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Planning

Preliminary market engagement notice - National Centre for Arts and Music Education

Department for Education

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-028271

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-052863

Published 28 May 2025, 5:19pm

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Scope

Reference

ssq_587 - Market Engagement - National Centre for Arts and Music Education

Description

On 18 March, the Secretary of State for Education announced* that young people across the country will have greater access to high-quality arts education and wider creative opportunities as part of the wider mission to break down barriers and ensure every child can achieve and thrive.

This will be achieved through the development of a new National Centre for Arts and Music

Education that will support the delivery of high-quality arts education in subjects such as art and design, dance, drama and music. It will do this through: a new online training offer for teachers, promoting opportunities for children and young people to pursue their artistic and creative interests in school; and by boosting partnerships between schools and cultural providers. The National Centre will also become national deliver partner for the existing Music Hubs programme.

The National Centre for Arts and Music Education is expected to be established in September 2026, with a delivery lead appointed through an open procurement. The Department will be seeking organisations with the capacity and experience to implement and start delivering quickly on this programme.

The purpose of this engagement notice is to notify organisations of the Department's intention to establish the National Centre and to enable interested parties, including prospective bidders, to sign up for one of three 60-minute online information events as follows:

- Thursday 19 June 2025 at 1pm
- Monday 23 June 2025 at 10.30am
- Tuesday 1 July 2025 at 2pm

Information regarding these sessions will be available to those who register their interest on our e-tendering portal Jaggaer, <https://education.app.jaggaer.com> under ref. ssq_587 - Market Engagement - National Centre for Arts and Music Education.

It is also mandatory for any interested suppliers to register on the new CENTRAL DIGITAL PLATFORM which is part of the enhanced Find a Tender Service.

This procurement will be progressed using the Open procedure under the Procurement Act 2023.

This is a zero-value notice for early market engagement and is not a call for competition. The Department for Education reserves the right not to enter a formal procurement process and not proceed with contract award.

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-to-benefit-from-creative-education-boost>

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2029
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 August 2025

Engagement process description

The information events will provide an opportunity for interested parties to receive further information on the Department's plans for The National Centre for Arts and Music Education and what we expect from prospective suppliers.

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This engagement will be followed by an invitation to express an interest in bidding for the contract.

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Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

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Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government