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Tender

DFE - FE Colleges -The Provision of Internal Audit Services for the FE Colleges in NI

South Eastern Regional College

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-037146

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055861 ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 July 2025, 2:31pm

Scope

Reference

ID 5934601

Description

South Eastern Regional College (SERC) on behalf of the six Regional Colleges in Northern Ireland ("NI Colleges") wishes to appoint a single Supplier for the provision of Internal Audit Services.

In accordance with the Partnership Agreements between the Colleges and the Department of Finance's (DoF) Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Handbook (NI), all Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland are required to have an internal audit service. The prime responsibility of the internal audit service is to provide the Governing Bodies, Accounting Officers and College management with assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control system of each College.

Each College is required to ensure that it has sound systems of financial and other management controls. The principal objective of the internal audit service should be to

review, appraise and report on the adequacy, reliability and effectiveness of the systems and controls established by management to ensure

- the financial business of the College must be conducted in accordance with the arrangements and conditions set out in the Financial Memorandum;
- every effort must be made to ensure that the College operates within its available funding;
- due attention must be paid to the efficient and effective management of all the College's resources and expenditure, capital assets, equipment and staff so that public funds are not put at risk and that value for money and other financial considerations are taken into account in reaching decisions and in their execution;
- the College must comply with such other relevant guidance/instructions on financial control as are issued by the Department from time to time; and
- the College should formulate and implement a policy to ensure that its accounting and other procedures contain all reasonable safeguards against fraud and theft.

Suppliers should refer to the Specification Schedule within eTendersNI for full detail on the deliverables of this contract.

Total value (estimated)

- £525,000 excluding VAT
- £630,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2028
- Possible extension to 31 August 2030
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

There is the option to extend for a further two periods of up to twelve months each.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security
- 79200000 - Accounting, auditing and fiscal services
- 79210000 - Accounting and auditing services
- 79212000 - Auditing services
- 79212200 - Internal audit services

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

As per the tender documents.

Technical ability conditions of participation

As per the tender documents.

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

1 August 2025, 3:00pm

Tender submission deadline

11 August 2025, 3:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Tenders must be submitted electronically via the relevant Call for Tender (CfT) opportunity on eTendersNI, website details immediately below.

Paper submissions will not be accepted or considered and will be rejected by the Contracting Authority / Buyer.

The tender documents are available with unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: URL <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

1 September 2025

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 27 May 2030

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Qualitative Criteria	AC1 - Experience of Audit Team AC2 - Methodology – Audit Delivery AC3 - Methodology – Audit Strategy Plan AC4 - Contract Management/ Continuous Improvement AC5 - Social Value The Contracting Authority may during the process refine an award criterion in line with section 24 of the PA 2023. Where this is the case revised tender documentation will be provided to all suppliers clearly indicating any refinements made.	Quality	70%
Quantitative Criteria	AC6 - Total Contract Price	Price	30%

Other information

Payment terms

Contract Value

The estimated value figure indicated in the Scope Section represents an overall 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 or increases to charges due to increases in the Real Living Wage. Neither CPD nor the contracting 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. Suppliers remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them or by any third party acting under instructions from the Supplier 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 a Supplier 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.

Description of risks to contract performance

Exclusions

If at any time during the procurement, or post award, it comes to the attention of the Contracting Authority (CA) or CPD, by whatever means, that a Supplier has become 'excluded' or 'excludable' as per Sec 57 of the PA 2023, the CA, after compliance with its obligations under the PA 23, reserves the right to exclude said Supplier from the procurement procedure or terminate any contract they have been awarded.

The Contracting 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.

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

South Eastern Regional College

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYHR-1413-WQYX

Victoria Avenue

Newtownards

BT23 7EH

United Kingdom

Email: SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.serc.ac.uk/>

Region: UKN09 - Ards and North Down

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

CPD - Supplies & Services Division

Summary of their role in this procurement: Construction and Procurement Delivery - Supplies and Services Division, is a Centre of Procurement Expertise and provides a central procurement function for central government in Northern Ireland.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVWG-8426-YWXV

303 Airport Road West

Belfast

BT3 9ED

United Kingdom

Email: SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/procurement>

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Contact organisation

Contact [CPD - Supplies & Services Division](#) for any enquiries.