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Contract

Interim Legal Position

Hartlepool Borough Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-065442

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05ccf2

Published 15 October 2025, 9:50am

Scope

Reference

OPEN14102025141654

Description

Background : This contract has been established using an Exemption Process and is therefore not subject to HBC Contract Procedure Rules.

The legal division is staffed to discharge the authority's legal childcare function. The demands on this service are ever increasing and it is a critical service charged with ensuring that our statutory and legal duties are discharged in respect of children suffering and at risk of suffering significant harm. The structure of the team consists of 4 officers who each handle a case load and undertake advocacy in the local courts.

Currently two officers are unavoidably unavailable currently for extended periods. The team's capacity is therefore significantly reduced (by 50%) currently and unable to meet the demands of the service.

Enquiries have been made of specialist recruitment agencies, and a national search has been undertaken via the NEPO Framework. Despite several excellent candidates being available via this framework none have been able to commit to the necessary attendance in Hartlepool and at local courts. Several other agencies have been approached outside of this framework and only one has an available candidate who has been able to demonstrate the necessary skills, experience, legally required "rights of audience" and proximity to Hartlepool required for this role.

The costs associated with the provision of such "interim cover" are determined by market forces and each of the candidates offered via the framework have quoted an hourly rate greater than that secured under this arrangement outside of the framework. In addition the candidate's skills and experience ensure they would be able to hold the required caseload and attend to court commitments with a minimum commitment of 25 hours per week.

Contract 1

Supplier

- Vivid Government (Part of Vivid Resourcing)

Contract value

- £36,000 excluding VAT
- £43,200 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Date signed

14 October 2025

Contract dates

- 1 November 2025 to 31 May 2026
- 7 months

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UKC11 - Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

Supplier

Vivid Government (Part of Vivid Resourcing)

- Companies House: 08067630

Floor 4, 10 Old Bailey

London

EC4M 7NG

United Kingdom

Email: BrandDirector@vivid.resourcing.com

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Hartlepool Borough Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTCQ-5564-CHJP

Civic Centre, Victoria Road

Hartlepool

TS24 8AY

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@hartlepool.gov.uk

Region: UKC11 - Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government