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Planning

LAA Peer Review Independent Expert Panel

Ministry of Justice

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-048162

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05867b

Published 12 August 2025, 4:22pm

Scope

Reference

Prj_15068

Description

The Authority is preparing to launch a tender for the provision of Peer Review Independent Experts to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA). This notice is being published for the purpose of initiating engagement with the market to share the Authority's requirements, gauge market interest and to seek feedback on the Authority's approach.

This is a Preliminary Market Engagement (PMEN) notice. It is not a formal invitation to tender. You will need to respond to the tender notice when published in order to be considered for the forthcoming Contract. The purpose of this notice is to maximise transparency and competition for the upcoming tender notice.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) is looking to procure a panel of Independent Experts to advise and oversee the LAA Peer Review Scheme. The Authority intends to enter into three individual contracts. This initiative is not about recruiting additional Peer Reviewers.

It is focused on appointing Independent Experts to support and oversee the Peer Review Scheme.

The work expected under each contract is an average of 10 hours per month, however flexibility will be required from contract holders as work many fluctuate during the year, and some periods may be busier than others.

The Peer Review scheme is the LAA's primary method for assessing the quality of legal advice provided by legal aid providers. Under this scheme, experienced legal practitioners review a sample of case files to determine whether the advice given meets professional standards. The scheme plays a critical role in maintaining public confidence in the legal aid system and ensuring value for money.

The Independent Experts are central to the integrity of the Peer Review process. Their responsibilities will include moderating the consistency of ratings, training and supporting Peer Reviewers, and providing guidance on disputes between Peer Reviewers. Their oversight ensures that Peer Review ratings are fair, proportionate, and consistent across the legal aid provider base.

The Panel will be appointed to undertake the following duties:

- Training of new Peer Reviewers and delivery of annual consistency training to existing Peer Reviewers.
- Dealing with Peer Review Validations to ensure quality and consistency within the Peer Review reports and ratings.
- Assist with disputes between Peer Reviewers – the Independent Expert must guide and make suggestions so the Peer Reviewers can reach an appropriate conclusion.
- Validate representations against Peer Review ratings.
- Quality Management of Peer Reviewers and Peer Review system – The Independent Expert is responsible for moderating the consistency and training of Peer Reviewers.
- Maintaining the independence of the scheme – The legal profession respects the Peer Review Process due to its independence from the LAA. Whilst the LAA contract with the Peer Reviewers, the methodology and running of the scheme is independent.
- Collaborating with the LAA on Peer Review in new categories of law - There are two different sets of Peer Review Criteria: Civil and Crime. The categories of law that are Peer Reviewed currently: Crime, Family, Housing, Immigration & Asylum and Mental Health. The LAA may wish to introduce Peer Review in other categories of law in the future.

- Process Development: We may also require the contractor to assist with the development and improvement of the Peer Review Scheme. It is likely that the LAA will need to commission new Peer Reviewers during the contract terms, which will require input from the contractor.
- The Panel must adhere to all applicable UK laws and regulation. For example, but not limited to, FCA, Security and GDPR. On registration for market engagement, the Authority will share a draft Specification with interested bidders or panel members.

The Service Provider must:

- have a law degree or equivalent and have at least 4 years Post

Qualification professional work experience in the legal sector.

- have a relevant qualification in quality management and/or have at a minimum of 4 years practical experience of applying this in a professional setting.

Maintaining the integrity of the Peer Review Process is key for the Panel and at the time of award, Panel Members must be independent of the LAA. The LAA welcomes interest from all suitable and prospective Panel members.

The Authority intends to conduct an Open competition under the light-touch regime under the Procurement Act 2023, although this might be subject to change.

Total value (estimated)

- £270,000 excluding VAT
- £324,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 4 March 2026 to 4 March 2031

- 5 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

2 September 2025

Engagement process description

MoJ Commercial is facilitating this procurement on behalf of the Legal Aid Agency (LAA).

Market Engagement will be taking place on the dates below and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Market Engagement Presentation from the LAA and MoJ Commercial will be held on:

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 11.30am - 12:30pm

Thursday 4th September 2025 5pm - 6pm

Please register your interest by contacting Commercial_PublicBodies_Business_Partnering@justice.gov.uk with subject line prj_15068 LAA Peer Review Independent Expert Panel. Please include the following detail in your message;

- Full name(s)
- Company/organisation name (if applicable)
- Contact details (E-mail and phone number)
- Selection of date/time of market engagement event

A link to the event and a draft specification will be sent upon receipt of the information above. Following the market engagement event, MoJ will issue a short questionnaire to responding individuals or prospective Panel Members in order to gather market feedback on the requirement and to inform future strategy for the procurement.

This notice is for Information only and the Authority reserves the right to not proceed to tender. Additionally, the Authority (MoJ) reserves the right to discontinue the tendering process and not to award the contract.

The information contained in this notice, including information relating to the nature and scope of the requirements, the estimated value, the service classification of this requirement or the list of CPV codes, is only indicative of current thinking and is neither exhaustive nor binding and the Authority reserves the right at its absolute discretion to amend it at the time of issue of any further notices or at any other time. The publication of this notice in no way obliges the Authority to commence any competitive tender process. The Authority is not / shall not be liable for any costs incurred by those expressing an interest in participating in this market engagement exercise. Any contracts are subject to the relevant legal and Cabinet Office controls and policies. The

Authority reserves the right to source items included through other means (e.g. an existing contract or framework).

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

14 November 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Ministry of Justice

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDNN-2773-HVYN

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Contact name: MoJ Public Bodies Business Partnering Team

Email: Commercial_PublicBodies_Business_Partnering@justice.gov.uk

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/procurement>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government