

CONTRACT FOR DSG Deficits Safety Valve Funding Financial Advisers

THIS CONTRACT IS DATED 17th June 2024

Parties

- 1) **The Secretary of State for Education whose Head Office is at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT acting as part of the Crown (“the Department”); and**
- 2) **[REDACTED], trading as Putsham Associates Ltd of [REDACTED] (“the Contractor”).**

Recitals

The Contractor has agreed to provide advisory services on the terms and conditions set out in this Contract.

The Department's reference number for this Contract is [REDACTED]

1 Interpretation

1.1 In this Contract the following words shall mean:-

“the Services” the services to be performed by the Contractor as described in Schedule 1;

“Affiliate” in relation to a body corporate, any other entity which directly or indirectly Controls, is Controlled by, or is under direct or indirect common Control with, that body corporate from time to time;

“Central Government Body” means a body listed in one of the following subcategories of the Central Government classification of the Public Sector Classification Guide, as published and amended from time to time by the Office for National Statistics:

- (a) Government Department;

"the Contract Manager"	<p>(b) Non-Departmental Public Body or Assembly Sponsored Public Body (advisory, executive, or tribunal);</p> <p>(c) Non-Ministerial Department; or</p> <p>(d) Executive Agency;</p>
	<p>Safety Valve Intervention Programme Policy Adviser, Department for Education Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT</p>
"Contract Period"	The start and end date of the contract as set out in Clause 2 subject to any extensions.
"Contractor Personnel"	all employees, agents, Contractors and contractors of the Contractor and/or of any Subcontractor;
"the Contractor's Contract Manager"	<hr/>
"Confidential Information"	the Department's Confidential Information and/or the Contractor's Confidential Information;
"Contracting Department"	any contracting Department as defined in Regulation 5(2) of the Public Contracts (Works, Services and Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 other than the Department;
"Contractor Personnel"	all employees, agents, consultants and contractors of the Contractor and/or of any Subcontractor;
"Contracts Finder"	the Government's publishing portal for public sector procurement opportunities.
"Control"	<p>means that a person possesses, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the other person (whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract or otherwise) and</p> <p>"Controls" and "Controlled" shall be interpreted accordingly;</p>
"Controller", "Processor," "Data Subject", "Personal Data", "Personal Data Breach", "Data Protection Officer"	take the meaning given in the Data Protection Legislation
"Crown"	means King Charles III and any successor

"Crown Body"	any department, office or agency of the Crown;
"Data Loss Event"	any event that results, or may result, in unauthorised access to Personal Data held by the Contractor under this Contract, and/or actual or potential loss and/or destruction of Personal Data in breach of this Contract, including any Personal Data Breach.
"DPA 2018"	Data Protection Act 2018
"Data Protection Impact Assessment"	an assessment by the Controller of the impact of the envisaged processing on the protection of Personal Data.
"Data Protection Legislation"	(i) the UK Data Protection Legislation as amended from time to time; (ii) the Data Protection Act 2018 as amended from time to time; (iii) Regulations made under the Data Protection Act 2018; and (iv) all applicable Law about the Processing of Personal Data;
"Data Subject Request"	a request made by, or on behalf of, a Data Subject in accordance with rights granted pursuant to the Data Protection Legislation to access their Personal Data.
"Department's Confidential Information"	all Personal Data and any information, however it is conveyed, that relates to the business, affairs, developments, trade secrets, know-how, personnel, and suppliers of the Department, including all IPRs, together with all information derived from any of the above, and any other information clearly designated as being confidential (whether or not it is marked "confidential") or which ought reasonably be considered to be confidential;
"Department's Intellectual Property Rights"	means all Intellectual Property Rights comprised in or necessary for or arising from the performance of the Consultancy Services
"Environmental Information Regulations"	the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant Government Department in relation to such regulations;

"FOIA"	the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under this Act from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant Government Department in relation to such legislation;
"His Majesty's Government"	means the duly elected Government for the time being during the reign of His Majesty and/or any department, committee, office, servant or officer of such Government
"Information"	has the meaning given under section 84 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
"Intellectual Property Rights"	means any copyright, rights in designs, database rights, domain names, trade marks, service marks, patents or any applications for any of the foregoing, know-how or similar rights or obligations (whether registerable or not) including Moral Rights as defined in Chapter IV of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
"Joint Controllers"	Where two or more Controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing
"Law"	any law, statute, subordinate legislation within the meaning of Section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978, bye-law, right within the meaning of Section 4(1) EU Withdrawal Act 2018 as amended by EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, regulation, order, regulatory policy, mandatory guidance or code of practice, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body with which the Supplier is bound to comply;
"Personal Data"	shall have the same meaning as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998;
"Processor Personnel"	employees, agents, consultants and contractors of the Processor and/or of any Sub-Processor engaged in the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

"Property"	means the property, other than real property, issued or made available to the Contractor by the Client in connection with the Contract.
"Protective Measures"	appropriate technical and organisational measures which may include: pseudonymising and encrypting Personal Data, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of systems and services, ensuring that availability of and access to Personal Data can be restored in a timely manner after an incident, and regularly assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the such measures adopted by it including those set out in the Contract.
"Regulatory Bodies"	those government departments and regulatory, statutory and other entities, committees and bodies which, whether under statute, rules, regulations, codes of practice or otherwise, are entitled to regulate, investigate, or influence the matters dealt with in this Contract or any other affairs of the Department and "Regulatory Body" shall be construed accordingly.
"Request for Information"	a request for information or an apparent request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, FOIA or the Environmental Information Regulations;
"Restricted Transfer"	a transfer of Personal Data which is undergoing processing or which is intended to be processed after transfer, to a country or territory to which such transfer is prohibited or subject to any requirement to take additional steps to adequately protect the Personal Data processed under this [Contract ¹ /Agreement ²] for the transfer to be lawful under the Data Protection Legislation;
"SME"	means a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise defined in accordance with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and any subsequent revisions.
"Sub-contractor"	the third party with whom the Contractor enters into a Sub-contract or its servants or agents and any third party with whom that third party enters into a Sub-contract or its servants or agents;

¹ Short Form and Mid-tier

² Model Services Contract

"Sub-processor"	any third Party appointed to process Personal Data on behalf of the Contractor related to this Contract
"UK GDPR"	the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as transposed into United Kingdom national law by operation of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, together with the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
"VCSE"	means a non-governmental organisation that is value-driven and which principally reinvests its surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.
"Working Day"	any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in England and Wales.

- 1.2** References to "Contract" mean this contract (and include the Schedules). References to "Clauses" and "Schedules" mean clauses of and schedules to this Contract. The provisions of the Schedules shall be binding on the parties as if set out in full in this Contract.
- 1.3** Reference to the singular include the plural and vice versa and references to any gender include both genders and the neuter. References to a person include any individual, firm, unincorporated association or body corporate.

2 Commencement and Continuation

The Contractor shall commence the Services on 1st July 2024 and, subject to Clause 10.1 shall complete the Services on or before 31st March 2025. The Buyer may extend the Contract on a 1+1+1 basis, making a total of three years, for a period of up to 12 months per extension by giving not less than 30 Days' notice in writing to the Supplier prior to the Expiry Date (or the Expiry Date of the initial extension if this has been exercised). The 12-month extension may be in full, or in multiples of one month up to the full 12-month potential. The terms and conditions of the Contract shall apply throughout any such extended period.

3 Contractor's Obligations

- 3.1** The Contractor shall promptly and efficiently complete the Services in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and the special conditions set out in Schedule 3. Where there is any conflict between the terms of this Contract and the special conditions set out in Schedule 3, the special conditions shall prevail.
- 3.2** The Contractor shall comply with the accounting and information provisions of Schedule 2.
- 3.3** The Contractor shall comply with all statutory provisions including all prior and subsequent enactments, amendments and substitutions relating to that provision and to any regulations made under it.

4 Department's Obligations

The Department will comply with the payment provisions of Schedule 2 provided that the Department has received full and accurate information and documentation as required by Schedule 2 to be submitted by the Contractor for work completed to the satisfaction of the Department.

5 Changes to the Department's Requirements

5.1 The Department shall notify the Contractor of any material change to the Department's requirement under this Contract.

5.2 The Contractor shall use its best endeavours to accommodate any changes to the needs and requirements of the Department provided that it shall be entitled to payment for any additional costs it incurs as a result of any such changes. The amount of such additional costs to be agreed between the parties in writing.

6 Management

6.1 The Contractor shall promptly comply with all reasonable requests or directions of the Contract Manager in respect of the Services.

6.2 The Contractor shall address any enquiries about procedural or contractual matters in writing to the Contract Manager. Any correspondence relating to this Contract shall quote the reference number set out in the Recitals to this Contract.

7 Contractor's Employees and Sub-Contractors

7.1 Where the Contractor enters into a contract with a supplier or contractor for the purpose of performing its obligations under the Contract (the "Sub-contractor") it shall ensure prompt payment in accordance with this clause 7.1. Unless otherwise agreed by the Department in writing, the Contractor shall ensure that any contract requiring payment to a Sub-contractor shall provide for undisputed sums due to the Sub-contractor to be made within a specified period from the receipt of a valid invoice not exceeding:

7.1.1 10 days, where the Sub-contractor is an SME; or

7.1.2 30 days either, where the sub-contractor is not an SME, or both the Contractor and the Subcontractor are SMEs,

The Contractor shall comply with such terms and shall provide, at the Department's request, sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance.

7.2 The Department shall be entitled to withhold payment due under clause 7.1 for so long as the Contractor, in the Department's reasonable opinion, has failed to comply with its obligations to pay any Sub-contractors promptly in accordance with clause 7.1. For the avoidance of doubt the Department shall not be liable to pay any interest or penalty in withholding such payment.

7.3 The Contractor shall take all reasonable steps to satisfy itself that its employees or sub-contractors (or their employees) are suitable in all respects to perform the Services.

7.4 The Contractor shall give to the Department if so, requested a list of all persons who are or may be at any time directly concerned with the performance of this Contract specifying the capacity in which

they are concerned with the provision of the Services and giving such other particulars as the Department may reasonably require.

- 7.5 If the Department notifies the Contractor that it considers that an employee or sub-contractor is not appropriately qualified or trained to provide the Services or otherwise is not providing the Services in accordance with this Contract, then the Contractor shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable, take all such steps as the Department considers necessary to remedy the situation or, if so required by the Department, shall remove the said employee or sub-contractor from providing the Services and shall provide a suitable replacement (at no cost to the Department).
- 7.6 The Contractor shall take all reasonable steps to avoid changes of employees or sub-contractors assigned to and accepted to provide the Services under the Contract except whenever changes are unavoidable or of a temporary nature. The Contractor shall give at least one month's written notice to the Contract Manager of proposals to change key employees or sub-contractors.
- 7.7 The Contractor shall immediately notify the Department if they have any concerns regarding the propriety of any of its sub-contractors in respect of work/services rendered in connection with this Contract.
- 7.8 The Contractor, its employees and sub-contractors (or their employees), whilst on Departmental premises, shall comply with such rules, regulations and requirements (including those relating to security arrangements) as may be in force from time to time.
- 7.9 The Contractor shall ensure the security of all the Property whilst in its possession, during the supply of the Services, in accordance with the Department's reasonable security requirements as required from time to time.

