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Award

Provision of STI test Kits

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-055734

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05986a ([view related notices](#))

Published 11 September 2025, 11:27am

Scope

Description

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust has established a new model of care for Integrated Sexual Health Treatment & Prevention for the population of Birmingham & Solihull, which includes clinic and postal self-test STI screening kits and follow up Health Advisory support. The service, Umbrella, is a partnership, led by University Hospitals Birmingham, consisting of several community-based organisations, charities and health service providers, with the aim of improving sexual health and wellbeing of the people of Birmingham and Solihull locality.

STI Testing Umbrella offers:

- At Clinic testing:
 - o Sample is undertaken within the Clinic.
 - o Posted to UHB Labs where testing is undertaken.
 - o Results by phone or text.
 - o If positive results, follow up care and support provided.

- At Home testing:
 - o Criteria: Aged 16 or over and living in Birmingham or Solihull.
 - o Sample request is submitted and undertaken within home environment
 - o Posted to UHB Labs where testing is undertaken.
 - o Results by phone or text.
 - o If positive results, follow up care and support provided.

What they test for:

- Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, HIV and Syphilis.
 - For men who have (or have had) sex with other men, a test for hepatitis B is also included.
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Contract 1. Provision of STI Test Kits

Supplier

- Bluestep Solutions Limited

Contract value

- £485,520 excluding VAT
- £582,624 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2027
- 1 year, 6 months

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 22000000 - Printed matter and related products

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)

- UKK - South West (England)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Extreme and unavoidable urgency

The existing supplier, Blue Step Solutions Limited, has been directly awarded this contract as they are the only provider able to fully meet the requirements, as established through previous procurements. The original contract, awarded in 2021 via an open tender under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), expired on 31 May 2025 after a two-year term with the option to extend for a further two years.

Recent market testing with other STI kit providers confirmed that alternative suppliers are not viable. Competing providers were found to be at least 59% more expensive, with test prices ranging from £5 to £40 per kit, which presents a significant financial burden. In addition to the cost implications, these alternatives carry operational risks due to the niche and highly specialised nature of the service.

Given the limited competition in this market, the substantial cost differential, and the risk

to service continuity, a direct award to Blue Step Solutions Limited is the only option that ensures value for money and continuity of service provision.

Supplier

Bluestep Solutions Limited

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Northampton

NN7 3DB

United Kingdom

Email: Hannah.Mortimer@bluestepsolutions.com

Region: UKF24 - West Northamptonshire

Contract 1. Provision of STI Test Kits

Contracting authority

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

- NHS Organisation Data Service: RRK

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVL-6877-BXXV

Mindelsohn Way

Birmingham

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United Kingdom

Email: harvy.sanghera@uhb.nhs.uk

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - central government