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Contract

Level 7 Qualification Bursaries 2025

Department for Education

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-051868

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05669e ([view related notices](#))

Published 28 August 2025, 11:31am

Scope

Reference

Project_10041

Description

This procurement proposal seeks to continue funding the CIPFA Level 7 Diploma, developed in partnership with the Institute of School Business Leadership (ISBL), aimed at supporting School Business Professionals (SBPs) through targeted bursaries. For the 2025/26 period, the number of bursaries will increase from 58 to 72, covering 75% of the course costs. This expansion responds to strong demand-evidenced by 105 expressions of interest-and consistently positive participant feedback. The bursaries are specifically directed at SBPs working in schools with budget deficits or limited CPD (Continuing Professional Development) resources, across all educational sectors.

Contract 1. Level 7 Qualification Bursaries 2025

Supplier

- ISBL Trading Ltd

Contract value

- £164,700 excluding VAT
- £204,120 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

28 August 2025

Contract dates

- 1 September 2025 to 25 April 2027
- Possible extension to 25 April 2028
- 2 years, 7 months, 25 days

Description of possible extension:

The Buyer may extend the Contract for a period of up to 12 Months by giving not less than 30 Working Days' notice in writing to the Supplier prior to the Expiry Date. The Conditions of the Contract shall apply throughout any such extended period

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80500000 - Training services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Key performance indicators

Name	Reporting frequency
% of bursary recipients from LA maintained schools to support system levelling-up (Target: 10%)	3 months
% of participants reporting increased confidence in financial and operational leadership after completing training (Target: 80%)	3 months
% reduction in dropout rates due to flexible enrolment (Target: 10%)	3 months

Other information**Conflicts assessment prepared/revised**

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Justification for using a direct award under PA 2023:?

What is the legal framework that governs direct award?

3. competitive tendering procedure is the default for most public procurements. A contracting authority may only directly award a public contract when section 41 (and one or more of the justifications in Schedule 5) A

Schedule 5: Direct award justifications-Single suppliers

25. The final justification is where, due to an absence of competition for technical reasons and provided there are no reasonable alternatives, only a particular supplier can supply the goods, services or works require.

Justification: ISBL in partnership with CIPFA are the only supplier to offer this qualification ?

Supplier

ISBL Trading Ltd

- Companies House: 03425492

Highdown House, 11 Highdown Road

Leamington Spa

CV31 1XT

United Kingdom

Telephone: 024 76 231 221

Email: bethan.cullen@isbl.org.uk

Website: <https://www.isbl.org.uk/>

Region: UKG13 - Warwickshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Department for Education

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDZG-3487-DPVD

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P3BT

United Kingdom

Email: core.procurement@education.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government