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Planning

Manufacture, Supply and Installation of Timber Signage for Scotland's National Nature Reserves

Scottish Natural Heritage

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-069129

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d5a6

Published 28 October 2025, 4:47pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Natural Heritage

Great Glen House, Leachkin Road

Inverness

IV3 8NW

Email

flexibleprocurement@scotland-excel.org.uk

Telephone

+44 1463725097

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM62 - Inverness & Nairn and Moray, Badenoch & Strathspey

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.nature.scot>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00383

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Manufacture, Supply and Installation of Timber Signage for Scotland's National Nature Reserves

Reference number

PP-1417

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 44423400 - Signs and related items

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

NatureScot intends to establish a single-supplier framework agreement for the manufacture, supply and installation of timber signage across Scotland's National Nature Reserves (NNRs). The framework will support a rolling programme of signage replacement and new installations, including bilingual English/Gaelic content, with flexible call-off arrangements over a four-year period.

As part of the development process for the procurement approach, NatureScot is seeking views and information from the marketplace in connection with the areas set out in this Prior Information Notice (PIN).

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £350,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34928470 - Signage
- 45233293 - Installation of street furniture
- 03419000 - Timber
- 79822500 - Graphic design services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NatureScot manages 29 National Nature Reserves across Scotland, encompassing a wide range of landscapes from remote mountain environments to coastal woodlands and lochs. To support visitor engagement and site management, NatureScot is seeking to establish a single-supplier framework agreement for the manufacture, supply and installation of high-quality timber signage and associated graphic panels.

The framework will cover:

- Manufacture of bespoke timber signs using sustainably sourced Douglas Fir;
- Preparation of English and bilingual English/Gaelic CAD drawings based on NatureScot templates;
- Liaising with graphic designers for panel artwork ensuring artwork is provided in the correct specification for production;
- Supply of fixings and hardware;
- Delivery to NNRs, offices or other agreed locations;
- Installation and ground restoration where required; and
- Removal and recycling of old signage.

NatureScot does not require that all elements of the requirement be delivered directly by the appointed supplier from within their own organisation. Subcontracting or use of third-party providers (e.g. for manufacture, delivery or installation) is permitted, provided that the appointed supplier retains full responsibility for managing all subcontracted elements and ensuring that all requirements are delivered to the standards set out in the framework agreement.

The framework is intended to run for four years (on a 2 + 1 + 1 basis), with call-off orders placed as required. Estimated volumes are between 50–100 signs across 3-5 NNRs per year, with delivery and installation agreed on a case-by-case basis. The framework is intended to provide flexibility in response to changing demand and site priorities, and to enable streamlined interaction with the appointed supplier.

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is issued by NatureScot to inform the market of a potential forthcoming procurement opportunity and to initiate early engagement with potential suppliers. The purpose of this market engagement is to:

- Assess supplier interest in participating in a single-supplier framework;

- Understand supplier capacity and capability to deliver the required services across Scotland;
- Identify any delivery challenges, particularly in remote or island locations;
- Explore opportunities for innovation, sustainability; and
- Inform the final scope, structure, and commercial model of the framework agreement.

Depending on the feedback received through this PIN process, NatureScot may consider alternative approaches (including a multi-lot structure based on geographic regions or service components) if this is deemed necessary to ensure effective delivery and market accessibility. To have your feedback considered, please complete the questionnaire by following this link -

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/ScotlandExcel1/PP-1417PINQuestionnaire>.

NatureScot has included two additional documents with this Prior Information Notice (PIN) for suppliers to review: the 'NNR Signs Guide (for PIN)' and the 'NNR Example CAD Master Schedule (for PIN)'. These documents are provided for information purposes only, to assist suppliers in assessing their capability and capacity to meet the contract requirements.

II.2.14) Additional information

NatureScot have included a questionnaire (which can be found here - <https://www.cognitoforms.com/ScotlandExcel1/PP-1417PINQuestionnaire>) for interested suppliers and may invite further dialogue to explore delivery models and gather feedback. Participation in this PIN process will not be evaluated for award purposes but will help shape the final procurement strategy.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

19 January 2026

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Interested suppliers are invited to submit a response to this PIN by Monday 17 November at 12:00.

Scotland Excel will be conducting this procurement exercise on behalf of NatureScot but will not be party to the implementation or management of it.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=812863.

(SC Ref:812863)