



INVITATION TO TENDER LETTER

Dear supplier,

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) for Deepdives into Social Mobility: A Local Perspective

Your organisation along with others is invited to offer a tender for provision of the above, to the specification outlined in the attached documents. The Social Mobility Commission (SMC) is happy to accept tenders from individuals or organisations. Enclosed are:

Document 1 Specification of the requirement.

<u>Document 2 Instructions on the tendering procedures.</u>

<u>Document 3 SMC standard requirements.</u>

Document 4 List of attachments.

Document 5 Declaration and information to be provided by the tenderer.

Attachments Draft Terms and Conditions, Evaluation Criteria,

Annex A Conflicts of Interest

Please read the instructions on the tendering procedures carefully. Failure to comply with them may invalidate your tender which must be returned by the date and time given below.

An electronic copy of your tender must be submitted to contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk no later than 4pm Friday 18th October. Late tenders will **not** be considered.

If having read the enclosed specification you decide not to submit a tender, I would be grateful if you could send your reasons (though you are under no obligation to do so) to contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk, at the above address marked 'No Tender'. Please contact me if you have any questions about the tendering procedure. Yours sincerely,

Summer Nisar

Director of the SMC Secretariat, Social Mobility Commission

DOCUMENT ONE

SPECIFICATION

1. Introduction

The Social Mobility Commission (SMC) monitors progress towards improving social mobility in the UK and promotes social mobility in England. It is an independent statutory body created by an Act of Parliament and is sponsored by the Cabinet Office.

The SMC is interested in understanding more about the people and places with poor social mobility. We are therefore seeking expert suppliers who can conduct quantitative analysis to identify the factors associated with good and bad social mobility outcomes, both at the geographic and household level. Examples of subjects considered as part of this analysis might be the role of local labour markets, educational institutions and income deprivation at the geographical level, and family composition and parental behaviours at the household level. The successful supplier will provide original analysis across a range of datasets and comprehensive and compelling narrative in a final report.

The SMC wishes to continue building and improving on our evidence base. Our State of the Nation 2023 (SON23) research shows very clear inequalities of mobility across the country, captured in our regional analysis of mobility rates. We have a robust understanding of the areas with high and low levels of social mobility across the UK, but only in a descriptive sense. We are therefore keen to understand more about the economic and individual characteristics of these areas that drive these outcomes. This will include a detailed analysis of the key characteristics of low-mobility areas, including the role of economic, household and family factors, and the crucial differences between these and higher-mobility areas.

This is the second stage of a multi-year, mixed methods research project - the 'Deepdive' into low mobility areas. The first stage, currently ongoing, is a qualitative research project, covering people's understanding and experience of, and attitudes towards, social mobility and its enablers. The first stage is designed to produce rich qualitative insights, with comparison across those from areas with higher and lower levels of social mobility. The quantitative research conducted in this stage should, where possible, look to build on the insights developed in the first stage. We anticipate that the first stage of the research will be released by May 2025 at the latest.

This analysis is unlikely to provide definitive causal conclusions, but will help to draw out clear conclusions on the implications for policy and further research. Ultimately, the Commission aims to have a better understanding of the key factors which shape, influence and enable social mobility at the local level, allowing policymakers to be more precise in their approaches to improving social mobility in the UK.

2. Objectives

The project seeks to build on the SMC's own research, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the specific characteristics of low/high social mobility areas and the households/individuals within them. This analysis will be exclusively quantitative. Specifically, we want to better understand:

- 1. The economic characteristics of areas with low social mobility.
- 2. The characteristics of individuals/families with both good and poor social mobility outcomes.

3. The interactive effects of area level/household level characteristics when it comes to social mobility

The first objective concerns the economic and geographic enablers and inhibitors of social mobility. Specific characteristics of these areas that we would be interested to know more about include: local labour markets, the quality of local schools, and the availability and quality of Higher Education and Further Education. In considering these factors, among others, we hope to understand more about which factors are most influential in shaping an area's prospects for social mobility, particularly those with low social mobility. We are also interested in understanding how these factors differ and compare across areas and whether there are any interesting outliers.

