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Award

DAC 153/22 ID 4622630 - TEO Homes for Ukraine Scheme - Monthly thank you payments

Department of Finance

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-035867

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03927c

Published 19 December 2022, 3:25pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Finance

303 Airport Road West

BELFAST

BT3 9ED

Email

ssd.admin@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

DAC 153/22 ID 4622630 - TEO Homes for Ukraine Scheme - Monthly thank you payments

Reference number

DAC 153/22

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The contract is for the implementation of optional monthly payment to sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in Northern Ireland. On a weekly basis, the Department will provide Bryson Care with a data set of sponsors who have successfully completed all of the necessary safeguarding and accommodation checks and are now eligible for payment – subject to satisfactory completion of a standard declaration. Bryson Care will verify

identity and collect relevant information required to calculate the payment amount and make the payment. Payment runs will be made on a weekly basis.

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: £198,436.40

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 66100000 - Banking and investment services
- 66172000 - Financial transaction processing and clearing-house services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

On 18th March 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) launched the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) Scheme, allowing visa applications from Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named person willing to sponsor^[1] them in the UK. Northern Ireland is participating in the HFU Scheme, with c.2,000 arrivals from Ukraine to end-December 2022.

In recognition of sponsor's generosity and knowing there will be costs associated, the UK Government offers an optional 'thank you' payment per month to sponsors under the HFU Scheme. The Executive Office (TEO) is the NICS Department with lead responsibility for implementation of the optional monthly payment to sponsors. The contract is for the implementation of the optional monthly payment to sponsors. It is expected there will be approximately 3,000 Ukrainian arrivals into Northern Ireland under the HFU Scheme. As noted above, there are c.2,000 here now with sponsors, with approximately 600 second home visits undertaken, 500 of whom are, or soon will be, in receipt of monthly payments.

On receipt of a data set from the Department, Bryson Care will contact sponsors to:

- (i) verify identity;

(ii) check whether they wish to apply for the optional monthly payment;

(iii) confirm eligibility; and

(iv) collect the information required to arrange payment:

a. guest(s) arrival date in the home;

b. any subsequent departure date;

c. confirmation of contact details for both host and guest; and

d. any other relevant information

Bryson Care will subsequently contact those sponsors who have opted to receive payment, on a monthly basis, to check continuing eligibility and reaffirm bank account details.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons
- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

The value of this Direct Award Contract (DAC) is above the UK threshold and therefore the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) apply. There are a number of derogations under the regulations to award a contract to a single supplier where the supplies or services can only be supplied by a particular supplier. In this case, where competition is absent for technical reasons (regulation 32(2)(b)(ii); and in cases of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseen or attributable to the contracting authority, where the time limits for the open, restricted or competitive procedures with negotiation cannot be complied with (regulation 32(2)(c)).

On the basis of the information presented, it may be possible to rely on the above derogations for the reasons outlined in section 4. In applying the regulation 32 derogation, it is recommended that the Department publishes a voluntary transparency notice in Find a Tender Service (FTS). This notice (which should be managed through CPD) must be published 10 days before the contract award date.

(a) Competition is absent for technical reasons - Bryson have a satisfactory track record in this area, with an established structure, processes and systems to deliver our requirements, as proven within the last 6 months of delivering the current DAC. Any new provider would likely need to develop similar structures and processes before being fully operational. This is both time consuming and open to risk - if payments to hosts are disrupted in any way there is a potential risk for hosts to end agreements, placing Ukrainian guests at the risk of homelessness and with increased costs to the public purse.

(b) Urgent need – CPD advised urgent need should be demonstrated due to ‘unforeseen’ circumstances. In this case, an urgent need has arisen as the Department had been working on advice that the current contract could be extended beyond December 2022 to March 2023. It was anticipated that during this 3-month period a more robust procurement exercise would be undertaken to secure a long-term option. As this initial assumption was shown to be incorrect, there now stands an urgent need for an alternative to be in place beyond December 2022 as any period without £350 payments being made could cause irreparable damage to the Department and public confidence in the HFU Scheme. As above, this presents a considerable risk to Ukrainian guests becoming homeless and with implications for expenditure to the public purse.

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

19 December 2022

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

Bryson Care

Belfast

Email

info@brysongroup.org

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKM - Scotland

Internet address

<https://www.brysoncare.org/>

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: £198,436.40

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £198,436.40

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. 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.

belfast

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

The Public Contract Regulations 2015 provide for aggrieved parties who have... been harmed or are at risk of harm by a breach of the rules to take action in the High Court (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). The authority incorporates a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) before this contract is awarded..