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Award

Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to Associated Land & Property Transactions

University of Keele

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-085970

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05fce4 ([view related notices](#))

Published 23 December 2025, 4:14pm

Scope

Reference

KU/810/DP/PV/2025

Description

University of Keele is publishing this transparency notice to announce its intention, in accordance with its statutory obligations, to award a contract directly to Osborne Clarke LLP for the provision of specialist legal advice relating to complex land and property transactions.

This direct award is justified under Paragraphs 7, 13 and 14 of Schedule 5 of the Procurement Act 2023.

The services require a strategic review of, and advice on, highly complex and long-standing legal and financial structures. The successful delivery of these services is contingent upon a deep and specific understanding of a unique transactional history, comprising multi-layered agreements and involving multiple specific parties and intricate relationships.

Osborne Clarke LLP was previously engaged by the University to conduct an initial high-level scoping review of this specific matter. As a result, they now possess pre-existing, supplier-specific expertise and a demonstrated understanding of the transaction's particularities. This includes a detailed, phased methodology for the work, developed during the initial engagement.

Appointing any alternative supplier would require them to acquire this specific expertise and experience. This would necessitate a substantial duplication of effort and cost, and an unacceptable period of mobilisation, resulting in:

1. Potential material duplication of cost for the University; and
2. Detrimental delays in the delivery of time-critical advice, which would prevent the University from achieving its immediate and lasting operational and financial objectives.

The award of this contract to Osborne Clarke LLP represents the only viable route to secure the required services in a timely and cost-effective manner, as a competitive procurement process would be objectively unsuitable in these specific circumstances.

Disclaimer

This Transparency Notice is published by the University of Keele, a contracting authority, in accordance with its statutory obligations under Section 44 of the Procurement Act 2023 to notify its intention to award a contract directly.

This notice does not itself constitute an offer, an award of contract, or give rise to any implied contract. The publication of the subsequent Contract Award Notice on 12th January 2026 by University of Keele will initiate the mandatory 8 working day standstill period, as required by Section 51(1) of the Act.

The University will not, and cannot lawfully, enter into a contract for the required services until the 8 working day standstill period has been successfully completed. Any contract award will be confirmed through the subsequent publication of a Contract Details Notice.

Contract 1. Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to

Associated Land & Property Transactions

Supplier

- OSBORNE CLARKE LLP

Contract value

- £400,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

22 January 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 26 January 2026 to 25 January 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79100000 - Legal services

Contract locations

- UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Additional or repeat goods, services or works - extension or partial replacement
- Extreme and unavoidable urgency

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Supplier

OSBORNE CLARKE LLP

- Companies House: OC397443
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDTY-4264-MBQN

One London Wall

London

EC2Y 5EB

United Kingdom

Email: bidsteam@osborneclarke.com

Website: <https://www.osborneclarke.com/>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Provision of Specialist Legal Advice relating to Associated Land & Property Transactions

Contracting authority

University of Keele

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): RC000655
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMPH-8367-VGCY

Procurement Office, Directorate of Finance, Innovation Centre 1, Keele University
Science and Innovation Park,

Keele, Staffordshire

ST5 5NB

United Kingdom

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Region: UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government