8 Intellectual Property Rights

- 8.1 It is acknowledged and agreed between the parties that all existing or future Department's Intellectual Property Rights shall vest in the Crown absolutely.
- 8.2 Any Intellectual Property Rights of the Contractor which are in existence at the date of this Contract and which are comprised in or necessary for or arising from the performance of the Consultancy Services owned by the Contractor ("**Background Intellectual Property**") shall remain in the ownership of the Contractor but in consideration of the fees payable pursuant to this Contract, the Contractor hereby grants to the Department in respect of such Background Intellectual Property an irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual licence with rights to grant sub-licences.
- 8.3 The Contractor agrees that at the request and cost of the Department it will and procure that its officers, employees and agents will at all times do all such reasonable acts and execute all such documents as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to ensure that the Department receives the full benefit of all of its rights under this Contract in respect of the Department's Intellectual Property Rights or to assist in the resolution of any question concerning the Intellectual Property Rights.
- 8.4 The Contractor hereby waives any Moral Rights as defined at Chapter IV of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
- 8.5 The Contractor warrants:
- 8.5.1 that the Department's Intellectual Property Rights comprise the original work of and were created by or on behalf of the Contractor;
- 8.5.2 that the Department's Intellectual Property Rights have not and will not be copied wholly or in part from any other work or material;

8.5.3 That the use of or exercise by the Department of the Department's Intellectual Property Rights and the Background Intellectual Property will not infringe the rights of any third party;

8.5.4 that the Contractor has not granted or assigned any rights of any nature in the Department's Intellectual Property Rights to any third party.

8.6 The Contractor shall ensure that any copyright materials produced by or on behalf of the Contractor shall be marked with the following copyright notice " © Crown Copyright ***year of publication***".

9 Warranty and Indemnity

9.1 The Contractor warrants to the Department that the obligations of the Contractor under this Contract will be performed by appropriately qualified and trained personnel with reasonable skill, care and diligence and to such high standards of quality as it is reasonable for the Department to expect in all the circumstances. The Department will be relying upon the Contractor's skill, expertise and experience in the performance of the Services and also upon the accuracy of all representations or statements made and the advice given by the Contractor in connection with the performance of the Services and the accuracy of any documents conceived, originated, made or developed by the Contractor as part of this Contract. The Contractor warrants that any goods supplied by the Contractor forming a part of the Services will be of satisfactory quality and fit for their purpose and will be free from defects in design, material and workmanship.

9.2 Without prejudice to any other remedy, if any part of the Services is not performed in accordance with this Contract, then the Department shall be entitled, where appropriate to:

9.2.1 require the Contractor promptly to re-perform or replace the relevant part of the Services without additional charge to the Department; or

9.2.2 assess the cost of remedying the failure ("the assessed cost") and to deduct from any sums due to the Contractor the Assessed Cost for the period that such failure continues.

9.3 The Contractor shall be liable for and shall indemnify the Department in full against any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising under statute or at common law in respect of personal injury to or death of any person whomsoever or loss of or damage to property whether belonging to the Department or otherwise arising out of or in the course of or caused by the provision of the Services.

9.4 The Contractor shall be liable for and shall indemnify the Department against any expense, liability, loss, claim or proceedings arising as a result of or in connection with any breach of the terms of this Contract or otherwise through the default of the Contractor

9.5 All property of the Contractor whilst on the Department's premises shall be there at the risk of the Contractor and the Department shall accept no liability for any loss or damage howsoever occurring to it.

9.6 The Contractor shall ensure that it has adequate insurance cover with an insurer of good repute to cover claims under this Contract or any other claims or demands which may be brought or made against it by any person suffering any injury damage or loss in connection with this Contract. The Contractor shall upon request produce to the Department, its policy or policies of insurance, together with the receipt for the payment of the last premium in respect of each policy or produce documentary evidence that the policy or policies are properly maintained.

10 Termination

- 10.1** This Contract may be terminated by either party giving to the other party at least 30 days notice in writing.
- 10.2** In the event of any breach of this Contract by either party, the other party may serve a notice on the party in breach requiring the breach to be remedied within a period specified in the notice which shall be reasonable in all the circumstances. If the breach has not been remedied by the expiry of the specified period, the party not in breach may terminate this Contract with immediate effect by notice in writing.
- 10.3** In the event of a material breach of this Contract by either party, the other party may terminate this Contract with immediate effect by notice in writing.
- 10.4** This Contract may be terminated by the Department with immediate effect by notice in writing if at any time: -
- 10.4.1** in England and Wales, a petition is presented for the Contractor's bankruptcy or a criminal bankruptcy order is made against the Contractor or it makes any composition or arrangement with or for the benefit of creditors or makes any conveyance or assignment for the benefit of creditors; or
 - 10.4.2** in Scotland, if the Contractor becomes apparently insolvent within the meaning of Section 7 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) act 1985; or
 - 10.4.3** where the Contractor is a firm or a number of persons acting together in any capacity (including as trustees), any event referred to in Sub-Clauses 10.4.1 or 10.4.2 occurs in respect of any partner in the firm or any of those persons (including any trustees);
 - 10.4.4** the Contractor is convicted (or being a company, any officers or representatives of the Contractor are convicted) of a criminal offence related to the business or professional conduct;
 - 10.4.5** the Contractor commits (or being a company, any officers or representatives of the Contractor commit) an act of grave misconduct in the course of the business;
 - 10.4.6** the Contractor fails (or being a company, any officers or representatives of the Contractor fail) to fulfil its obligations relating to the payment of Social Security contributions;
 - 10.4.7** the Contractor fails (or being a company, any officers or representatives of the Contractor fail) to fulfil its obligations relating to payment of taxes;
 - 10.4.8** the Contractor fails (or being a company, any officers or representatives of the Contractor fail) to disclose any serious misrepresentation in supplying information required by the Department in or pursuant to this Contract.
- 10.5** Nothing in this Clause 10 shall affect the coming into, or continuance in force of any provision of this Contract which is expressly or by implication intended to come into force or continue in force upon termination of this Contract.

11 Status of Contractor

11.1 In carrying out its obligations under this Contract the Contractor agrees that it will be acting as principal and not as the agent of the Department.

11.2 The Contractor shall not say or do anything that may lead any other person to believe that the Contractor is acting as the agent of the Department.

12 Confidentiality

12.1 Except to the extent set out in this clause or where disclosure is expressly permitted elsewhere in this Contract, each party shall:

12.1.1 treat the other party's Confidential Information as confidential and safeguard it accordingly;
and

12.1.2 not disclose the other party's Confidential Information to any other person without the owner's prior written consent.

12.2 Clause 12 shall not apply to the extent that:

12.2.1 such disclosure is a requirement of Law placed upon the party making the disclosure, including any requirements for disclosure under the FOIA, Code of Practice on Access to Government Information or the Environmental Information Regulations pursuant to Clause 13 (Freedom of Information);

12.2.2 such information was in the possession of the party making the disclosure without obligation of confidentiality prior to its disclosure by the information owner;

12.2.3 such information was obtained from a third party without obligation of confidentiality;

12.2.4 such information was already in the public domain at the time of disclosure otherwise than by a breach of this Contract; or

12.2.5 it is independently developed without access to the other party's Confidential Information.

12.3 The Contractor may only disclose the Department's Confidential Information to the Contractor Personnel who are directly involved in the provision of the Project and who need to know the information, and shall ensure that such Contractor Personnel are aware of and shall comply with these obligations as to confidentiality.

12.4 The Contractor shall not, and shall procure that the Contractor Personnel do not, use any of the Department's Confidential Information received otherwise than for the purposes of this Contract.

12.5 The Contractor shall ensure that their employees, servants or such professional advisors or consultants sign a confidentiality undertaking before commencing work in connection with the Contract.

12.6 Nothing in this Contract shall prevent the Department from disclosing the Contractor's Confidential Information:

12.6.1 on a confidential basis to any Central Government Body for any proper purpose of the Department or of the relevant Central Government Body;

12.6.2 to Parliament and Parliamentary Committees or if required by any Parliamentary reporting requirement;

12.6.3 to the extent that the Department (acting reasonably) deems disclosure necessary or appropriate in the course of carrying out its public functions;

12.6.4 on a confidential basis to a professional adviser, consultant, supplier, or other person engaged by any of the entities described in Clause 12.6.1 (including any benchmarking organisation) for any purpose relating to or connected with this Contract;

12.6.5 on a confidential basis for the purpose of the exercise of its rights under this Contract, including audit rights, step-in rights and exit management rights; or

12.6.6 on a confidential basis to a proposed successor body in connection with any assignment, novation, or disposal of any of its rights, obligations, or liabilities under this Contract.

12.7 The Department shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that any Central Government Body, Contracting Department, employee, third party or Sub-contractor to whom the Contractor's Confidential Information is disclosed pursuant to clause 12 is made aware of the Department's obligations of confidentiality.

12.8 Nothing in this clause 12 shall prevent either party from using any techniques, ideas or know-how gained during the performance of the Contract in the course of its normal business to the extent that this use does not result in a disclosure of the other party's Confidential Information or an infringement of Intellectual Property Rights.

12.9 The parties acknowledge that, except for any information which is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the FOIA, the content of this Contract is not Confidential Information. The Department shall be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion whether any of the content of the Contract is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the FOIA.

12.10 Subject to Clause 12.9, the Contractor hereby gives its consent for the Department to publish the Contract in its entirety, including from time to time agreed changes to the Contract, to the general public.

12.11 The Department may consult with the Contractor to inform its decision regarding any redactions, but the Department shall have the final decision in its absolute discretion.

12.12 The Contractor shall assist and cooperate with the Department to enable the Department to publish this Contract.

13 Freedom of Information

13.1 The Contractor acknowledges that the Department is subject to the requirements of the FOIA and the Environmental Information Regulations and shall assist and cooperate with the Department to enable the Department to comply with its information disclosure obligations.

13.2 The Contractor shall and shall procure that its Sub-contractors shall:

13.2.1 transfer to the Department all Requests for Information that it receives as soon as practicable and in any event within two Working Days of receiving a Request for Information;

13.2.2 provide the Department with a copy of all Information in its possession, or power in the form that the Department requires within five Working Days (or such other period as the Department may specify) of the Department's request; and

13.2.3 provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested by the Department to enable the Department to respond to the Request for Information within the time for compliance set out in section 10 of the FOIA or regulation 5 of the Environmental Information Regulations.

