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Tender

Fresh Fruit, Vegetables and Related Products

the Education Authority

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-076165

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0559b9 ([view related notices](#))

Published 21 November 2025, 4:10pm

This is an old version of this notice. [View the latest version.](#)

Scope

Reference

CAT-25-004

Description

The Education Authority invites tenders for the supply and delivery of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables and Related Products to school meals kitchens within Northern Ireland for a period of 3 years with options to extend for any additional period(s) of up to and including 36 months.

This Contract is established by the Education Authority and is open to the EA, including NI educational bodies as follows, who at some point, during the life of the Contract may wish to utilise the agreement and should have access at any point, with the permission of EA.

This Contract is not intended to replace any current agreements that participating or nonparticipating institutions may already have in place.

Department of Education - Schools Plus

<https://www.educationni.gov.uk/services/schoolsplus>

Primary and Post Primary schools under the control of the EA,

Catholic Maintained Schools

Independent Schools in NI, Irish Medium Schools in NI, both Controlled and Voluntary Grammar Schools, Nursery School for NI (both controlled, and Catholic Maintained),

Schoolmeals kitchens on-site at all of these schools, and Controlled Youth Centres.

Further Education Colleges in NI : <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/further-educationfecolleges>

NICIE - <https://nicie.org/>

Grant Controlled Integrated Education Schools in NI

Independent Schools in NI <https://www.isc.co.uk/schools/northern-ireland/>

EA Teachers' and Educational Centres

Council for the Curriculum, Examination and Assessment NI (CCEA)

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

Middletown Centre for Autism

Controlled Schools Support Council (CSSC)

Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)

Pre-Schools and Nurseries included within the EA Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP)

Preliminary market engagement notice Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0559b9 was published on. 7 July 2025

N.B. Estimated values stated, both including and excluding VAT are the same as VAT is not applicable to the goods included under this procurement.

Total value (estimated)

- £16,800,000 excluding VAT
- £16,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- Possible extension to 31 March 2032
- 6 years

Description of possible extension:

Options to extend for any additional period(s) of up to and including 36 months

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

Additional items may be added to the Contract throughout the Term with the agreement of both the Buyer and the Supplier. This may include any Unprepared or Pre Prepared Fruit and Vegetables options that may be required throughout the duration of the Contract.

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 15300000 - Fruit, vegetables and related products
- 15000000 - Food, beverages, tobacco and related products
- 15310000 - Potatoes and potato products
- 15330000 - Processed fruit and vegetables
- 15312000 - Potato products
- 15313000 - Processed potatoes
- 15331110 - Processed root vegetables
- 15331130 - Beans, peas, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables
- 15331100 - Fresh or frozen vegetables
- 15331120 - Processed tuber vegetables

Contract locations

- UKN - Northern Ireland

Justification for not using lots

The tender was structured into sections rather than lots to reduce duplication and streamline evaluation.

Participation

Technical ability conditions of participation

CoP 1 Technical ability to perform the contract - Previous Experience

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

15 December 2025, 3:00pm

Tender submission deadline

22 December 2025, 11:59pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Full details can be found in the CfT documents section

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

19 February 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 21 November 2031

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
AC1 - Proposed Methodology	Full details can be found in the CfTdocuments section on eTenderNI https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps	Quality	50%
AC3 Price	Full details can be found in the CfTdocuments section on eTenderNI https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps	Price	30%
AC2- Quality	Full details can be found in the CfTdocuments section on eTenderNI https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps	Quality	20%

Other information

Payment terms

Full details can be found in the CfT documents section on eTenderN -

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

Description of risks to contract performance

The Buyer cannot guarantee any particular level of business (volumes/values) within the Contract.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Contracting authority

the Education Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPHJ-6982-JPXY

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Region: UKN06 - Belfast

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland