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Planning

Provision for Legal Provider

Social Work England

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-070197

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05d84e ([view related notices](#))

Published 31 October 2025, 3:43pm

Scope

Reference

SWE10547

Description

Social Work England are looking for Supplier/s to prepare cases for Fitness to Practise hearings or meetings and to ensure the presentation of cases before a panel of independent adjudicators.

Social Work England currently spends circa £6m per annum on its legal provider for investigation and advocacy services in Fitness to Practise.

We expect this level of spend to continue for the first year of the contract, with the potential for the annual value to increase in subsequent years. The volume of new cases each year of the contract is estimated at 150. In addition, we currently have over 400 cases awaiting a hearing.

Total value (estimated)

- £34,083,330.33 excluding VAT
- £40,900,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2031
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UKE3 - South Yorkshire

Engagement

Engagement deadline

1 August 2025

The engagement was carried out before this notice was published.

Engagement process description

This engagement set out to understand the current availability and skill set available by Fitness to Practise specialists.

Social Work England presented to suppliers in July, from there 121 meetings occurred to gain feedback from interested suppliers.

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

14 December 2025

Contracting authority

Social Work England

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYZZ-1666-HXBQ

1 North Bank, Blonk Street

Sheffield

S3 8JY

United Kingdom

Email: commercial.team@socialworkengland.org.uk

Region: UKE32 - Sheffield

Organisation type: Public authority - central government