13.3 The Department shall be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion and notwithstanding any other provision in this Contract or any other agreement whether any Information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the FOIA or the Environmental Information Regulations.

13.4 In no event shall the Contractor respond directly to a Request for Information unless expressly authorised to do so by the Department.

13.5 The Contractor acknowledges that (notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 13) the Department may, acting in accordance with the Ministry of Justice's Code of Practice on the Discharge of the Functions of Public Authorities under Part 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**the Code**"), be obliged under the FOIA, or the Environmental Information Regulations to disclose information concerning the Contractor or the Project:

13.5.1 in certain circumstances without consulting the Contractor; or

13.5.2 following consultation with the Contractor and having taken their views into account;

provided always that where 13.5.1 applies the Department shall, in accordance with any recommendations of the Code, take reasonable steps, where appropriate, to give the Contractor advanced notice, or failing that, to draw the disclosure to the Contractor's attention after any such disclosure.

13.6 The Contractor shall ensure that all Information is retained for disclosure and shall permit the Department to inspect such records as requested from time to time.

14 Access and Information

The Contractor shall provide access at all reasonable times to the Department's internal auditors or other duly authorised staff or agents to inspect such documents as the Department considers necessary in connection with this Contract and where appropriate speak to the Contractors employees.

15 Transfer of Responsibility on Expiry or Termination

15.1 The Contractor shall, at no cost to the Department, promptly provide such assistance and comply with such timetable as the Department may reasonably require for the purpose of ensuring an orderly transfer of responsibility upon the expiry or other termination of this Contract. The Department shall be entitled to require the provision of such assistance both prior to and, for a reasonable period of time after the expiry or other termination of this Contract.

15.2 Such assistance may include (without limitation) the delivery of documents and data in the possession or control of the Contractor which relate to this Contract, including the documents and data, if any, referred to in the Schedule.

15.3 The Contractor undertakes that it shall not knowingly do or omit to do anything which may adversely affect the ability of the Department to ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility.

16 Tax Indemnity

16.1 Where the Contractor is liable to be taxed in the UK in respect of consideration received under this contract, it shall at all times comply with the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 (ITEPA) and all other statutes and regulations relating to income tax in respect of that consideration. Where the Department has deemed the Contractor to be an Off-Payroll Contractor as defined by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs the Department reserves the right to calculate Income Tax and pay it to HMRC. The amounts will be deducted from the Contractor's fee for the work provided.

16.2 Where the Contractor is liable to National Insurance Contributions (NICs) in respect of consideration received under this contract, it shall at all times comply with the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (SSCBA) and all other statutes and regulations relating to NICs in respect of that consideration. Where the Department has deemed the Contractor to be an Off-Payroll Contractor as defined by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs the Department reserves the right to calculate primary (employee) National Insurance contributions (NICs) and pay them to HMRC. The amounts will be deducted from the Contractor's fee for the work provided.

16.3 The Department may, at any time during the term of this contract, ask the Contractor to provide information which demonstrates how the Contractor complies with Clauses 16.1 and 16.2 above or why those Clauses do not apply to it.

16.4 A request under Clause 16.3 above may specify the information which the Contractor must provide and the period within which that information must be provided.

16.5 The Department may terminate this contract if-

- (a) in the case of a request mentioned in Clause 16.3 above if the Contractor: (i)
fails to provide information in response to the request within a reasonable time, or
- (ii) provides information which is inadequate to demonstrate either how the Contractor complies with Clauses 16.1 and 16.2 above or why those Clauses do not apply to it;
- (b) in the case of a request mentioned in Clause 16.4 above, the Contractor fails to provide the specified information within the specified period, or
- (c) it receives information which demonstrates that, at any time when Clauses 16.1 and 16.2 apply, the Contractor is not complying with those Clauses.

16.6 The Department may supply any information which it receives under Clause 16.3 to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Revenue and Customs for the purpose of the collection and management of revenue for which they are responsible.

16.7 The Contractor warrants and represents to the Department that it is an independent contractor and, as such, bears sole responsibility for the payment of tax and national insurance contributions which may be found due from it in relation to any payments or arrangements made under this Contract. The Contractor shall promptly and regularly pay all National Insurance Contributions due from it as a self-employed person and shall account to the HM Revenue and Customs for all taxes due from it in respect of the payments made to it under this Contract.

- 16.8** If, notwithstanding Clause 7, the HM Revenue and Customs and/or any other appropriate agency consider that the Contractor is an employee of the Department for the purposes of tax and/or national insurance contributions; then the Department shall be entitled to terminate this Contract immediately and deduct from the payments payable to the Contractor under the terms of this Contract, such sums as the HM Revenue and Customs and/or other agencies require in respect of income tax and employee national insurance contributions. The deduction of such tax and national insurance contributions will not affect the status of the Contractor as selfemployed for all other purposes.
- 16.9** Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause 16.8 above, the Contractor shall indemnify the Department against any liability, assessment or claim made by the HM Revenue and Customs or any other relevant authority arising out of the performance by the parties of their obligations under this Contract (other than in respect of employer's secondary national insurance contributions) and any costs, expenses, penalty fine or interest incurred or payable by the Department in connection with any such assessment or claim.
- 16.10** The Contractor authorises the Department to provide the HM Revenue and Customs and all other departments or agencies of the Government with any information which they may request as to fees and/or expenses paid or due to be paid under this Contract whether or not the Department is obliged as a matter of law to comply with such request.
- 16.11** The Contractor shall register for value added tax if and when required by law and shall promptly notify the Department for Work and Pensions of its liability for Class 2 and, where appropriate, Class 4 national insurance contributions.

17 Data Protection

- 17.1** The Parties acknowledge that for the purposes of the Data Protection Legislation, the Customer is the Controller and the Contractor is the Processor unless otherwise specified in Schedule 3a. The only processing that the Processor is authorised to do is listed in Schedule 3a by the Controller and may not be determined by the Processor
- 17.2** The Processor shall notify the Controller immediately if it considers that any of the Controller's instructions infringe the Data Protection Legislation.
- 17.3** The Processor shall provide all reasonable assistance to the Controller in the preparation of any Data Protection Impact Assessment prior to commencing any processing. Such assistance may, at the discretion of the Controller, include:
- (a) a systematic description of the envisaged processing operations and the purpose of the processing;
 - (b) an assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the processing operations in relation to the Services;
 - (c) an assessment of the risks to the rights and freedoms of Data Subjects; and
 - (d) the measures envisaged to address the risks, including safeguards, security measures and mechanisms to ensure the protection of Personal Data.
- 17.4** The Processor shall, in relation to any Personal Data processed in connection with its obligations under this Contract:
- (a) process that Personal Data only in accordance with Schedule 3a, unless the Processor is required to do otherwise by Law. If it is so required the Processor shall promptly notify the Controller before processing the Personal Data unless prohibited by Law;
 - (b) ensure that it has in place Protective Measures, which are appropriate to protect against a Data Loss Event, which the Controller may reasonably reject (but failure to reject shall not

amount to approval by the Controller of the adequacy of the Protective Measures), having taken account of the:

- (i) nature of the data to be protected;
 - (ii) harm that might result from a Data Loss Event;
 - (iii) state of technological development; and (iv) cost of implementing any measures;
- (c) ensure that:
- (i) the Processor Personnel do not process Personal Data except in accordance with this Contract (and in particular Schedule 3a);
 - (ii) it takes all reasonable steps to ensure the reliability and integrity of any Processor Personnel who have access to the Personal Data and ensure that they:
 - (A) are aware of and comply with the Processor's duties under this clause;
 - (B) are subject to appropriate confidentiality undertakings with the Processor or any Subprocessor;
 - (C) are informed of the confidential nature of the Personal Data and do not publish, disclose or divulge any of the Personal Data to any third Party unless directed in writing to do so by the Controller or as otherwise permitted by this Contract; and (D) have undergone adequate training in the use, care, protection and handling of Personal Data; and
 - (d) not make a Restricted Transfer unless the prior written consent of the Controller has been obtained and the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - (i) the Controller or the Processor has provided appropriate safeguards in relation to the transfer (in accordance with Data Protection Legislation) as determined by the Controller;
 - (ii) the Data Subject has enforceable rights and effective legal remedies;
 - (iii) the Processor complies with its obligations under the Data Protection Legislation by providing an adequate level of protection to any Personal Data that is transferred (or, if it is not so bound, uses its best endeavours to assist the Controller in meeting its obligations); and
 - (iv) the Processor complies with any reasonable instructions notified to it in advance by the Controller with respect to the processing of the Personal Data;
 - (e) at the written direction of the Controller, delete or return Personal Data (and any copies of it) to the Controller on termination of the Contract unless the Processor is required by Law to retain the Personal Data.

17.5 Subject to clause 17.6, the Processor shall notify the Controller immediately if it:

- (a) receives a Data Subject Request (or purported Data Subject Request);
- (b) receives a request to rectify, block or erase any Personal Data;
- (c) receives any other request, complaint or communication relating to either Party's obligations under the Data Protection Legislation;
- (d) receives any communication from the Information Commissioner or any other regulatory authority in connection with Personal Data processed under this Contract;
- (e) receives a request from any third Party for disclosure of Personal Data where compliance with such request is required or purported to be required by Law; or (f) becomes aware of a Data Loss Event.

17.6 The Processor's obligation to notify under clause 17.5 shall include the provision of further information to the Controller in phases, as details become available.

17.7 Taking into account the nature of the processing, the Processor shall provide the Controller with full assistance in relation to either Party's obligations under Data Protection Legislation and any complaint, communication or request made under clause 17.5 (and insofar as possible within the timescales reasonably required by the Controller) including by promptly providing:

- (a) the Controller with full details and copies of the complaint, communication or request;
- (b) such assistance as is reasonably requested by the Controller to enable the Controller to comply with a Data Subject Request within the relevant timescales set out in the Data Protection Legislation;
- (c) the Controller, at its request, with any Personal Data it holds in relation to a Data Subject;
- (d) assistance as requested by the Controller following any Data Loss Event;
- (e) assistance as requested by the Controller with respect to any request from the Information Commissioner's Office, or any consultation by the Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office.

17.8 The Processor shall maintain complete and accurate records and information to demonstrate its compliance with this clause. This requirement does not apply where the Processor employs fewer than 250 staff, unless:

- (a) the Controller determines that the processing is not occasional;
- (b) the Controller determines the processing includes special categories of data as referred to in Data Protection Legislation or Personal Data relating to criminal convictions and offences referred to in Data Protection Legislation; and
- (c) the Controller determines that the processing is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of Data Subjects.

17.9 The Processor shall allow for audits of its Data Processing activity by the Controller or the Controller's designated auditor.

