

The
Electoral
Commission

Expression of interest (EOI) request for Electoral Commission

Ref: WP080 - Improving Democratic Education Framework

Expression of interest – Improving Democratic Education Framework

Procedure: Open Procedure (Procurement Act 2023)

Framework Type: Multi-supplier framework agreement

Agreement Term: 3 years, with a potential 2 year extension

Estimated total value: approx. £600,000

The Authority requires information on your capability and capacity to provide the services detailed below.

Any supplier which does not respond to this EOI within the stipulated timescales exclude themselves from the bidding process for this project.

Please advise if you are interested in bidding for this opportunity.

Please note: No formal tender response is required at this stage, either as a project proposal or as a price submission. To express interest, suppliers must: 1. Register on the Electoral Commission's In-Tend Procurement Portal.

2. Email procurement@electoralcommission.org.uk with confirmation of interest and the lot(s) they intend to bid for. Please ensure the email subject read as follows: WP080 – Improving Democratic Education EOI response Intended Procurement timetable

For Subject Read Example: WP080 – Improving Democratic Education EOI (Lot x)

Procurement Timetable

Return date for EOI: 20/06/2025

Invitation to Tender issued: 30/06/2025

Tender submission date deadline: 17/07/2025

Contracts awarded and all bidders notified: 14/08/2025

Please note that this is provisional timetable and we reserve the right to deviate from it.

The Electoral Commission and democratic education

[The Electoral Commission](#) is the independent public body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity.

The Voter Education and Partnership team provides engaging, accurate and impartial information about democracy, elections and voting so that eligible and future voters can cast their votes confidently.

Our education work aims to promote greater consistency in democratic education, increase young people's knowledge and understanding of democracy and elections, and increase educators' understanding of and confidence to deliver this topic.

Our recent research report, [Young Voices on Democracy](#), highlighted that young people don't currently have the knowledge they need to be confident about politics and voting. Less than a third know a lot about what the UK government does, and only half of those yet to vote feel confident about the process. There is a clear need for more democratic education in schools and colleges to support young people to become informed, engaged voters: only a third of school age children said they learnt about politics at school in the last year, yet almost three quarters told us they wanted more opportunities to do so.

We are currently focusing on the following initiatives to help us achieve our aims:

- **Youth Voice Network:** our youth engagement network is made up of 60 young people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This group of young people feed into our education work and develop resources to support their peers to learn about democracy.
- [Education resources](#): we have developed resources - including a scheme of work for schools, and activities for youth groups - aimed at supporting young people across the UK to learn about democracy and elections
- [Welcome to Your Vote Week](#): every year we hold Welcome to Your Vote Week, which encourages young people and educators to engage in democratic education and to start the conversation about upcoming elections.

We are now looking to work with civil society organisations to develop and evaluate projects that will increase democratic education in schools, colleges and youth settings.

Who can bid

- Organisations must be a non-for-profit organisations, such as, but not limited to charities, CIOs, CICs or Company limited by guarantee.
- Impartiality is at the centre of the Electoral Commission's role: organisations must demonstrate a clear understanding of impartiality, and how they plan to maintain it while delivering their initiative.

Specification

This Invitation to Tender is for civil society organisations with a focus on education and youth engagement to improve democratic education in schools, colleges, universities and youth groups. Successful organisations will join a network of partners that will work together to improve democratic education in these settings.

The scope of this work includes:

- providing guidance and supporting evidence on what works well in democratic education
- working with schools and colleges to co-develop a framework that showcases best practice and signposts to good quality, impartial and impactful democratic education projects and schemes of work
- developing education resources, including schemes of work, in line with relevant curriculums
- creating and delivering training to teachers and youth practitioners
- supporting the dissemination of this work to schools, colleges, universities and youth groups

This tender is focused primarily on education provision in England, but we will accept applications that provide targeted support in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Due to the changing nature of the education sectors and timelines of this tender, projects may be defined as the partnership progresses. We will work together with successful organisations to determine a delivery timeline and define outputs and outcomes at the start of every year of this project. We require that successful organisations can **pilot resources or projects in the first term of the next academic year** (September-December 2025).

Improving Democratic Education Lot Structure

The purpose of this tender is to award contracts to organisations who have the capacity, resource and expertise to deliver one or more of the following lots over the next three to five years. Organisations can apply to one or more lot in their application.

Together, successful organisations will work together with other education partners who are commissioned throughout the duration of this project to:

- provide expertise on what works well in democratic education and contribute to the development of a democratic education outcomes framework for use across the sector
- leverage strong relationships with schools, colleges, universities and youth groups to disseminate resources successfully
- expand the reach of Welcome to Your Vote Week by supporting additional education and youth settings to take part and increasing take-up of resources

Lot 1: Managing service provision - convening and co-ordination

Lead on convening education partners and academics in the democratic education sector, together with the Electoral Commission.

Lot 2: Education projects, schemes of work and lesson plans for secondary and post 16

In line with the citizenship curriculum and current school and college priorities, develop resources that strengthen learners' knowledge and understanding of our democratic system.

Lot 3: Teacher and youth group training

Use subject knowledge and expertise to develop and deliver training in line with the latest CPD guidance for teachers and youth practitioners. We are keen to explore both e-learning and traditional learning methods.

Lot 4: Mis and disinformation

Develop, deliver and evaluate projects that support young people to identify, understand and become resilient to mis- and disinformation about elections and voting.

Lot 5: Primary education

Develop, deliver and evaluate projects that increase and improve democratic education in primary schools.

Lot 6: SEND provision

Develop, deliver and evaluate democratic education provision for SEND schools and learners.

Lot 7: Provision for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

Expand our existing education provision in either Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales, focusing on mapping provision, partner engagement and dissemination of resources.

Right to cancel or vary expression on interest

The Electoral Commission reserves the right to:

- Cancel all or part of this EOI at any stage and at any time; and
- Amend, clarify, add to or withdraw all or any part of the EOI at any time.
- Not proceed with any tender or award
- Vary the scope of the project or framework at its discretion

Next steps

If you are interested in participating in this procurement exercise for this tender, please register your interest by following the instructions below:

1. Register on the portal

The expected invitation to tender will be published on the Electoral Commission's Procurement Portal, please register as a supplier by following this link <https://intendhost.co.uk/electoralcommission>

2. Contact procurement, register interest

Once you have registered on the portal, please contact us stating which lot/s you intend to bid for.

Contact details

Email address: procurement@electoralcommission.org.uk