The second stage of the research will focus **on the characteristics of families and households** with both good/poor prospects for social mobility. Specifically, it should look at the characteristics of the types of households that tend to have better/worse mobility prospects, as well as their behaviours and actions. This should cover the composition of families (i.e. single, couple, married, cohabitating), parental backgrounds (i.e. occupational level, education), as well as parental actions/behaviours (i.e. home learning environment, social routines). With this analysis, we aim to have a better understanding of the household and family level characteristics that provide better foundations for social mobility.

The third objective outlined above is the exploration of the **interactive effects of area level and household level characteristics**. This will help us to understand:

- The extent to which families with characteristics associated with 'better' social mobility outcomes do well in low mobility areas compared to those with characteristics associated with worse mobility outcomes in the same/similar areas.
- The extent to which being in higher mobility areas increases the likelihood of being socially mobile for families with the same/similar characteristics.
- What this suggests about the role of both area-level and household level disadvantage, and the explanatory power of each.

3. Deliverables and deadlines

Key deliverables are as follows:

Deliverable 1: Identification of low mobility areas

The first deliverable in this research project will be the identification of high and low mobility areas across the UK. We will require this analysis to be broken down by the UK's Upper or Single-tier Local Authorities (LAs).

Prospective suppliers are welcome to use our indicators from our social mobility index (SMI) featured in our State of the Nation reports - particularly our 'Promising Prospects' index - to identify LAs with high/low mobility. Suppliers can also use alternative definitions. If alternative definitions are used, we would require there to be a comparative exercise between the findings from the alternative definition and our SON findings.

This step will help to identify low and high mobility LAs across the country. While the focus of this analysis is on low mobility areas, we would also expect suppliers to identify a subset of areas with high mobility based on the same criteria for comparison. We would expect the supplier to

work collaboratively with the SMC to identify areas of focus for this analysis. However, we would also expect some preliminary ideas and suggestions, along with a rationale.

We anticipate that this stage of analysis will take approximately 3 months to complete.

Deliverable 2: Analysis on the key characteristics/commonalities of low mobility areas

The second deliverable will identify the key characteristics of low/high mobility areas, and how they differ. Although we will focus primarily on low mobility areas, the high mobility areas will be used for comparison. It may be that low mobility areas are better explained by the absence of particular factors (i.e. well paid jobs, high-performing schools) than the presence of particular factors (such as higher crime rates), and this should be considered.

This analysis should seek to identify *how* and *why* social mobility is low across certain areas. We are particularly interested in exploring the key factors which characterise social mobility across different localities. Suppliers should identify the factors that they intend to explore in this stage. As referenced above, we are interested in factors such as local labour markets, the quality of local educational institutions and income deprivation. However, this list is not exhaustive, and suppliers should develop a set of comprehensive factors they wish to explore.

The range of indicators will serve to profile low-mobility areas on a wide set of relevant factors, which would build on and extend the indicators in the SMC social mobility index. The principal aim of this section is to have a detailed analysis of the key characteristics of low-mobility areas and the crucial differences between low and high mobility areas.

We anticipate that this stage of analysis will take approximately 3 months to complete.

Deliverable 3: Analysis on household/family characteristics in shaping mobility, particularly in low mobility areas

The third deliverable will focus on the household/family level characteristics that shape social mobility. Underlying this analysis is the important question of why social mobility is low in some areas and not others. One possibility is the interaction between individual disadvantage measures and living in low-mobility areas. This deliverable would tease apart the contributions of individual and place by first examining the individual factors at play and second, the interactions between individual characteristics and place-based factors. This deliverable should be split into two steps:

- 1. Analysis on the family/household characteristics associated with good and poor mobility outcomes. This analysis will focus on:
 - Early life conditions (home learning environment, social-routine activities, family structure)
 - Parental backgrounds (levels of parental education, parental occupation)
 - Vulnerable children (levels and types of SEND, children in need, protection orders, looked after children).

