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Contract

Regulatory Assurance

Scottish Water

F06: Contract award notice – utilities

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-018308

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04b3c5

Published 1 May 2025, 10:46am

Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Water

6 Buchanan Gate, Stepps

Glasgow

G336FB

Contact

Amy Phillips

Email

Amy.Phillips@scottishwater.co.uk

Telephone

+44 8000778778

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKM - Scotland

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.scottishwater.co.uk>

I.6) Main activity

Water

Section II: Object**II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

Regulatory Assurance

Reference number

SW24/CON/1489

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This involves the assurance of Scottish Water's medium-term (SR27) business plan, covering the period from 2027 to 2033. The business plan will set out Scottish Waters investment plans together with the outcomes that we propose to deliver for our customers, communities and the environment, as well as the underlying evidence that we have prepared to support those plans. The information in Scottish Water's business plan submission will be used by the Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), Scottish Water's independent economic regulator, in the preparation of its Final Determination. While the business plan is Scottish Water's plan, WICS need to have confidence in the integrity of the data and commentary within it. If WICS have concerns over the impartiality or quality of the assurance report, this would undermine / reduce the value of the assurance to Scottish Water. Therefore, it is essential that the third-party assurance undertaken on the plan is completely impartial.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Context

This involves the assurance of Scottish Water's medium-term (SR27) business plan, covering the period from 2027 to 2033. The business plan will set out Scottish Waters investment plans together with the outcomes that we propose to deliver for our customers, communities and the environment, as well as the underlying evidence that we have prepared to support those plans. The information in Scottish Water's business plan submission will be used by the Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), Scottish Water's independent economic regulator, in the preparation of its Final Determination. While the business plan is Scottish Water's plan, WICS need to have confidence in the integrity of the data and commentary within it. If WICS have concerns over the impartiality or quality of the assurance report, this

would undermine / reduce the value of the assurance to Scottish Water. Therefore, it is essential that the third-party assurance undertaken on the plan is completely impartial.

The timelines for when the assurance work is required is between March and May 2025 for the draft business plan and between October and February 2026 for the final business plan. These dates are fixed due to the submission dates set out by WICS for both plans.

Areas which require assurance are:

- Draft and Final Business Plan Data tables, in particular examining whether Scottish Water has prepared these in line both the business plan guidance and definitions set out by WICS and that they are fully consistent with the accompanying commentary prepared by Scottish Water;
- Review of the robustness of the systems and processes used to produce the information;
- Identification of the key assumptions made by Scottish Water in preparing its data tables and review of the reasonableness and materiality of those assumptions; and
- Assurance of the accuracy, completeness and comprehensiveness of the data.

In addition, Scottish Water requires that its independent assurer:

- Is able to demonstrate that it is free from any conflicts of interest and/or that where any actual or perceived conflicts of interest may arise as a result of its appointment, that the assurer can put in place measures/arrangements to manage those conflicts of interest for the duration of the appointment;
- Is able to demonstrate the impartiality of its approach to the assurance of the business plan;
- Provides timely efficient feedback on the Draft Business plan to allow Scottish Water to make improvements in its data, evidence and/or processes ahead of the Final Business plan submission;
- Provide draft and final assurance reports to both Scottish Water and Water Industry Commission Scotland (WICS), setting out both the work that has been undertaken, any factors which prevented and/or impeded the assurer from undertaking its role as it might reasonably have expected, and the assurer's findings.

In addition to the above matters, there will be a requirement to engage directly with external stakeholders, including the WICS, to respond to questions on the draft and final assurance reports, including providing further explanation of the assurer's work, findings and/or other matters arising within the terms of reference of their appointment, as is reasonably required.

In order to facilitate the assurer in its role, Scottish Water shall grant the assurers any necessary and timely access to premises, assets, systems, data, working papers, other records and relevant personnel associated with the carrying out of Scottish Water's regulated activities. Scottish Water shall supply the assurers with any information relevant to the assurance process including all material assumptions underpinning the data submission as well as access between the assurers and the financial auditors.

Scottish Water shall not be required to do anything which is outside their control, or to do, or allow the assurers to do, anything which would materially disrupt Scottish Water's business.

Our requirements

The independent assurers should be able to demonstrate a track record in the following areas:

- Independent Third-Party Assurance provision for regulated businesses;
- Assurance for Business Plan submissions for regulated businesses;
- Experience of working with regulated water companies;
- Relevant knowledge of technical, commercial and regulatory aspects of the water sector.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated procedure with prior call for competition

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-035670](#)

IV.2.9) Information about termination of call for competition in the form of a periodic indicative notice

The contracting entity will not award any further contracts based on the above periodic indicative notice

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

SW24/CON/1489

Title

Regulatory Assurance

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

7 February 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 7

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Binnies UK Limited

Surrey

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03761340

The contractor is an SME

No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Glasgow Sheriff Court

Glasgow

Country

United Kingdom