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Planning

National Professional Qualification for Special Education Needs Coordinators

Department for Education

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-025144

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03f726

Published 25 August 2023, 2:55pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Email

Ash.SOMERVILLE@education.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3700002288

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://education.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

National Professional Qualification for Special Education Needs Coordinators

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to notify potential suppliers of the forthcoming procurement activity relating to the National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and to publicise that the Department has published the new content framework here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-frameworks-from-september-2021>.

The Department for Education (Department) has previously engaged with stakeholders relating to the commercial routes for delivering the new qualification and can now confirm that it intends to conduct three separate procurement processes to source suppliers to provide the new NPQ.

In addition to undertaking call off processes from existing framework agreements, the Department intends to procure a new framework agreement with any parties that can demonstrate their ability to deliver the NPQ for SENCOs.

Background

Delivering on the commitments set out in the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy (which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-recruitment-and-retention-strategy>), the Department has developed a suite of specialist and leadership NPQs to complete the golden thread of support, training and development available through a teacher's entire career.

In the SEND and AP Improvement Plan, published in March 2023, the Department announced the decision to replace the current National Award for SEN Co-ordination

(NASENCO) with a new leadership level NPQ for SENCOs as the mandatory qualification for SENCOs. First teaching of the NPQ will begin in Autumn 2024.

The new qualification has been designed to:

- Improve SENCOs' leadership expertise, making them well-placed to be part of schools' senior leadership teams (as per expectations set out in the SEND Code of Practice) and inform the strategic direction of a setting.
- Ensure the mandatory SENCO qualification is based on the latest and best available evidence and provides SENCOs with the knowledge and practical skills they need to fulfil their role.
- Align SENCO training with reforms to teacher development, supporting SENCO status and career progression.

The new content framework for the NPQ for SENCOs is now available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-professional-qualifications-frameworks-from-september-2021>.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £15,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80300000 - Higher education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

England

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Department intends to conduct three separate procurement processes, two of which will only be available to suppliers appointed to the NIoT and lead provider framework agreements.

In addition, the Department is conducting an open procedure to source additional suppliers that, subject to the terms of the procurement, will be appointed to a new framework agreement to design and deliver the NPQ for SENCOs. The procurement process will be conducted via the Department's eTendering portal, Jaggear. Any potential supplier interested in expressing interest in the open opportunity is required to register here: <https://education.app.jaggear.com/web/login.html>.

Once registered, potential suppliers will be able to express interest in the opportunity and download further information on the open procurement process and what is required of providers who deliver NPQs. The opportunity title is Market engagement for the delivery of National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO).

Organisations interested in becoming delivery partners (sub-contractors) are encouraged to register their interest and read the further information. Delivery partners will not be required to submit a tender.

The intention is to launch the three procurement processes on 8th September 2023. Subject to doing so, the Department will host supplier engagement sessions focussing on the key points of the procurement process. Only those who have registered their interest will be invited to the sessions.

II.2.14) Additional information

Please note that this PIN is not a call for competition and the Department is not bound to enter into any procurement activity or award contracts because of it.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

8 September 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

