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Contract

Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship Programme

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-081338

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05f27b

Published 10 December 2025, 10:07am

Scope

Reference

DS503-25

Description

The supplier is required to provide a wraparound service to support the delivery of the Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship Programme.

The wraparound services include:

- Management and support of on-line learning
- Ongoing on-line learning course platform
- Services for administration of the Apprenticeship Service (DAS account administration)
- Cost of managing data systems needed to process ILR submission (PICS)

- On-going development of materials
- Manage EPA arrangement and assessments
- Managing sub-contract agreements
- Financial Management
- Funding claims
- Audit checks and management
- PICs data checking for accuracy and responding to ESFA reporting requirements

The supplier shall act as the lead provider, with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority acting as a delivery sub-contractor for parts of the apprenticeship programme (including the practical training).

Both parties shall work as a partnership to deliver the complete Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship Programme.

An initial cohort of 14 wholetime firefighters will utilise this partnership to complete their apprenticeship. Further cohorts are also likely (dependant on recruitment of wholetime Firefighters and plans for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to become an Employer Provider and no longer requiring a wraparound service provider). Becoming an Employer Provider is subject to business case development and approval.

The supplier draws down funds from the Apprenticeship Levy. They pay the End Point Assessment Organisation and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service for the elements of the apprenticeship that they provide. The supplier retains an agreed amount for the services they provide.

Contract 1

Supplier

- South West Association of Training Providers Limited (SwatPro)

Contract value

- £45,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Date signed

1 August 2025

Contract dates

- 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 1 year

Main procurement category

Services

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

This partnership may be used to support additional cohorts of wholetime Firefighter recruits. This is dependant on recruitment of whole Firefighters and if Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service become an Employer Provider.

CPV classifications

- 80510000 - Specialist training services

Contract locations

- UKK - South West (England)

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - without competition

Special regime

Light touch

Supplier

South West Association of Training Providers Limited (SwatPro)

- Companies House: 07465523

Goodwood House, Blackbrook Park Avenue

Taunton

TA1 2PX

United Kingdom

Email: info@swatpro.org.uk

Website: <https://www.swatpro.org.uk/>

Region: UKK23 - Somerset

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNLD-1131-HTWN

Service Headquarters

Exeter

EX3 0NW

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@dsfire.gov.uk

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government