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Award

Screening and Assessment Lot 2 Reading Paper Tool Contingency

Ministry of Justice

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-059131

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05a0c0

Published 24 September 2025, 10:38am

Scope

Reference

prj_14329

Description

A paper based assessment tool for accurately measuring the decoding ability of prisoners, supporting targeted literacy interventions and contributing to educational planning and rehabilitation efforts.

Objectives:

- Provide a standardised and reliable measure of prisoners' decoding ability
- Enable prison staff and education teams to identify literacy needs quickly and effectively
- Support rehabilitation pathways and progression in English provision within prisons
- Produce consistent, comparable data that can be aggregated at establishment and

system level

Contract 1. PES Screening and Assessment - Lot 2 Reading Tool - Paper Based

Supplier

- Powell Phonics Ltd

Contract value

- £49,238 excluding VAT
- £59,086 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

30 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2027
- 2 years

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The provision of Training and Development activities is priced at a day rate. These are optional activities and will be commissioned on a project basis, no volumes for these activities are assured.

CPV classifications

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights
- User choice contract

Under the new Prison Education Services (PES), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is required to provide a digital platform for the Screening and Assessment (S&A) of prisoners in functional skills, reading, and additional learning needs. However, following two recent unsuccessful procurement exercises for the reading element, the Authority is currently unable to fulfil this obligation. As an interim measure, a paper-based solution will be implemented for reading-related screening and assessments.

The evaluation tool to be provided is via sites licensed on an individual site license basis based upon the number of prisoners having assessments undertaken within a set period.

The contracting authority (MoJ) is invoking the single-supplier direct award provisions under paragraphs 5 and 6 of Schedule 5 of the Procurement Act 2023:

- paragraph 5 (a) due to a particular supplier having intellectual property rights or other exclusive rights, only that supplier can supply the goods, services or works required, and
- (b) there are no reasonable alternatives to those goods, services or works

This justification also applies due to:

- The MoJ does not have any express rights to transfer or licence the intellectual property rights to any other supplier
- No reasonable alternatives

Supplier

Powell Phonics Ltd

2 Pavilion Court, 600 Pavilion Drive,

Northampton,

NN4 7SL

United Kingdom

Email: kirstypowell181@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.powellphonicschecker.com>

Region: UKF24 - West Northamptonshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. PES Screening and Assessment - Lot 2 Reading Tool - Paper Based

Contracting authority

Ministry of Justice

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDNN-2773-HVYN

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Contact name: Screening and Assessment Lot 2 Reading Paper Tool

Email: pes-screeningandassessment@justice.gov.uk

Website:

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government