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Award

## **ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme Training and Themed Groups Requirements**

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-082659

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d031 ([view related notices](#))

Published 12 December 2025, 4:44pm

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

ID 6210936

### **Description**

This contract will be broken down into 2 Lots: • Lot 1 - Face-to-face training for groups of farmers • Lot 2 - Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators Each Lot will be evaluated and awarded independently. Lot 1- CAFRE require a Supplier to administer, secure access to appropriate venues and deliver training to participants who cannot use e-learning courses without support. The supplier will be required to administer, hire appropriate venues, and deliver training sessions to groups of participating farmers. Each course will have its own specific Learning Outcomes, underpinning knowledge, assessment process (if required) and delivery schedule. Lot 2 - CAFRE requires a Supplier to administer and deliver specialist technical facilitation and mentoring to Themed Groups. These groups will be delivered alongside Business Sustainability Groups (BSGs) and are a development from the previous Business development Group (BDG) scheme which operated under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. BSGs are enterprise specific but with a focus on the sustainability of the entire farm. Themed Groups will provide more focused

support and advice relating to specific enterprises and topics. Groups will also have a shorter duration of 18-24 months with an estimated 3-6 meetings per group per year dependent on topic.

This will be a demand-led contract and all values are estimates only.

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## **Lot 1. Face-to-face training for groups of farmers**

### **Description**

CAFRE require a Supplier to administer, secure access to appropriate venues and deliver training to participants who cannot use e-learning courses without support.

The supplier will be required to administer, hire appropriate venues, and deliver training sessions to groups of participating farmers.

The training courses will be prioritised by DAERA as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme or wider policy programme, with CAFRE responsible for overall planning and development of learning materials for each training course. Each course will have its own specific Learning Outcomes, underpinning knowledge, assessment process (if required) and delivery schedule.

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## **Lot 2. Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators**

### **Description**

CAFRE requires a Supplier to administer and deliver specialist technical facilitation and mentoring to Themed Groups. These groups will be delivered alongside Business Sustainability Groups (BSGs) and are a development from the previous Business

Development Group (BDG) scheme which operated under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. BSGs are enterprise specific but with a focus on the sustainability of the entire farm. Themed Groups will provide more focused support and advice relating to specific enterprises and topics. Groups will also have a shorter duration of 18-24 months with an estimated 3-6 meetings per group per year dependent on topic.

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## **Contract 1. ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 1: Face-to-face training for groups of farmers**

### **Lots**

Lot 1. Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

### **Supplier**

- [Countryside Services Limited](#)

### **Contract value**

- £500,000 excluding VAT
- £600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

12 December 2025

### **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

12 December 2025

### **Standstill period**

- End: 23 December 2025
- 8 working days

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

29 December 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2029
- Possible extension to 4 January 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

One optional extension period of 2 years for each Lot. The extension will be utilised at the Buyers discretion.

### **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 80522000 - Training seminars
  - 80521000 - Training programme services
  - 80531200 - Technical training services
  - 80510000 - Specialist training services
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## **Contract 2. ID 6210936 - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements – Lot 2: Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators**

### **Lots**

Lot 2. Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

### **Supplier**

- [Countryside Services Limited](#)

### **Contract value**

- £3,000,000 excluding VAT
- £3,600,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

12 December 2025

### **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

12 December 2025

### **Standstill period**

- End: 23 December 2025
- 8 working days

### **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

29 December 2025

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2029
- Possible extension to 4 January 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

One optional extension period of 2 years for each Lot. The extension will be utilised at the Buyers discretion.

### **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 80510000 - Specialist training services
  - 80521000 - Training programme services
  - 80522000 - Training seminars
  - 80531200 - Technical training services
- 

## **Information about tenders**

### **Lot 1. Face-to-face training for groups of farmers**

- 2 tenders received
  - 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
    - 2 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 1 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
  - 1 supplier unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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### **Lot 2. Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators**

- 2 tenders received
- 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
  - 2 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
  - 1 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 1 supplier unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

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## Procedure

### Procedure type

Open procedure

### Special regime

Light touch

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## Supplier

### Countryside Services Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDLJ-1526-MNDY

97 Moy Road

Dungannon

BT71 7DX

United Kingdom

Email: [Andrew.kerr@countrysideservices.com](mailto:Andrew.kerr@countrysideservices.com)

Region: UKN0B - Mid Ulster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. ID 6210936 - DAERA - CAFRE - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 1: Face-to-face training for groups of farmers

Contract 2. ID 6210936 - Farming for Sustainability Scheme: Training and Themed Groups Requirements - Lot 2: Themed peer-to-peer group facilitators

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## **Contracting authority**

### **College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYCL-3331-QQMP

45 Tirgracey Road

Antrim

BT41 4PS

United Kingdom

Email: [SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk)

Region: UKN0D - Antrim and Newtownabbey

Organisation type: Public authority - central government

Devolved regulations that apply: Northern Ireland

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## Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

### CPD - Supplies and Services Division

Summary of their role in this procurement: Construction and Procurement Delivery, Supplies and Services Division, is a Centre of Procurement Expertise and provides a central procurement function for central government in Northern Ireland.

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVWG-8426-YWXV

Clare House 303 Airport Road West

Belfast

BT3 9ED

United Kingdom

Email: [SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk)

Region: UKN06 - Belfast

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## Contact organisation

Contact [CPD - Supplies and Services Division](#) for any enquiries.