This analysis will provide a better understanding of the particular characteristics, actions and behaviours associated with good and bad mobility outcomes

2. Analysis on the interactive effects between family/household level characteristics and area level characteristics:

The second part of this deliverable will draw on the first part to evaluate the interactions between family/household level and area level characteristics. This analysis will help to disentangle the role that household and area level characteristics play in shaping social mobility. It will focus on identifying and explaining:

- The gap in likelihood of being upwardly socially mobile between families of the same characteristics across areas with different mobility prospects.
- The gap in the 'severity' or 'range' of upward mobility between families of the same characteristics across areas with different mobility prospects.
- What explains these gaps.
- How much explanatory power we can attribute to family/household level characteristics and area-level characteristics.
- The extent to which families with 'good' characteristics can mitigate the impact of being from low mobility areas, if at all.

This level of analysis will require the use of several different datasets, in order to consider the full range of social mobility measures (ie, across education and the labour market); to garner sufficient sample sizes and have the required selection of family background measures. As there is no single dataset that can alone meet this criteria, we anticipate suppliers will use a variety of different datasets to produce the required insights. We expect suppliers to provide examples of data sources (ie, Labour Force Survey, National Pupil Database, Millennium Cohort Study) that they will use to address particular questions/inform particular areas of research.

We anticipate this stage will take approximately 7 months to complete.

Deliverable 4: Full publication ready report

The final deliverable for this project is a full, publication-ready report, written by the supplier. The SMC will have editorial input into the final product to ensure the output meets internal standards and conveys the messaging of the research accurately. Alongside the findings, the report should include a full write up of the methodology and policy implications.

We anticipate this will take approximately 3 months to complete.

4. Audience

All of the deliverables, including new analyses (*i.e.* not already in the public domain), can not be shared or published until the publication of the report. Any work produced until this point will be shared in confidence with the SMC for internal use only.

We will work on this project collaboratively, with both parties offering advice and suggestions. We expect the supplier to be able to distinguish their own organisation's positions and priorities from those of SMC and its remit. All communications will be confidential, allowing a spirit of free discussion.

The successful supplier is responsible for the final deliverables. It is expected they will respond constructively to feedback on all deliverables from the SMC Secretariat and Commissioners; and build time into their work plan for this engagement accordingly.

We will call on you to present emerging findings and analytical outputs at different stages. For example, there may be opportunities for knowledge exchange and early feedback from the SMC's Academic and Policy Advisors as the report is developed.

5. Management Information

At a minimum, the successful supplier will be asked to:

- Provide regular (monthly at a minimum) progress updates by email.
- Have regular meetings with the SMC team to discuss the research indicative findings from research, interpretation of findings etc.
- Be available over email to address queries about the analysis.
- Be available to present emerging findings at different stages. For example, there may be
 opportunities for knowledge exchange and early feedback from the independent expert
 advisers who we are contracted with as the report is developed. We will draw on your
 expertise to present early findings to Commissioners to review progress, emerging trends
 and policy recommendations.

The supplier will work with SMC to prioritise activities and mitigate any risks to delivery.

6. Dependencies and Liaison

Tenderers should indicate if they are reliant on any third party with any information, data or undertaking any of the work specified.

7. Costs and Budget

We expect proposals to be no more than £200,000, exclusive of VAT. Bids should only exceed the limit where suppliers are clear that the work is either not deliverable within this budget, or there is specific added value to the work which is achieved by increasing the budget. All costs should be quoted exclusive of VAT but please indicate if the project will attract VAT. A detailed breakdown of costs is expected within the proposal. The proposal should breakdown costs between specific outputs and deliverables outlined above.

8. Payment

Payments will be made by BACS transfer following receipt of a valid invoice. The successful tenderer should provide details of discounts for prompt payment.

9. VAT

Please state clearly when submitting prices whether or not VAT will be charged.

Where the contract price agreed between SMC and contractor is inclusive of any VAT, further amounts will not be paid by SMC should a VATable supply claim be made at any later stage.

Where the overall contract price is exclusive of VAT, SMC will pay any VAT incurred at the prevailing rate (currently 20%). If the VAT rate changes SMC will pay any VAT incurred at the new rate. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check the VAT position with HMRC before submitting a bid.

INSTRUCTIONS ON TENDERING PROCEDURES

- These instructions are designed to ensure that all tenders are given equal and fair consideration. It is important therefore that you provide all the information asked for in the format and order specified.
- 2. Bidders must submit their Bids before **4pm on 18 October 2024.** All Bids must be submitted to contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk. Failure to return Bids by the time and due date or in the required format may disqualify Bidders from consideration.
- 3. A clarification process will operate during the ITT stage as explained below (Box 1). The objective of this process is to give Bidders the opportunity to submit questions to the Contracting Authority where they require clarification on the information provided. This is not an opportunity for Bidders to seek additional information to that already provided.

Box 1: Clarification process for ITT stage explainer

Bidders should submit clarification questions via email to contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk. Questions received by any other method will not receive a response.

The Contracting Authority will seek to answer questions within 5 working days following the day of receipt. Bidders are urged to review the ITT documentation immediately upon receipt and identify and submit any clarification questions as soon as possible and in any event no later than **4pm on 18 October 2024.** Any questions received after this time may not be answered.

If the Contracting Authority considers any question or request for clarification to be of general significance, both the question and the response will be communicated, in a suitably anonymous form, to all Bidders who have expressed an interest before the closing date for the submission of the ITT.

All responses received and any communication from Bidders will be treated in confidence and provision will be made for Bidders to request clarification in confidence (this request must be clearly marked at the outset of each question stating the reasons why such a question is commercial and in confidence), but in responding to such requests the Contracting Authority will reserve the right to act in what it considers a fair manner and in the best interests of the Procurement, which may include circulating the response to all Bidders.

Bidders should note that no further information in addition to that provided in the ITT documentation will be provided about the Procurement at this time. Under no circumstances should Bidders approach the Contracting Authority, their staff or advisors seeking further information in relation to the requirements of the Procurement. Any such approaches (direct or indirect) may result in the Bidder's exclusion from further consideration in the Procurement process.

- 4. Please note that references to the 'Department' or "Social Mobility Commission" or "the Commission" throughout these documents mean Minister for the Cabinet Office'.
- 5. SMC is happy to accept bids from single organisations or consortia of organisations. Where a consortium/Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is formed to submit a tender, this must only be submitted by and in the name of the supplier chosen as the "Lead" supplier for that consortium/SPV.

Contract Period

6. The contract is to be completed by **29 May 2026** at the latest.

Incomplete Tender

7. These instructions are designed to ensure that all tenders are given equal and fair consideration. Tenders may be rejected if the information asked for in the ITT and Specification is not given at the time of tendering.

Indicative procurement timetable

8. The proposed timetable for this procurement process is as follows. This is intended as a guide and, while The Department does not intend to depart from the timetable, it reserves the right to do so at any time, including by shortening or lengthening any stage.

Tender documents issued - 14 September 2024
Last day for submission of clarifications - 4pm on 9 October 2024
Last day for SMC to respond to clarifications - 4pm on 14 October 2024
Deadline for tender responses to be received - 4pm on 18 October 2024
Tender Evaluations - 21 October 2024 - 1 November 2024
SMC announcement of preferred bidder - 4 November 2024
Commencement - 8th November 2024
Project initiation meeting - w/c 11th November 2024
Deliverable 1: Identification of low/high mobility areas - January-February 2025
Deliverable 2: Analysis on the key characteristics/commonalities of low/high mobility areas - June 2025
Deliverable 3: Analysis on household/family characteristics in shaping mobility, particularly in low mobility areas - February 2026
Deliverable 4: Deliverable 4: Full publication ready report - May 2026

Receipt of Tenders

9. Tenders will be received up to the time and date stated (4pm on 18 October 2024). Those received before the due date will be retained unopened until then. Any Tender received after the Closing Time, and/or submitted by any means other than through contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk may be rejected by the Department. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to ensure that their tender is delivered not later than the appointed time.

Acceptance of Tenders

10. By issuing this invitation SMC is not bound in any way and does not have to accept the lowest or any tender, and reserves the right to accept a portion of any tender, unless the tenderer expressly stipulates otherwise in their tender.

Inducements

11. Offering an inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining this or any other contract with SMC will disqualify your tender from being considered and may constitute a criminal offense.

Confidentiality of Tenders

- 12. Please note the following requirements, you must not:
 - Tell anyone else what your tender price is or will be, before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
 - Try to obtain any information about anyone else's tender or proposed tender before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
 - Make any arrangements with another organisation about whether or not they should tender, or about their or your tender price.
 - Failure to comply with these conditions may disqualify your tender.

Costs and Expenses

13. You will not be entitled to claim from SMC any costs or expenses which you may incur in preparing your tender whether or not your tender is successful.

Debriefing

14. Following the award of contract, debriefing will be available to unsuccessful tenderers on request.

Evaluation Criteria

- 15. The tender process will be conducted in a manner that ensures tenders are evaluated fairly to ascertain the most economically advantageous tender.
- 16. Your response to the tender specification will be evaluated using the criteria set out in Document 4 Section 2 Evaluation Criteria.

Tender Period

17. Due to the intensive evaluation process SMC requires tenders to remain valid for a period specified in Document 5.

Basis of the Contract

18. The specification in Document 1, and the terms and conditions in Document 4 Attachment 1,

together with any special requirements, will form the basis of the contract between the successful tenderer and Minister for the Cabinet Office'.

Format of Bids

19. Tenderers should present their proposals in the following format:

Section 1 Summary of Proposal

Section 2 Meeting the Specification:

- Details of proposed approach;
- Methodology including constraints and possible solutions;
- Project management Tenderers should indicate how they will monitor the project to
 ensure it is delivered in terms of quality, timeliness and cost. Tenders must include a
 work plan/Gantt chart that clearly shows the key activities and milestones leading up
 to the final report. It should mirror the detail on the budget template.
- Staffing, including short staff profiles covering examples of key relevant experience and individual/staff expertise and qualifications. Proposed distribution of duties should be clearly stated if the bid involves sub-contracting or collaboration between different providers; and
- Outputs, including how the findings will be presented.

Section 3 Cost and Charging Arrangements

- Costs should be shown separately by deliverables set out above. For example:
 - o Identification of low social mobility areas: £ Insert amount
 - Analysis on the key characteristics/commonalities of low/high mobility areas Insert amount: £ Insert amount
 - o Analysis on household/family characteristics in shaping mobility, particularly in low mobility area: £ Insert amount
 - Final report ready publication: £ Insert amount
 - Total: £ Insert amount

All costs should be quoted <u>exclusive</u> of VAT but please indicate if the project will attract VAT. If your proposal includes costs for sub-contractors these costs must be shown <u>inclusive</u> of any VAT element (e.g. sub-contractor's costs to you are £10K plus VAT, your proposal should show subcontractors costs as £12K inclusive of VAT @ 20%).

The department will also conduct its own due diligence checks in relation to bidder's financial viability and may request additional financial information to be provided as part of this process. Whilst the department will attempt to mitigate any financial risks it may, at its own discretion, reject a bid where it assesses the financial risk to be too great to proceed with the award of the contract.

Section 4 Risk Management

- Outline, in no more than one-page, the key risks to delivering the project and what contingencies will be put in place to deal with them.
- A risk is any factor that may delay, disrupt or prevent the full achievement of a project objective. All risks should be identified.
- For each risk, the one-page summary should assess its likelihood (high, medium
 or low) and specify its possible impact on the project objectives (again rated high,
 medium or low). The assessment should also identify appropriate actions that

- would reduce or eliminate each risk or its impact.
- Typical areas of risk for a research project might include staffing, resource constraints, technical constraints, data access, timing, management and operational issues, but this is not an exhaustive list.

Section 5 Data Security

 Provide a plan that explains how departmental and/or personal data will be protected.

Section 6 References

Section 7 Declarations, Undertakings and Attachments (see Document 5 and Annex A Conflict of Interest)

Sections 1 - 4 should not exceed 8 sides of A4 and sections 5-6 should not exceed 2 sides of A4, for a combined **total of 10 sides**. Any bids above that will not be considered. The font size should not be smaller than 10. Embedded links will not be considered, nor will Annexes that exceed the 10 page count.

Conclusions

20. Whilst every endeavour has been made to give tenderers an accurate description of the Commission's requirement, tenderers should make their own assessment about the methods and resources needed to meet those requirements.

DOCUMENT 3

DEPARTMENTAL STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

Freedom of Information

1. SMC is committed to open government and to meeting their responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Accordingly, all information submitted to SMC may need to be disclosed in response to a request under the Act. If you consider that any of the information included in your tender is commercially sensitive, please identify it and explain (in broad terms) what harm may result from disclosure if a request is received, and the time period applicable to that sensitivity. You should be aware that, even where you have indicated that information is commercially sensitive, we may still be required to disclose it under the Act if a request is received. Please also note that the receipt of any material marked 'confidential' or equivalent by SMC should not be taken to mean that we accept any duty of confidence by virtue of that marking. If a request is received, we may also be required to disclose details of unsuccessful tenders.

Publication of Contract

2. Under the Government's Transparency requirements we are obliged to publish the contract between SMC and the successful tenderer(s) in full. The successful tenderer(s) should identify any information regarded as commercially sensitive and explain (in broad terms) what harm may result from disclosure and the time period applicable to that sensitivity. You should be aware that, even where you have indicated that information is commercially sensitive, we may still be required to disclose it if the public interest in disclosure outweighs withholding the information. See 'The Transparency of Suppliers and Government to the Public' for more detail.

Information Sharing Across Government

- 3. All Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further, the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.
- 4. For these purposes, SMC may disclose within Government any of the Contractor's documentation/information (including any that the Contractor considers to be confidential and/or commercially sensitive such as specific bid information) submitted by the Contractor to SMC during this Procurement. The information will not be disclosed outside the Government. Contractors taking part in this competition consent to these terms as part of the competition process."

Cyber Essentials Scheme

- 5. The Government has introduced its new Cyber Essentials Scheme in consultation with industry to mitigate the risk from common internet based threats.
- 6. It is mandatory for new Central Government contracts, which feature characteristics involving the handling of personal data and ICT systems designed to store or process data at the OFFICIAL level of the <u>Government Security Classifications scheme</u> to comply with Cyber Essentials requirements.
- 7. All potential tenderers for Central Government contracts, featuring the above characteristics, should make themselves aware of Cyber Essentials and the requirements for the appropriate level of certification "or equivalent".
- 8. As this requirement features the above characteristics, you are required to demonstrate in

your tender response that:

- Your organisation will be able to secure **Cyber Essentials** certification prior to contract award; or
- Your organisation has equivalent evidence to support that you have appropriate technical and organisational measures to mitigate the risk from common internet based threats in respect to the following five technical areas:
 - a. Boundary firewalls and internet gateways these are devices designed to prevent unauthorised access to or from private networks, but good setup of these devices either in hardware or software form is important for them to be fully effective.
 - b. Secure configuration ensuring that systems are configured in the most secure way for the needs of the organisation
 - c. Access control Ensuring only those who should have access to systems to have access and at the appropriate level.
 - d. Malware protection ensuring that virus and malware protection is installed and is up to date
 - e. Patch management ensuring the latest supported version of applications is used and all the necessary patches supplied by the vendor have been applied.

Any equivalent evidence must be verified by a technically competent and independent third party.

- 9. The successful tenderer will be required to provide evidence of **Cyber Essentials** certification "or equivalent" (i.e. demonstrate they meet the five technical areas the Cyber Essentials Scheme covers) prior to contract award.
- 10. The successful tenderer will be required to secure and provide evidence of **Cyber Essentials** re-certification "or equivalent" (i.e. demonstrate they meet the five technical areas) on an annual basis.
- 11. Details of certification bodies are available at: https://www.cyberstreetwise.com/cyberessentials

Data Security Standards

- 12. For contracts which require the holding or processing of either personal data and/or OFFICIAL data the successful contractor will need to assure SMC that they can comply with the Department's security standards.
- 13. Departmental security standards are listed as contract clauses in an annex to this letter (see Document 4 List of Attachments).

