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Award

## **Milk and Milk Products**

the Education Authority

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-059984

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-031073

Published 26 September 2025, 10:09am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

the Education Authority

40 Academy Street

Belfast

BT1 2NQ

#### **Email**

[catering.procure@eani.org.uk](mailto:catering.procure@eani.org.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

#### **Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

#### **I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

#### **I.5) Main activity**

Education

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Milk and Milk Products

Reference number

CAT-21-008

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 03333000 - Fresh cows' milk

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Supplies

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £11,476,000

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1- Armagh Area 1

Lot No

1

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2- Armagh Area 2

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 3- Ballymena Area 1

Lot No

3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 4- Ballymena Area 2

Lot No

4

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 5- Ballymena Area 3

Lot No

5

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 6- Ballymena Area 4

Lot No

6

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 7- Ballymena Area 5

Lot No

7

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 8- Ballymena Area 6

Lot No

8

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union

funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 9- Ballymena Area 7

Lot No

9

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 10 - Belfast Area

Lot No

10

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 11- Dundonald Area

Lot No

11

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 12- Omagh Area 1

Lot No

12

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 13- Omagh Area 2

Lot No

13

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 14- Omagh Area 3

Lot No

14

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 15- Omagh Area 4

Lot No

15

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 16- Omagh Area 5

Lot No

16

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 15510000 - Milk and cream

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Supply of Milk and Milk Products to school meals kitchens, schools and other locations within Northern Ireland for the period 1 August 2022 – 30 June 2026.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Quality criterion - Name: AC1- Methodology Performance Management / Weighting: 15

Cost criterion - Name: AC2- Evaluation Cost / Weighting: 85

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

This is not an award without prior notice, the purpose of this VEAT notice is to make the market aware that EA intend to modify this contract as detailed below.

The purpose of this VEAT notice is to inform the market that the Education Authority (EA) intends to add the following lots to the existing award held by Dale Farm Ltd, in accordance with the pricing, terms, and conditions set out in the current framework agreement.

Lot 2 – Armagh Area 3

Lot 6 – Ballymena Area 4

Lot 7 – Ballymena Area 5

Lot 8 – Ballymena Area 6

Lot 12 – Omagh Area 1

The original award for the lots listed above was made to Lacpatrick Dairies under the existing framework agreement. However, Lacpatrick Dairies has formally notified the Education Authority of their intention to withdraw from all of the specified lots, effective 1 November 2025.

This decision follows confirmation that Grove Dairy, the third supplier awarded under the framework, is not currently delivering milk in the relevant areas and has advised that it would not be operationally viable for them to take on the additional schools. As such, Dale Farm Ltd is the only supplier capable of fulfilling the requirements within the necessary timeframe.

The additional lots are required to ensure uninterrupted milk provision to schools commencing 1 November 2025.

The modification is being made under the principles of urgency and operational necessity and is consistent with the scope and structure of the original framework.

The modification is necessary to maintain uninterrupted delivery of milk to schools from 1 November 2025 onward and is justified under Regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which allows for contract changes due to unforeseen circumstances without altering the overall nature of the contract. The awarded contractor's withdrawal from the framework was an unexpected development that could not have been foreseen.

No aspect of the modification will alter the overall nature of the current contract as the scope of goods will remain unaltered, and any expenditure will not exceed the original awarded contract value.

Regulation 72(1)(b) permits an amendment to an existing contract: for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor

(i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, or

(ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the contracting authority, provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

The EA shall observe a period of no less than 30 days, beginning with the day after the date of publication, before modifying the contract as set out in this notice.

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

#### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2022/S 000-022675](#)

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### **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

#### **Contract No**

CAT-21-008

#### **Lot No**

Lot 2 – Armagh Area 3 Lot 6 – Ballymena Area 4 Lot 7 - Ballymena Area 5 Lot 8 -  
Ballymena Area 6 Lot

#### **Title**

Milk and Milk Products

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

#### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

##### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

16 August 2022

##### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

##### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

DALE FARM LIMITED

Belfast

Email

[pat.buchanan@dalefarm.co.uk](mailto:pat.buchanan@dalefarm.co.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKN - Northern Ireland

Internet address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

**V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £3,586,250

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

The UK does not currently have any such bodies with responsibilities for appeal/mediation procedures

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

The UK does not currently have any such bodies with responsibilities for appeal/mediation procedures

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

#### **VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

The UK does not currently have any such bodies with responsibilities for appeal/mediation procedures

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom