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Pipeline

Specialist Quality Mark Auditing Services Agreement

Legal Aid Agency

UK1: Pipeline notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-027139

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05251a

Published 23 May 2025, 6:22pm

Scope

Reference

SQM

Description

The Legal Aid Agency ("LAA") is inviting Applicants to tender for a concession contract ("Contract") to administer the LAA's Specialist Quality Mark ("SQM"), from 1 October 2027. The SQM is the LAA's organisational quality standard designed to ensure that Legal Services Providers are well run and provide good client care. The SQM gives assurance regarding the quality of advice in several ways which, whilst not direct measures of quality, are fundamental to reliable delivery of a quality service and therefore are fundamentally important to the delivery of legal aid services. Compliance with the SQM, or equivalent standard (e.g. Lexcel), is a requirement for Legal Services Providers that have, or are seeking to have, a contract with the LAA for the provision of legal advice funded through legal aid.

The LAA intends to enter into contract with one (1) organisation to administer the LAA's SQM under a licence. On the LAA's behalf, the Licensee will provide the SQM Services, which

include auditing and assessing Legal Services Providers that apply for SQM accreditation. This is an opportunity to administer the SQM on the LAA's behalf directly to the legal services market. There may also be opportunities for the Licensee to grow market share through delivering excellent value for money to Legal Services Providers, effective marketing or further

developing the reputation of the SQM. The Licensee will be paid for the Services they provide directly by the Legal Services Providers in line with the maximum prices submitted in this concession contract award procedure (referred to hereafter as "this procurement process"). For the avoidance of doubt, the Licensee will not be entitled to any payment from the LAA under any circumstances.

Total value (estimated)

- £2,375,000 excluding VAT
- £2,850,000 including VAT

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2027 to 30 September 2031
- 4 years

Main category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

31 August 2026

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Above or below total value threshold

Above or equal to threshold

Contracting authority

Legal Aid Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNZC-2236-JJJZ

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Contact name: Andrew Hubbard

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Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/legal-aid-agency>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government