

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/083162-2025>

Tender

North Scotland/Wick John O’Groats Airport PSO Scheduled Flight Services

The Highland Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-083162

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05f648

Published 16 December 2025, 10:00am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

The Highland Council

Glenurquhart Road

Inverness

IV3 5NX

Contact

Julie Cromarty

Email

julie.cromarty@highland.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM6 - Highlands and Islands

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00045

I.3) Communication

Access to the procurement documents is restricted. Further information can be obtained at

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

North Scotland/Wick John O’Groats Airport PSO Scheduled Flight Services

Reference number

THC/TAMBS/WJOG/2026

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60400000 - Air transport services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

THC is in discussions with Transport Scotland regarding subsidy provision for this service to help encourage airlines to offer their services and work in collaboration with THC to achieve these benefits.

THC consider that continuing air services between Wick John O’Groats Airport (WIC) and Aberdeen (ABZ) and expanding these to include Edinburgh (EDI) shall enhance the visibility of the area and help stimulate the economy to ensure that the north of Scotland remains accessible and desirable for travellers, business people and the local community alike.

THC consider that an expanded air service will be an exciting and prosperous venture. THC are therefore looking for equally enthusiastic air service operator(s) to work with the Council in making these positive outcomes a reality and are welcoming tenders on this basis.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60400000 - Air transport services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM6 - Highlands and Islands
- UKM50 - Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire
- UKM75 - Edinburgh, City of

Main site or place of performance

Wick Airport

Aberdeen Airport

Edinburgh Airport

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

A scheduled air passenger service between Wick John O'Groats Airport and both Aberdeen and Edinburgh Airports.

Tenderers shall be able to price a range of comprehensive timetabling and frequency options, so that the services can be flexed according to demonstrable demand, without the need to re-tender.

The Highland Council intend to work closely with the air operator throughout the life of the Contract to ensure successful delivery. To that end, there shall be clear communication channels established and regular contract management meetings to help reinforce the collaborated approach.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

An extension for a period of up to 24 Months is possible.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: Yes

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

Qualifications and Accreditations:

Tenderers are required to provide evidence of appropriate licences and accreditations to operate the scheduled service routes and proposed aircraft(s).

Environmental Requirements:

Tenderers are required to provide their environmental policy which shall be in line with Government Guidance, objectives and targets.

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

16 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 3 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

16 February 2026

Local time

12:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: December 2029

VI.3) Additional information

Provided tenderers have not materially altered the scope and requirements of the requirement and they have provided a compliant proposal, tenderers may also submit a variant Tender. A variant tender shall consist of a variant Technical Questionnaire, variant Forecast of Income and Expense and Subsidy Claims Form, a variant Forecast Explanation & Commentary and a variant Form of Tender.

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=818605.

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx.

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

Community benefits are included in this requirement. For more information see:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/community-benefits-in-procurement/>

A summary of the expected community benefits has been provided as follows:

Community Benefit requirements are contained within the documentation available in the attachments area of PCS-T

(SC Ref:818605)

Download the ESPD document here:

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/ESPD/ESPD_Download.aspx?id=818605

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

To be Agreed

To be Agreed

Country

United Kingdom