17.10 Each Party shall designate its own data protection officer if required by the Data Protection Legislation.

17.11 Before allowing any Sub-processor to process any Personal Data related to this Contract, the Processor must:

- (a) notify the Controller in writing of the intended Sub-processor and processing;
- (b) obtain the written consent of the Controller;
- (c) enter into a written agreement with the Sub-processor which give effect to the terms set out in this clause 17 such that they apply to the Sub-processor; and
- (d) provide the Controller with such information regarding the Sub-processor as the Controller may reasonably require.

17.12 The Processor shall remain fully liable for all acts or omissions of any Sub-processor.

17.13 The Controller may, at any time on not less than 30 Working Days' notice, revise this clause by replacing it with any applicable controller to processor standard clauses or similar terms forming part of an applicable certification scheme (which shall apply when incorporated by attachment to this Contract).

17.14 The Parties agree to take account of any guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office. The Controller may on not less than 30 Working Days' notice to the Processor amend

18 Amendment and variation

No amendment or variation to this Contract shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by or on behalf of each of the parties hereto. The Contractor shall comply with any formal procedures for amending or varying contracts which the Department may have in place from time to time.

19 Assignment and Sub-contracting

The benefit and burden of this Contract may not be assigned or sub-contracted in whole or in part by the Contractor without the prior written consent of the Department. Such consent may be given subject to any conditions which the Department considers necessary. The Department may withdraw its consent to any sub-contractor where it no longer has reasonable grounds to approve of the sub-contractor or the sub-contracting arrangement and where these grounds have been presented in writing to the Contractor.

20 The Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999

This Contract is not intended to create any benefit, claim or rights of any kind whatsoever enforceable by any person not a party to the Contract.

21 Waiver

No delay by or omission by either Party in exercising any right, power, privilege or remedy under this Contract shall operate to impair such right, power, privilege or remedy or be construed as a waiver thereof. Any single or partial exercise of any such right, power, privilege or remedy shall not preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, power, privilege or remedy.

22 Notices

22.1 Any notice, demand or communication in connection with the Contract shall be in writing and may be delivered by hand, pre-paid first class post or (where being sent to an address in a different country to where posted) airmail, or e-mail, addressed to the recipient at its registered office or its address (or such other address, or e-mail address as may be notified in writing from time to time).

22.2 The notice, demand or communication shall be deemed to have been duly served:

22.2.1 if delivered by hand, when left at the proper address for service;

22.2.2 if given or made by prepaid first class post 48 hours after being posted or in the case of airmail 14 days after being posted;

22.2.3 if made by e-mail, at the time of transmission, dispatched as a pdf attachment to an e-mail to the correct e-mail address without any error message or, in the case of transmission by e-mail where the time of transmission is not between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, service shall be deemed to occur at 9.00 am on the next following Business Day (such times being local time at the address of the recipient).

23 Dispute resolution

- 23.1** The Parties shall use all reasonable endeavours to negotiate in good faith and settle amicably any dispute that arises during the continuance of this Contract.
- 23.2** Any dispute not capable of resolution by the parties in accordance with the terms of Clause 23 shall be settled as far as possible by mediation in accordance with the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Model Mediation Procedure.
- 23.3** No party may commence any court proceedings/arbitration in relation to any dispute arising out of this Contract until they have attempted to settle it by mediation, but any such mediation may be terminated by either party at any time of such party wishing to commence court proceedings/arbitration.

24 Discrimination

- 24.1** The Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of any law, enactment, order, or regulation relating to discrimination (whether in race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or otherwise) in employment.
- 24.2** The Contractor shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of Clause 24.1 by all servants, employees or agents of the Contractor and all suppliers and sub-contractors employed in the execution of the Contract.

25 Law and Jurisdiction

This Contract shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English Law and the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts.

As witness the hands of the parties

**Authorised to sign for and on behalf of
the Secretary of State for Education**

Signature




Date

Jun 18, 2024

Name in Capitals



Address in full



**Authorised to sign for and on behalf of the
Contractor**

Signature




Date

Jun 18, 2024

Name in Capitals



Address in full



Schedule 1: Schedule of Requirements (details to be confirmed later)

1. The contractor will be required to assist the Department with a programme to support Local Authorities (LA) with large Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficits. The programme involves negotiations to come to an agreement with the LA on a package of reform sufficient to bring their budgets into in-year balance, in order to release support which will allow the liquidation of their historic deficits, and monitor progress against the agreements.
2. The contractor will be required to assist the Department in the monitoring of those local authorities who secured agreements in the previous rounds of negotiations and advise the Department on issues raised by the local authorities.
3. The contractor will review monitoring reports and, as required, participate in meetings with senior representatives from LAs. The contractor will provide expert advice in response to issues raised by the LAs which have led to their DSG deficits. The contractor will provide suggestions for improving the LAs' overall management of DSG funding.
4. The contractor will be required to review LA monitoring reports within 2-3 weeks of receipt. The monitoring report dates for 24-25 are 28 August 2024 and 27 November. The contractor may be required to attend further meetings with LAs and/or DfE to discuss the contents of the reports as required.
5. Where agreements are subject to review, the contractor will be required to review revised proposals and/or meet with LAs and provide feedback to support the LA to develop a package of reform to bring their budgets into in-year balance and help eliminate historic deficits.
6. The contractor will be available to participate in meetings until the end of March 2025. The contractor must be available to participate in meetings, likely to be conducted virtually. The contractor will be reachable over email to provide comments and feedback on documents
7. The contractor will declare in advance any conflicts of interest that may arise with any particular LAs chosen to participate in the programme.
8. The contractor may also be required, if requested, to participate in the department's 'Financial Adviser Helpline' service, which is intended to support local authorities, not participating in either Safety Valve or the Department's other intervention programme, Delivering Better Value in SEND, in any financial issues the ESFA believes they need help with.

Schedule 2 – Pricing and Payment

1. Table

Day rate	
Expenses	

2. Funds allocated to a particular expenditure heading in the table at paragraph 1 ("the Table") are available for that expenditure heading only. Funds allocated to a particular accounting year are available for that accounting year only. The allocation of funds in the Table may not be altered except with the prior written consent of the Department.
3. The Contractor shall maintain full and accurate accounts for the Service against the expenditure headings in the Table. Such accounts shall be retained for at least 6 years after the end of the financial year in which the last payment was made under this Contract. Input and output VAT shall be included as separate items in such accounts.
4. The Contractor shall permit duly authorised staff or agents of the Department or the National Audit Office to examine the accounts at any reasonable time and shall furnish oral or written explanations of the account if required. The Department reserves the right to have such staff or agents carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Contractor has used the Department's resources in the performance of this Contract.
5. Invoices shall be prepared by the Contractor monthly in arrears (unless the Contractor prefers to submit a single invoice at the end of the contract) and shall be detailed against the expenditure headings set out in the Table. The Contractor or its nominated representative or accountant shall certify on the invoice that the amounts claimed were expended wholly and necessarily by the Contractor on the Service in accordance with the Contract and that the invoice does not include any costs being claimed from any other body or individual or from the Department within the terms of another contract.
6. The Department shall accept and process for payment an electronic invoice submitted for payment by the Contractor where the invoice is undisputed and where it complies with the standard on electronic invoicing. For the purposes of this paragraph, an electronic invoice complies with the standard on electronic invoicing where it complies with the European standard and any of the syntaxes published in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1870.
7. Invoices shall be sent, within 30 days of the end of the relevant month (or within 30 days of the end of the contract should the Contractor prefer to submit a single invoice at the end of the contract) electronically by email to [REDACTED] quoting the Contract reference number. To request a statement, please email [REDACTED] quoting the Contract reference number. The Department undertakes to pay correctly submitted invoices within 5 days of receipt. The Department is obliged to pay invoices within 30 days of receipt from the day of physical or electronic arrival at the nominated address of the Department. Any correctly submitted invoices that are not paid within 30 days will be subject to the provisions of the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998. A correct invoice is one that: is delivered in timing in accordance with the contract; is for the correct sum; in respect of goods/services supplied or delivered to the required quality (or are expected to be at the required quality); includes the date, supplier name, contact details and bank details; quotes the relevant

purchase order/contract reference and has been delivered to the nominated address. If any problems arise, contact the Department's Contract Manager. The Department aims to reply to complaints within 10 working days. The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in payment caused by incomplete or illegible invoices.

8. The Contractor shall have regard to the need for economy in all expenditure. Where any expenditure in an invoice, in the Department's reasonable opinion, is excessive having due regard to the purpose for which it was incurred, the Department shall only be liable to reimburse so much (if any) of the expenditure disallowed as, in the Department's reasonable opinion after consultation with the Contractor, would reasonably have been required for that purpose.
9. If this Contract is terminated by the Department due to the Contractor's insolvency or default at any time before completion of the Service, the Department shall only be liable under paragraph 1 to reimburse eligible payments made by, or due to, the Contractor before the date of termination.
10. On completion of the Service or on termination of this Contract, the Contractor shall promptly draw-up a final invoice, which shall cover all outstanding expenditure incurred for the Service. The final invoice shall be submitted not later than 30 days after the date of completion of the Service.
11. The Department shall not be obliged to pay the final invoice until the Contractor has carried out all the elements of the Service specified as in Schedule 1.
12. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that the final invoice covers all outstanding expenditure for which reimbursement may be claimed. Provided that all previous invoices have been duly paid, on due payment of the final invoice by the Department all amounts due to be reimbursed under this Contract shall be deemed to have been paid and the Department shall have no further liability to make reimbursement of any kind.

Schedule 3 – Data Protection Legislation

3a - Processing, Personal Data and Data Subjects

This Schedule shall be completed by the Controller, who may take account of the view of the Processors, however the final decision as to the content of this Schedule shall be with the Controller at its absolute discretion.

1. The contact details of the Controller's Data Protection Officer are: [REDACTED] – Departmental Data Protection Officer. Email: [REDACTED]
2. The contact details of the Processor's Data Protection Officer are: [REDACTED]
3. The Processor shall comply with any further written instructions with respect to processing by the Controller.
4. Any such further instructions shall be incorporated into this Schedule.

Description	Details
Identity of the Controller and Processor	The Parties acknowledge that for the purposes of the Data Protection Legislation, the Customer is the Controller and the Contractor is the Processor in accordance with Clause 17.1.
Subject matter of the processing	The processing is needed to ensure the Processor is able to deliver the contract and provide advice to the local authority and department.
Duration of the processing	1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
Nature and purposes of the processing	[REDACTED] All information should be treated as Official Sensitive as per the Government Security Classifications, and some information may be shared on a Confidential basis. Government Security Classifications - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Type of Personal Data	[REDACTED]
Categories of Data Subject	[REDACTED]

Plan for return and destruction of the data once the processing is complete UNLESS requirement under union or member state law to preserve that type of data

Data will only be held until the end of the contract and will be destroyed upon contract termination.

