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Contract

ID 4789374 DoF - DSO Legal Services Framework

Departmental Solicitor's Office

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-030665

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-044aef

Published 25 September 2024, 4:22pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Departmental Solicitor's Office

Lanyon Plaza, Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3LP

Contact

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

ID 4789374 DoF - DSO Legal Services Framework

Reference number

4789374

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79100000 - Legal services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,333,333

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Inquiries Law

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79112100 - Stakeholders representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services
- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client

Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The figure indicated in Section II 1.7 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the. potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services. as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor. the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to. accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third. party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless. of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the. Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise and an Economic Operator shall. have no legitimate expectation. that a contract will be entered into until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the. Contracting Authority. Economic. Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified. in this notice and the. procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Corporate and Commercial Law

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79112100 - Stakeholders representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services
- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

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The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

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II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Law relating to Property matters

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79112100 - Stakeholders representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services

- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The figure indicated in Section II 1.7 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the. potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services. as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor. the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to. accept the lowest or

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II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Law relating to DAERA matters

Lot No

4

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79112100 - Stakeholders representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services
- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within

Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The figure indicated in Section II 1.7 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the. potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services. as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor. the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to. accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third. party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless. of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the. Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise and an Economic Operator shall. have no legitimate expectation. that a contract will be entered into until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the. Contracting Authority. Economic. Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified. in this notice and the. procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Law relating to DfC matters

Lot No

5

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79110000 - Legal advisory and representation services
- 79111000 - Legal advisory services
- 79112000 - Legal representation services
- 79112100 - Stakeholders representation services
- 79140000 - Legal advisory and information services
- 75231100 - Law-courts-related administrative services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Departmental Solicitors Office (DSO) intends to establish a Framework Agreement for the provision of specified legal services within Northern Ireland, on behalf their clients, the NICS Department and Agencies. The list of participating bodies can be found within Annex A of the Framework Agreement Specification. DSO are the in-house legal provision for the NICS Departments and Agencies. This framework will act as an overflow to the services provided by DSO. DSO and the Client is not obliged to procure services exclusively from this Framework Agreement and are free to either use their own in-house service provision, or to procure services outside this Framework Agreement. The Framework will be used on occasions where DSO is unable to provide the client Departments and Agencies with the legal support required within the client Departments' required timescales or, for specific project work that DSO cannot facilitate within its existing resource. On such occasions this Legal Services Framework will supplement the legal services supplied by DSO. The Framework Agreement will contain five (5) Lots for the provision of legal services as described in the Framework Agreement Specification. The three highest ranked tenderers for each of the 5 Lots will be awarded a place on the

Framework Agreement (in the event there is an insufficient number of tenderers which satisfy the qualification criteria and pass the Assessment Criteria for each Lot, a Lot may be established with this lower number of tenderers). Tenderers can tender for one, multiple, or all Lots. There is no restriction on the number of lots a tenderer may be appointed to; however a tenderer must have the capability and capacity to deliver all lots tendered for.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The figure indicated in Section II 1.7 represents an estimated contract value. This value reflects the potential scale of the contract and takes into account potential optional extension periods and the uptake of potential optional services, as detailed in the tender documents. This figure does not however take into account the application of indexation. Neither CPD nor the Authority can provide any guarantee as to the level of business under this contract. The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Economic Operators remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Economic Operator in connection with taking part in this procurement process regardless of whether such costs arise as a consequence, directly or indirectly of any amendments made to the procurement documents by the Contracting Authority at any time. No legally binding contract shall arise and an Economic Operator shall have no legitimate expectation that a contract will be entered into until such time as entry into the Contract has been confirmed by the Contracting Authority. Economic Operators should note that all dates, time periods and figures in relation to values and volumes specified in this notice and the procurement documents are approximate only and the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change any or all of them

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Form of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-009078](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

1

Lot No

1

Title

Inquiries Law

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 7

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

CLEAVER FULTON RANKIN LTD

50 Bedford St

BELFAST

BT2 7FW

Email

j.robinson@cfrlaw.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Carson McDowell LLP

Murray House

BELFAST

BT1 6DN

Email

tenders@carson-mcdowell.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Tughans

Marlborough House

BELFAST

BT1 3GG

Email

caterina.gunn@tughans.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1

Total value of the contract/lot: £1

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

2

Lot No

2

Title

Corporate and Commercial Law

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 7

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

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50 Bedford St

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Email

j.robinson@cfrlaw.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ARTHUR COX

Victoria House

BELFAST

BT1 4LS

Email

tenders.belfast@arthurcox.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Carson McDowell LLP

Murray House

BELFAST

BT1 6DN

Email

tenders@carson-mcdowell.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1

Total value of the contract/lot: £1

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

3

Lot No

3

Title

Law relating to Property matters

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 7

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

CLEAVER FULTON RANKIN LTD

50 Bedford St

BELFAST

BT2 7FW

Email

j.robinson@cfrlaw.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Carson McDowell LLP

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BELFAST

BT1 6DN

Email

tenders@carson-mcdowell.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ARTHUR COX

Victoria House

BELFAST

BT1 4LS

Email

tenders.belfast@arthurcox.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1

Total value of the contract/lot: £1

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be subcontracted

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

4

Lot No

4

Title

Law relating to DAERA matters

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 3

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 3

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 7

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

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50 Bedford St

BELFAST

BT2 7FW

Email

j.robinson@cfrlaw.co.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

TLT N.I. LLP

Riverhouse 48-60 High Street

BELFAST

BT1 2BE

Email

tenders@tltsolicitors.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ARTHUR COX

Victoria House

BELFAST

BT1 4LS

Email

tenders.belfast@arthurcox.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1

Total value of the contract/lot: £1

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

5

Lot No

5

Title

Law relating to DfC matters

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

10 September 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 7

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

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The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1

Total value of the contract/lot: £1

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The successful contractor's performance on the contract will be regularly monitored in line with the tender documentation. Contractors... not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor... fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still... fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If... this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of... grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance and the contract may be terminated.... The issue of a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance can result in the Contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions... being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland Procurement Policy for a... period of three years from the date of issue.. . The Authority expressly reserves the rights:. . (I). not to award any contract as a result of.. the. procurement process commenced by publication of this notice;. (II). to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and.. structure. of the tendering Competition;. (III). to award (a) contract(s) in respect of any part(s) of the [services] covered by this notice; and... (IV). to. award contract(s) in stages.. . and in no circumstances will the Authority be liable for any costs incurred by candidates

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015 (as amended).

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom