



Crown
Commercial
Service

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)

and

Kainos Software Limited

ETHICAL WALLS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is dated 16th December 2022

Between

- (1) **Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)** (the "**Buyer**") of Berkeley House, Croydon Street, Bristol, BS5 0DA
and
- (2) **Kainos Software Ltd** a company registered in England and Wales under registered number NI019370 whose registered office is at [insert Supplier's registered address] (the "**Supplier**").

together the "**Parties**" and each a "**Party**".

BACKGROUND

- A. The Buyer is obliged to ensure transparency, fairness, non-discrimination and equal treatment in relation to its procurement process pursuant to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) (the **PCR**). The purpose of this document ("Agreement") is to define the protocols to be followed to prevent, identify and remedy any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or perceived) in the context of the Further Competition Procedure.
- B. The Buyer is conducting a Further Procurement Procedure for the supply of Digital Outcomes and Specialists 5 Deliverables under a Call-Off Contract (the "**Purpose**").
- C. The Buyer has an obligation to deal with conflicts of interest as set out in Regulation 24 (1) of the PCR. The concept of conflict of interest is wide. In the PCR it is described as covering at least *"any situation where relevant staff members have, directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement procedure"* (Regulation 24(2)). *"Staff members"* refers to staff members of the Buyer or of a procurement service provider acting on behalf of the Buyer who are involved in the conduct of the procurement procedure or may influence the outcome of that procedure. *"Procurement service provider"* refers to a public or private body which offers ancillary purchasing activities on the market.

- D. Pursuant to Regulation 41 of the PCR, the Buyer is under an obligation to ensure that competition is not distorted by the participation of any Framework Contract supplier acting as a bidder in a further competition procedure. Accordingly, the Buyer has identified that a potential distortion of competition could arise as a consequence of a bidder wishing to submit a Tender for this Further Competition Procedure, where it has also performed services for the Buyer under existing contractual arrangements or as a subcontractor under those same arrangements.
- E. The Parties wish to enter into this Agreement to ensure that a set of management processes, barriers and disciplines are put in place to ensure that conflicts of interest do not arise, and that the Supplier does not obtain an unfair competitive advantage over Other Bidders.

IT IS AGREED:

1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 The following words and expressions shall have the following meanings in this agreement and its recitals:

“Affiliate” means 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 of that body corporate from time to time;

“Agreement” means this ethical walls agreement duly executed by the Parties;

“Bid Team” means any Supplier, Affiliate, connected to the preparation of an FCP Response;

“Central Government Body” means a body listed in one of the following sub-categories 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;
- b) Non-Departmental Public Body or Assembly Sponsored Public Body (advisory, executive, or tribunal);
- c) Non-Ministerial Department; or

d) Executive Agency.

“Conflicted Personnel” means any Supplier, Affiliate, staff or agents of the Supplier or an Affiliate who, because of the Supplier’s relationship with the Buyer under any Contract have or have had access to information which creates or may create a conflict of interest;

“Contract” means the contract for Process Transformation including MS Dynamics dated 03/01/2023 – 31/03/2024;

“Control” means the beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the issued share capital of a company or the legal power to direct or cause the direction of the management of the company and **“Controls”** and **“Controlled”** shall be interpreted accordingly;

“Effective Date” means the date of this Agreement as set out above;

“Further Competition Procedure” or **“FCP”** means an invitation to submit tenders issued by the Buyer as part of an FCP Process;

“FCP Process” means, with regard to the Purpose, the relevant procedure provided for in Framework Schedule 7 (Call-Off Award Procedure) of RM1043.7 Framework Contract which the Buyer has elected to use to select a contractor, together with all relevant information, correspondence and/or documents issued by the Buyer as part of that procurement exercise, all information, correspondence and/or documents issued by the bidders in response together with any resulting contract;

“FCP Response” means the tender submitted or to be submitted by the Supplier or an Affiliate [(or, where relevant, by an Other Bidder)] in response to an FCP;

“Other Affiliate” any person who is a subsidiary, subsidiary undertaking or holding company of any Other Bidder;

“Other Bidder” means any other bidder or potential bidder that is not the Supplier or any Affiliate that has or is taking part in the FCP Process;

“Parties” means the Buyer and the Supplier;

“Professional Advisor” means a supplier, subcontractor, advisor or consultant engaged by the Supplier under the auspices of compiling its FCP Response;

“Purpose” has the meaning given to it in recital B to this Agreement;

"Representative" refers to a person's officers, directors, employees, advisers and agents and, where the context admits, providers or potential providers of finance to the Supplier or any Affiliate in connection with the FCP Process and the representatives of such providers or potential providers of finance; and

“Third Party” means any person who is not a Party and includes Other Affiliates and Other Bidders.

- 1.2 Reference to the disclosure of information includes any communication or making available information and includes both direct and indirect disclosure.
- 1.3 Reference to the disclosure of information, or provision of access, by or to the Buyer or the Supplier includes disclosure, or provision of access, by or to the representatives of the Buyer or Representatives of the Supplier (as the case may be).
- 1.4 Reference to persons includes legal and natural persons.
- 1.5 Reference to any enactment is to that enactment as amended, supplemented, re-enacted or replaced from time to time.
- 1.6 Reference to clauses and recitals is to clauses of and recitals to this Agreement.
- 1.7 Reference to any gender includes any other.
- 1.8 Reference to writing includes email.
- 1.9 The terms “associate”, “holding company”, “subsidiary”, “subsidiary undertaking” and “wholly owned subsidiary” have the meanings attributed to them in the Companies Act 2006, except that for the purposes of section 1159(1)(a) of that Act, the words ‘holds a majority of the voting rights’ shall be changed to ‘holds 30% or more of the voting rights’, and other expressions shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.10 The words “include” and “including” are to be construed without limitation.
- 1.11 The singular includes the plural and vice versa.

1.12 The headings contained in this Agreement shall not affect its construction or interpretation.

2 ETHICAL WALLS

2.1 In consideration of the sum of £1 payable by the Buyer to the Supplier, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Supplier:

2.1.1 shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that neither the Supplier nor its Affiliates and/or Representatives are in a position where, in the reasonable opinion of the Buyer, there is or may be an actual conflict, or a potential conflict, between the pecuniary or personal interests of the Supplier or its Affiliates or Representatives and the duties owed to the Buyer under the Contract or pursuant to an fair and transparent FCP Process;

2.1.2 acknowledges and agrees that a conflict of interest may arise in situations where the Supplier or an Affiliate intends to take part in the FCP Process and, because of the Supplier's relationship with the Buyer under any Contract, the Supplier, its Affiliates and/or Representatives have or have had access to information which could provide the Supplier and/or its Affiliates with an advantage and render unfair an otherwise genuine and fair competitive FCP Process; and

2.1.3 where there is or is likely to be a conflict of interest or the perception of a conflict of interest of any kind in relation to the FCP Process, shall comply with Clause 2.2.

2.2 The Supplier shall:

2.2.1 Not assign any of the Conflicted Personnel to the Bid Team at any time;

2.2.2 Provide to the Buyer a complete and up to date list of the Conflicted Personnel and the Bid Team and reissue such list upon any change to it;

2.2.3 Ensure that by no act or omission by itself, its staff, agents and/or Affiliates results in information of any kind or in any format and however so stored:

(a) about the Contract, its performance, operation and all matters connected or ancillary to it becoming available to the Bid Team; and/or

- (b) which would or could in the opinion of the Buyer confer an unfair advantage on the Supplier in relation to its participation in the FCP Process becoming available to the Bid Team;
 - 2.2.4 Ensure that by no act or omission by itself, its staff, agents and/or Affiliates and in particular the Bid Team results in information of any kind or in any format and however so stored about the FCP Process, its operation and all matters connected or ancillary to it becoming available to the Conflicted Personnel;
 - 2.2.5 Ensure that confidentiality agreements which flow down the Supplier's obligations in this Agreement are entered into as necessary between the Buyer and the Supplier, its Affiliates, its staff, agents, any Conflicted Personnel, and between any other parties necessary in a form to be prescribed by the Buyer;
 - 2.2.6 physically separate the Conflicted Personnel and the Bid Team, either in separate buildings or in areas with restricted access;
 - 2.2.7 provide regular training to its staff, agents and its Affiliates to ensure it is complying with this Agreement;
 - 2.2.8 monitor Conflicted Personnel movements within restricted areas (both physical and electronic online areas) to ensure it is complying with this Agreement ensure adherence to the ethical wall arrangements;
 - 2.2.9 ensure that the Conflicted Personnel and the Bid Team are line managed and report independently of each other; and
 - 2.2.10 comply with any other action as the Buyer, acting reasonably, may direct.
- 2.3 In addition to the obligations set out in Clause 2.1.1 and 2.1.3, the Supplier shall:
- 2.3.1 notify the Buyer immediately of all perceived, potential and/or actual conflicts of interest that arise;
 - 2.3.2 submit in writing to the Buyer full details of the nature of the conflict including (without limitation) full details of the risk assessments undertaken, the impact or potential impact of the conflict, the measures and arrangements that have

been established and/or are due to be established to eliminate the conflict and the Supplier's plans to prevent future conflicts of interests from arising; and

2.3.3 seek the Buyer's approval thereto,

which the Buyer shall have the right to grant, grant conditionally or deny (if the Buyer denies its approval the Supplier shall repeat the process set out in clause 2.3 until such time as the Buyer grants approval or the Supplier withdraws from the FCP Process).

2.4 Any breach of Clause 2.1, Clause 2.2 or Clause 2.3 shall entitle the Buyer to exclude the Supplier or any Affiliate or Representative from the FCP Process, and the Buyer may, in addition to the right to exclude, take such other steps as it deems necessary where, in the reasonable opinion of the Buyer there has been a breach of Clause 2.1, Clause 2.2 or Clause 2.3.

2.5 The Supplier will provide, on demand, any and all information in relation to its adherence with its obligations set out under Clauses 2.1 and 2.2 as reasonably requested by the Buyer.

2.6 The Buyer reserves the right to require the Supplier to demonstrate the measures put in place by the Supplier under Clauses 2.1.3 and 2.2.

2.7 The Supplier acknowledges that any provision of information or demonstration of measures, in accordance with Clauses 2.5 and 2.6, does not constitute acceptance by the Buyer of the adequacy of such measures and does not discharge the Supplier of its obligations or liability under this Agreement.

2.8 The actions of the Buyer pursuant to Clause 2.4 shall not prejudice or affect any right of action or remedy which shall have accrued or shall thereafter accrue to the Buyer.

2.9 In no event shall the Buyer be liable for any bid costs incurred by:

2.9.1 the Supplier or any Affiliate or Representative; or

2.9.2 any Other Bidder, Other Affiliate or Other Representative,

as a result of any breach by the Supplier, Affiliate or Representative of this Agreement, including, without limitation, where the Supplier or any Affiliate or Representative, or

any Other Bidder, Other Affiliate or Other Representative are excluded from the FCP Process.

2.10 The Supplier acknowledges and agrees that:

2.10.1 neither damages nor specific performance are adequate remedies in the event of its breach of the obligations in Clause 2; and

2.10.2 in the event of such breach by the Supplier of any of its obligations in Clause 2 which cannot be effectively remedied the Buyer shall have the right to terminate this Agreement and the Supplier's participation in the FCP Process.

3 SOLE RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 It is the sole responsibility of the Supplier to comply with the terms of this Agreement. No approval by the Buyer of any procedures, agreements or arrangements provided by the Supplier or any Affiliate or Representative to the Buyer shall discharge the Supplier's obligations.

4 WAIVER AND INVALIDITY

4.1 No failure or delay by any Party in exercising any right, power or privilege under this Agreement or by law shall constitute a waiver of that or any other right, power or privilege, nor shall it restrict the further exercise of that or any other right, power or privilege. No single or partial exercise of such right, power or privilege shall prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right, power or privilege.

4.2 If any provision of this Agreement is prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction in relation to any Party, such prohibition or unenforceability will not invalidate the remaining provisions of this Agreement or affect the validity or enforceability of the provisions of this Agreement in relation to any other Party or any other jurisdiction.

5 ASSIGNMENT AND NOVATION

5.1 Subject to Clause 5.2 the Parties shall not assign, novate or otherwise dispose of or create any trust in relation to any or all of its rights, obligations or liabilities under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Buyer.

- 5.2 The Buyer may assign, novate or otherwise dispose of any or all of its rights, obligations and liabilities under this Agreement and/or any associated licences to:
- 5.2.1 any Central Government Body; or
 - 5.2.2 to a body other than a Central Government Body (including any private sector body) which performs any of the functions that previously had been performed by the Authority; and
 - 5.2.3 the Supplier shall, at the Buyer's request, enter into a novation agreement in such form as the Buyer reasonably specify in order to enable the Buyer to exercise its rights pursuant to this Clause 5.
- 5.3 A change in the legal status of the Buyer such that it ceases to be a Central Government Body shall not affect the validity of this Agreement and this Agreement shall be binding on any successor body to the Buyer.

6 CONTRACTS (RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES) ACT 1999

- 6.1 A person who is not a Party to this Agreement has no right under the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 (as amended, updated or replaced from time to time) to enforce any term of this Agreement but this does not affect any right remedy of any person which exists or is available otherwise than pursuant to that Act.

7 TRANSPARENCY

- 7.1 The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Buyer is under a legal duty pursuant to the PCR to run transparent and fair procurement processes. Accordingly, the Buyer may disclose the contents of this Agreement to potential bidders in the FCP Process, for the purposes of transparency and in order to evidence that a fair procurement process has been followed.

8 NOTICES

- 8.1 Any notices sent under this Agreement must be in writing.
- 8.2 The following table sets out the method by which notices may be served under this Agreement and the respective deemed time and proof of service:

Manner of Delivery	Deemed time of service	Proof of service
Email	9.00am on the first Working Day after sending	Dispatched as a pdf attachment to an email to the correct email address without any error message.
Personal delivery	On delivery, provided delivery is between 9.00am and 5.00pm on a Working Day. Otherwise, delivery will occur at 9.00am on the next Working Day.	Properly addressed and delivered as evidenced by signature of a delivery receipt.
Prepaid, Royal Mail Signed For™ 1 st Class or other prepaid, next working day service providing proof of delivery.	At the time recorded by the delivery service, provided that delivery is between 9.00am and 5.00pm on a Working Day. Otherwise, delivery will occur at 9.00am on the same Working Day (if delivery before 9.00am) or on the next Working Day (if after 5.00pm).	Properly addressed prepaid and delivered as evidenced by signature of a delivery receipt.

8.3 Notices shall be sent to the addresses set out below or at such other address as the relevant Party may give notice to the other Party for the purpose of service of notices under this Agreement:

	Supplier	Buyer
Contact	Redacted under FOIA Section 40, Personal Information	Redacted under FOIA Section 40, Personal Information
Address	4-6 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT	3 rd Floor, Commercial Team, Berkeley House, Croydon Street, Bristol, BS5 0DA

8.4 This Clause 8 does not apply to the service of any proceedings or other documents in any legal action or other method of dispute resolution.

9 WAIVER AND CUMULATIVE REMEDIES

9.1 The rights and remedies under this Agreement may be waived only by notice and in a manner that expressly states that a waiver is intended and what is waived. A failure or delay by a Party in ascertaining or exercising a right or remedy provided under this Agreement or by law shall not constitute a waiver of that right or remedy, nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy. No single or partial exercise of any right or remedy shall prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

9.2 Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, rights and remedies under this Agreement are cumulative and do not exclude any rights or remedies provided by law, in equity or otherwise.

10 TERM

10.1 Each Party's obligations under this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect for the duration of the Contract Term.

11 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

- 11.1 This Agreement and any issues, disputes or claims (whether contractual or non-contractual) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
- 11.2 The Parties agree that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim (whether contractual or non-contractual) that arises out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation.