**Clarifications for Bidders Questions:**

**Farmer engagement with environmental data collection**

1. In the RfQ, the first paragraph says the submission date and time is 3rd July at noon, but the timetable states 10th July at noon, please can you confirm which is correct?

**Answer: 10th July is the correct submission date – apologies for confusion.**

1. The value of both projects is £41,665.83, are we correct in believing this is the value without VAT (as the tender says to submit the value with VAT).

**Answer: Yes, the value stated is Exclusive of VAT (so up to £49,999 including VAT).**

1. The RFQ states "Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, inclusive of VAT" but the Commercial Response Form states "costs should exclude VAT." Which approach should we use?

**Answer: Use the commercial Response form approach of quoting prices exclusive of VAT (the total maximum budget available of £41,665.83 is exclusive of VAT), but please add a line to the breakdown to indicate the VAT amount too.**

1. Generally, citizen science is defined as ‘collection and data analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public’. Is Natural England using this general definition, or is there a wider scope that Natural England would like to use in this contract?

**Answer: NE doesn’t have its own definition it uses, but Defra uses this one in a strategy document: “scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.”**

1. If a supplier wanted to integrate both pieces of work into a single project (staggered or not) would it be acceptable for that supplier to send over a single proposal for both? Or would they have to still send over two different proposals?

**Answer: Unfortunately, even though the projects are interlinked, and it’s great to combine them etc, for fair assessment against other bids (some of which will only bid on one of the two), they will need to be separated into two proposals.**

1. To avoid duplication of efforts, is Natural England aware of, or tracking, the number of citizen science initiatives for this context? Or will discovering this from scratch be part of the project itself?

**Answer: No, we are not currently tracking the number of citizen science initiatives – this would be developed from scratch.**

1. Database: the Mapping Citizen Science RFQ specifies a comprehensive database of initiatives as a deliverable. Will NE provide access to an existing database for this, or is there a preferred format or type to be used if new?

**Answer: We don’t have an existing database and there isn’t a specific format in mind. Any suggestions are welcome.**