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Planning

Forensic analysis of seized items in HMPPS settings

Ministry of Justice

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-055910

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fe70 ([view related notices](#))

Published 11 September 2025, 3:55pm

Scope

Reference

prj_14629

Description

This requirement is for forensic analysis for the presence of drugs, on items seized from HMPPS settings (including prisons and approved premises). At the time of publishing this Notice, it is anticipated the service requirement would be for approximately 108 Public Prisons and 105 Approved Premises across England & Wales, with a estimation of approximately 6000 total item submissions per annum. This is a guide only and is subject to change - no volumes will be guaranteed under the Contract.

Subject to final specification design, it is envisaged that the contract would provide laboratory-based analysis of seized substances (liquid or solid) to identify the presence of:

- Controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Substances under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
- Prescription and pharmacy medicines

The intention is that the provider will hold a library of drugs that they can detect, including the drugs outlined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 as well as other substances. Where the provider has a certified standard in their drugs

library, the identity of the substance can be confirmed and where possible advise on the nature of any other substance that could be identified through analysis.

The identification of substances will assist in tackling the conveyance and abuse of drugs inside prisons and approved premises and provide an evidential basis for adjudication proceedings.

Total value (estimated)

- £11,750,000 excluding VAT
- £14,100,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2030

- Possible extension to 31 March 2032
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 71900000 - Laboratory services
- 71620000 - Analysis services

Engagement

Engagement deadline

10 October 2025

Engagement process description

The Authority is keen to further engage with interested suppliers following the completion of a Market Engagement Questionnaire as part of a previous market engagement exercise undertaken in April 2025.

This engagement will take the form of a 1-1 Teams call where the Authority will ask further questions to support with the development of the procurement for this Service, building on responses received from those who completed the initial questionnaire. Questions will be provided to interested parties within a suitable timeframe prior to the call to aid in preparation for it.

Interested suppliers are requested to email MoJProcurement.Off@justice.gov.uk in the first instance to receive a list of available times/dates which will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Timeslots are currently available between 1st October and 6th October (inclusive) however, the Authority reserves the right to extend the deadline for engagement dependent on interest received and whether it deems that further market engagement is required.

This Market Engagement exercise does not commit the Authority to a formal procurement.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 January 2026

Contracting authority

Ministry of Justice

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDNN-2773-HVYN

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email: CommercialStandards@justice.gov.uk

Website:

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government