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Award

Provision of ONS Field Interviewers

Office for National Statistics

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-024723

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04882c

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Office for National Statistics

Government Buildings, Cardiff Road

NEWPORT

NP108XG

Contact

Sophie Keal

Email

sophie.keal@ons.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1329890246

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.ons.gov.uk

Buyer's address

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/ons.aspx/Home>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Other type

Non departmental government body

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of ONS Field Interviewers

Reference number

PU-24-0178

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79620000 - Supply services of personnel including temporary staff

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Field Interviewers at ONS conduct interviews, collect household data and provide support to complete online surveys with members of the public for a number of official surveys, to help inform Government about the state of the nation. Sampled addresses for ONS interviewers to visit are nationally spread and ONS currently has a fieldforce of c500 permanent interviewers.

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: £970,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Field Interviewers at ONS conduct interviews, collect household data and provide support to complete online surveys with members of the public for a number of official surveys, to help inform Government about the state of the nation. Sampled addresses for ONS interviewers to visit are nationally spread and ONS currently has a fieldforce of c500 permanent interviewers. This represents a shortfall of interviewers across England, Wales & Scotland in certain locations within which Contingent labour is required on a fixed term basis to provide ONS field interviewer resource. There are a number of limitations on civil service recruitment rules currently impacting on ONS ability to recruit field interviewers into targeted areas on a permanent basis. A specialist recruitment agency is required to source and place candidates to fulfil the ONS field interviewer role in specified areas on a fixed term basis.

The current contract is governed by the Crown Commercial Services RM6277; Provision of Non Clinical Staff Lot1 - Admin & Clerical

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: 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:

ONS are currently nearing completion of a major survey transformation project, moving its Labour Force survey from an offline data collection survey (i.e interviewer administered data collection) to a predominantly online survey (i.e self completion, as per census).

The survey design for the new transformed labour force survey requires field interviewers to visit addresses in certain areas who have not completed the online survey, in order to encourage completion and provide support. These addresses tend to be more clustered within major conurbations and 'harder to reach' community groups - such as those living in flats, younger people and those within the lower classifications of the index of multiple

deprivation (i.e the more deprived). Given this profile of addresses to visit, ONS has a higher demand for interviewer resource in certain geographic areas and is struggling to recruit requisite interviewer resources into these areas through its current civil service recruitment process.

ONS Social Surveys Operations is responsible for collecting the data for the social and economic surveys commissioned by government departments and other public bodies. It acts as a bridge between the Government and the people, providing information and making it possible for policy makers to keep in touch with the circumstances and opinions of the general public and to plan for future public services to meet the needs of the population.

ONS is seeking to increase the extension available with Randstad Solutions Limited to 5 months, increasing the contract value by £300k. This is due to the numbers of additional staff being increased due to the continuation of the Labour force survey (LFS). Randstad recruited field staff meet all essential criteria to fulfil the role and had the necessary training needed to continue to carry out the work.

ONS may extend the contract by up to 5 months.

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

5 January 2024

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

Randstad Solutions Limited

450 Capability Green

Luton

LU1 3LU

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

02389033

Internet address

www.randstad.co.uk

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £970,000

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £970,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of England and Wales

Royal Courts of Justice, Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477882

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

www.justice.gov.uk