

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/022704-2023>

Award

## **Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Assessment Service - Contract Extension - Lot 4**

Department for Work and Pensions acting for an on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) formerly the Department for Social Development (DSD) in Northern Ireland

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-022704

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03ed05

Published 4 August 2023, 11:08am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

Department for Work and Pensions acting for an on behalf of the Department for Communities (DfC) formerly the Department for Social Development (DSD) in Northern Ireland

Hartshead Square

Sheffield

S1 2FD

#### **Email**

[healthtransformation@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto: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>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

---

**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title**

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Assessment Service - Contract Extension - Lot 4

Reference number

UI\_DWP\_100432

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

DfC shall enter into a Contract Variation of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment services Lot 4 Contract with the incumbent supplier following a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Contract Variation provides for a six (6) month extension from 04 March 2024 to 6 September 2024 of the services delivered by the PIP Assessment Services contract. This

is necessary due to delays in the completion of the Lot 5 (Northern Ireland) Functional Assessment Services (FAS) contract.

#### **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: £152,355,524

### **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 objective and independent assessment of the impact of health conditions and disabilities on claimants is central to the process of determining entitlement to PIP. The provider will carry out this assessment and provide information and advice to support the Authority's decision-making processes.

— The key elements of the service will include:

— The consideration of a claimant's health conditions or disabilities and the impact on their daily life and mobility,

— Assessing individuals against criteria prescribed by the Authority,

— The delivery of Consultations to support the above,

— The gathering and consideration of evidence to support the above including, where necessary, paying appropriate fees for evidence,

— The completion of reports, including advice, to the Authority,

— The referral of assessment reports and any associated evidence to the Authority,

- Interpretation and advice to the Authority on technical evidence,
- Follow up liaison with the Authority in relation to assessments, including the provision of relevant health professional expertise as required,
- The administration and management of the service, including scheduling of Consultations, ensuring that they are completed within timescales set down by the Authority,
- The recruitment, training and ongoing support of Health Professionals, including liaison with relevant professional bodies,
- The development of guidance and training in conjunction with the Authority,
- The provision of an enquiry service for individuals being assessed,
- The provision of a quality control regime, including a complaints function,
- The provision of management information as defined by the Authority,
- Initiatives and liaison with relevant organisations to support the provision of evidence,
- Liaison and collaborative working with local and national partners, including disability organisations, health professional bodies and the devolved administrations,
- Liaison and collaborative working with the PIP Assessment Providers for other Lots as required,
- Support for Test and Learn Activity.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Cost criterion - Name: Financial / Weighting: 25

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **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 IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) led FAS procurement, based on 5 geographic Lots (Lot 5 in Northern Ireland), was launched on 12 November 2021.

On 15 March 2023, DWP notified FAS bidders of the outcome of the procurement in Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5. Procurement activity in Lot 3 (Southwest England) continues, resulting in a DWP and DfC agreement to delay contract signature in all Lots to support full alignment in FAS transition to 'go-live' in 2024. DfC has a number of dependencies on DWP to enable it to comply with key Authority obligations in relation to FAS Lot 5 service delivery.

It is anticipated that the completion of the FAS procurement exercise in Lot 3 will result in a 6-month delay in the contract signature for Lot 3 and consequently in Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Without an extension there would be a service provision gap, adversely impacting PIP customers, and resulting in a failure of DfC to meet its statutory obligations. Furthermore, the absence of continuity in service provision would put a vulnerable group of PIP recipients at risk and create further hardship and disadvantage.

DfC considers Regulation 72(1)(b) PCR applicable. For the reasons set out above, the provision of additional services until 6 September 2024 is necessary and:

(i) interchangeability issues with a new supplier means these key services could be negatively impacted for economic and technical reasons. The implementation of the contract currently being procured will necessitate a lengthy handover period, and make it impossible therefore to introduce a new provider for a short extension period. A change in supplier without a full handover programme (to include transition to a new IT service necessitating dual running of systems), would risk delivery of these services which provide critical statutory benefits to vulnerable people;

(ii) appointing a new supplier to cover a short extension period (which DfC does not consider a viable option) at the same time an incumbent is engaged in handover to a new FAS supplier, would result in significant duplication of costs and a loss of value for money

for the taxpayer;

(iii) value of the contract for the extended period does not exceed 50% of value of original contract; and

(iv) DfC will publish a modification notice pursuant to Regulation 72(3) of PCR.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

---

## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

20 November 2012

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

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

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

Capita Business Services

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

#### **V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £11,106,000

#### **V.2.5) Information about subcontracting**

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

---

## **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**

DWP

Sheffield

Country

United Kingdom

