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Award

Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance & Vertebrate Ecotoxicology

NATURAL ENGLAND

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-045709

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058074 ([view related notices](#))

Published 4 August 2025, 3:13pm

Scope

Reference

C29828

Description

There are two programmes covered by this MoA between Natural England and the Institute of Zoology – Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance and Vertebrate Ecotoxicology. Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance Since 1999, Natural England's Species Recovery Programme (SRP) has funded a number of conservation translocations and re-introductions. The Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) have undertaken the necessary disease risk analyses and health surveillance for these projects including the monitoring of animal health before, during and after release. This project will enable the appropriate disease risk analysis to be undertaken for animals that are to be released in this financial year and the continued monitoring of those animals that have been released, where appropriate. This is necessary whether the origin of these species are ex-situ populations destined for reintroductions, reintroduced populations or wild populations. It will ensure that Natural England continues to follow high standards when undertaking conservation translocations including meeting our obligations under the

internationally agreed IUCN guidelines for re-introductions and the DEFRA code for reintroductions and other conservation translocations in England. Vertebrate Ecotoxicology – Beavers and Red Kites There are large gaps in our understanding on the exposure and effects of terrestrial species to chemicals of concern (e.g. pesticides, biocides, heavy metals, and persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals). This project is in two parts to further our understanding of these chemicals in wildlife: one concerning the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) and the other the red kite (*Milvus milvus*).

Contract 1. MoA - Disease Risk Analysis & Health Surveillance for the Species Recovery Prog

Supplier

- [Institute of Zoology](#)

Contract value

- £232,890 excluding VAT
- £232,890 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 August 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 18 August 2025 to 31 March 2026
- Possible extension to 31 March 2027
- 1 year, 7 months, 14 days

Description of possible extension:

None enacted so far. Date 31/03/2027 would be first date likely to be agreed.

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

By the written agreement of the Parties.

CPV classifications

- 77400000 - Zoological services

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Supplier failure (remote risk)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance This is a partnership project between Natural England and Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, the purpose of which is to utilise the expertise and experience of the two organisations to ensure that species recovery work is carried out to a high standard. This involves assessing the threats from disease and providing protocols and management approaches that minimise the risks in order to ensure that projects have a high chance of success and do not endanger other species through the spread of disease. The work is based around an agreed annual programme, with areas of work mutually agreed between the two partners.

Vertebrate Ecotoxicology – Beaver and Red Kites Beaver ecotoxicology A disease surveillance programme for Eurasian beavers in England is being undertaken by the Disease Risk Analysis and Health Surveillance (DRAHS) team, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), in partnership with Natural England. As part of this programme, detailed post-mortem examinations are performed on free-living beavers found dead in England. This work has provided the opportunity to begin building an archive of morphological measurements and tissues which could, in future, aid in investigations of both the levels and adverse effects of contaminants of existing and emerging concern in beavers.

Red kite ecotoxicology An ongoing translocation project coordinated by ZSL has provided a valuable opportunity to collect such data from red kites (*Milvus milvus*), which are also currently included as a sentinel species for the Environmental Improvement Plan H4 indicator: exposure and adverse effects of chemicals on wildlife in the environment.

Supplier

Institute of Zoology

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLMW-5186-XMWR

Outer Circle, Regent's Park

London

NW1 4RY

United Kingdom

Email: cheryl.buffonge@ioz.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/institute-of-zoology>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. MoA - Disease Risk Analysis & Health Surveillance for the Species Recovery Prog

Contracting authority

NATURAL ENGLAND

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJDG-6588-XDMM

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Alan Green

Telephone: 02080261641

Email: alan.green@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Other organisation

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Procurement management on behalf of Customer, Natural England.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

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SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Alan Green

Telephone: 02080261641

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Contact organisation

Contact [NATURAL ENGLAND](#) for any enquiries.