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Contract

Prison Education Service Core Education Lot 2

Ministry of Justice

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-044019

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0324fd

Published 29 July 2025, 5:15pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Email

Commercial-prisoneducationservice@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 02033343555

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.justice.gov.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Prison Education Service Core Education Lot 2

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 75231200 - Services related to the detention or rehabilitation of criminals

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This notice is for the award of Lot 2: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Group and Hertfordshire, Essex and Suffolk Group Prisons

The Prisoner Education Services (PES) is a UK government initiative with three overarching strategic priorities; improving prisoner numeracy and literacy skills, incentivizing prisoners to improve their qualifications and skills to increase their prospects of finding work on release, and ensuring that Governors and their teams have the knowledge, tools, support and accountabilities that they need to make this work. PES seeks to transform learning in jails as part of a renewed push to skill up offenders and protect the public.

PES Core Education will include teaching and delivery of a two-layered curriculum for independence and for opportunity which meets the needs of prisoners, as well as high quality, timely screening and assessment delivery and tailored and impactful additional learning needs support.

The Ministry of Justice launched the PES Panel to reform how education is delivered across the adult prison estate in England. The first call-offs under this framework focused on Core Education Services, including teaching and delivery of a two-layered curriculum for independence (essential subjects such as English, Maths, digital skills) and curriculum for opportunity, which meets the needs of prisoners.

The Core Education contracts also include high quality, timely screening and assessment delivery; tailored and impactful additional learning needs support; and (where applicable) prison library services. The contracts are split into 11 regional lots and aim to provide a consistent, high-quality education offer that supports rehabilitation, reduces reoffending,

and improves employability and resettlement outcomes for prisoners.

The procurement was conducted under the Open Procedure in accordance with the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

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: £97,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75231200 - Services related to the detention or rehabilitation of criminals

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Ministry of Justice launched the PES Panel to reform how education is delivered across the adult prison estate in England. The first call-offs under this framework focused on Core Education Services, including teaching and delivery of a two-layered curriculum for independence (essential subjects such as English, maths, digital skills) and for opportunity which meets the needs of prisoners. The Core Education contracts also include high quality, timely screening and assessment delivery, tailored and impactful additional learning needs support, and (where applicable) prison library services. The contracts are split into 11 regional lots and aim to provide a consistent, high-quality education offer that supports rehabilitation, reduces reoffending, and improves employability and resettlement outcomes for prisoners.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Engagement / Weighting: 5%

Quality criterion - Name: Assessing Prisoner Needs / Weighting: 5%

Quality criterion - Name: Curriculum for Independence / Weighting: 10%

Quality criterion - Name: Curriculum for Opportunity / Weighting: 10%

Quality criterion - Name: Library Service / Weighting: 5%

Quality criterion - Name: Workforce - Recruitment, Retention & Quality / Weighting: 10%

Quality criterion - Name: Workforce - Headcount & Structures / Weighting: 10%

Quality criterion - Name: Supporting Additional Learning Needs / Weighting: 5%

Quality criterion - Name: Digital eLearning Content / Weighting: 5%

Quality criterion - Name: Collaborative Working Local/Regional / Weighting: 5%

Cost criterion - Name: Tackling Economic Inequality / Weighting: 5%

Cost criterion - Name: Wellbeing / Weighting: 5%

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

Competitive procedure with negotiation

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2023/S 000-027125](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

2

Title

Prison Education Service Core Education Lot 2

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

13 November 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

PeoplePlus Group Ltd

The Quorum, Bond Street South

Bristol

BS1 3AE

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £97,000,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Linked to the following Contracts Finder notice with redacted contract:

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk/go/22569495019856EC0338>

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom