relevant exercise to access the content. - Click the 'Express Interest' button at the top of the page. - This will move the PQQ /ITT into your 'My PQQs/ My ITTs' page. (A secure area reserved for your projects only) -You can now access any attachments by clicking 'Buyer Attachments' in the 'PQQ/ ITT Details' box

3. Responding to the tender - Click 'My Response' under 'PQQ/ ITT Details', you can choose to 'Create Response' or to 'Decline to Respond' (please give a reason if declining) - You can now use the 'Messages' function to communicate with the buyer and seek any clarification - Note the deadline for completion. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the PQQ/ ITT - There may be a mixture of online & offline actions to complete (detailed online help available). To submit your reply use the 'Submit Response' button (top of the page).

For further assistance please consult the online help, or the eTendering help desk.

DWP expressly reserves the rights(i)to use a reverse auction; (ii)to cancel this procurement at any stage; (iii)to not award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice; (iv)and in no circumstances will DWP be liable for any costs incurred by potential suppliers.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Department for Work and Pensions

Sheffield

Country

United Kingdom

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

This contract will be for the use of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) (Lots 1 to 4) and the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland (Lot 5). The service provision will be primarily contracted through this procurement to the Authority but may allow other Government Departments and their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, and devolved administrations (including but not limited to HM Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Defence, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, National Health and Social Care) to access the services.

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- Employment Support Allowance (ESA)- <https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance>
- Universal Credit (UC)- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-if-you-have-a-disability-or->

[health-condition-quick-guide/universal-credit-if-you-have-a-disability-or-health-condition](#)

- The delivery of assessments/advice associated with 15 other specialist benefits, for both DWP and other Government Departments, including Veterans UK, HM Courts and Tribunals Service and HM Revenue and Customs

DWP ran a procurement using the Light Touch Regime and a modified process with commercial dialogue in accordance with Regulations 74 to 76 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. For Lot 5, DWP conducted aspects of the procurement process on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) in Northern Ireland. The procedure is set out clearly in the published Invitation to Tender document.

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Lot 2 – Midlands and Wales

Lot 3 – South West England

Lot 4 – London, South East & East Anglia

Lot 5 – Northern Ireland

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

19 September 2023

End date

6 September 2031

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£165,836,271

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

CAPITA BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED

First Floor, 2 Kingdom Street

London

W2 6BD

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

This notice is in relation to modification of an existing Contract, pursuant to regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("PCR 2015") and is published for transparency purposes.

The Functional Health Assessments ("FAS") contracts were signed in September 2023 and included an assessment of supplier capacity as of November 2021 (the launch of the procurement). In the intervening period demand for Personal Independence Payment ("PIP") assessments has continued to rise whilst the Authority has worked with incumbent suppliers to successfully recruit and retain a higher number of Health Professionals ("HPs") which has enabled the highest ever volume delivery of PIP assessments. The increased number of HPs helps the Authority better meet the demand for assessments across PIP and Work Capability Assessment ("WCA") (as well as other benefits), and better protects the delivery of the service. Retention of the HP's into FAS ensured that capacity for assessments will meet the current levels of PIP, WCA and other benefits. Collectively, this helps by reducing the length of a customer's journey and minimise the backlog of claims.

In addition to the increased clinical staffing, there were changes to supplier costs to reflect IT solution changes to address technical constraints and levels of integration.

Pursuant to regulation 72(1)(b) of the PCR 2015, the Authority agreed a Side Letter with the FAS supplier to vary the FAS contract, and then an extension to the Side Letter, to cover the increased clinical staffing which leads to the provisions of additional services, in addition to the additional costs to reflect the changes to the IT solution to address various technical constraints. The additional services are required to address an increase in the number of FAS assessments over the number initially envisaged during the procurement.

Given that the FAS contract was entered into in September 2023 and the FAS supplier completed a lengthy hand over period prior to commencing operational services commencement in September 2024, it would not have been possible to appoint a new supplier to deal with the additional services outlined in this modification notice, as the new supplier would not have had the benefit of the handover period.

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor/concessionaire.

Description of the economic or technical reasons and the inconvenience or duplication of cost preventing a change of contractor:

Appointing a new supplier to address the additional services would have also led to a significant duplication of costs, particularly as during the handover period the Department was paying incumbent suppliers to deliver the assessment services.

There would be interchangeability issues with a new supplier which would negatively impact the delivery of key services. A change in supplier without the lengthy handover period would risk the delivery of the services which provide critical statutory benefits to vulnerable claimants.

The increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £157,253,973

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £165,836,271