Prompt Payment Policy

- 14. Government's aim is to pay 80% of all correctly submitted invoices within 5 days of receipt and we are 100% committed to paying correctly submitted invoices within 30 days of receipt from the day of physical or electronic arrival at the nominated address of the Department.
- 15. The payment period will be deemed to have started when a correctly submitted invoice reaches the nominated address or emailed to contact@cabinetoffice.gov.uk. Contractors can assume receipt to be two days after mailing (by first class post). The thirty day "clock" therefore commences two days after mailing first class.
- 16. A correct invoice is one that is:
 - delivered in timing in accordance with the contract;
 - that 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);
 - include the date, supplier name, contact details and bank details;
 - which quote the relevant purchase order / contract reference;
 - which has been delivered to the nominated address.
- 17. 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.

Sub-contracting to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

- 18. SMC is committed to removing barriers to SME participation in its contracts, and would like to also actively encourage its larger suppliers to make their sub-contacts accessible to smaller companies and implement SME-friendly policies in their supply-chains. This can be achieved by advertising subcontracting opportunities on Contracts Finder and implementing the principles of the SME and Growth Agenda in your own organisation.
- 19. To help us measure the volume of business we do with SMEs, we will be asking SMC suppliers to provide us with information about the size of your own organisation and those in your supply chain. We may ask about volumes of business that will flow from this contract down your supply chains, and ask you to quantify that for us. This data will help us contribute towards Government targets on the use of SMEs. We may also publish success stories and examples of good practice on our website.

Armed Forces Covenant

- 20. The Armed Forces Covenant is a public sector pledge from Government, businesses, charities and organisations to demonstrate their support for the armed forces community. The Covenant was brought in under the Armed Forces Act 2011 to recognise that the whole nation has a moral obligation to redress the disadvantages the armed forces community face in comparison to other citizens, and recognise sacrifices made.
- 21. The Covenant's 2 principles are that:
 - the armed forces community should not face disadvantages when compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.
 - special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.
- 22. The Department encourages all Tenderers, and their suppliers, to sign the Corporate Covenant, declaring their support for the Armed Forces community by displaying the values and behaviours set out therein.
- 23. Guidance on the various ways you can demonstrate your support through the Corporate Covenant is at The Corporate Covenant.
- 24. If you wish to register your support you can provide a point of contact for your company on this issue to the Armed Forces Covenant Team at the address below, so that the MOD can alert you to any events or initiatives in which you may wish to participate. The Covenant Team can also provide any information you require in addition to that included on the website.

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk

Address: Armed Forces Covenant Team

Zone D, 6th Floor, Ministry of Defence,

Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

25. Paragraphs 20-25 above are not a condition of working with SMC now or in the future, nor will this issue form any part of the tender evaluation, contract award procedure or any resulting contract. However, SMC very much hopes you will want to provide your support.

Conflicts of Interest

26. SMC may exclude an organisation if there is a conflict of interest which cannot be effectively remedied. The concept of a conflict of interest includes 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.
- 27. Where there is any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise then it is the responsibility of the organisation to inform SMC, detailing the conflict in a separate Appendix. Provided that it has been carried out in a transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by SMC should not represent a conflict of interest for the organisation.

Disability Confident Scheme

- 28. Where there is any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise then it is the responsibility of the organisation to inform SMC, detailing the conflict in a separate Appendix. Provided that it has been carried out in a transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by SMC should not represent a conflict of interest for the organisation.
- 29. The Cabinet Office is a Disability Confident leader. Through the Disability Confident campaign, the government is working with employers to remove barriers, increase understanding and ensure that disabled people have the opportunities to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations.
- 30. SMC encourages other employers to sign up to the disability confident scheme. It is open to all employers and there are three levels ranging from 'Committed' to 'Leader' with employers having to meet certain criteria to reach each level.
- 31. Employers who sign up to the disability confident scheme ensure that they can:
 - draw from the widest possible pool of talent;
 - secure and retain high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working
 - save time and money on the costs of recruitment and training by reducing staff turnover;
 - keep valuable skills and experience;
 - reduce the levels and costs of sickness absences; improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that they treat all employees fairly.
- 32. Disability confident employers can use the disability confident branding in their communications and when advertising jobs.
- 33. Find out more about the aims of disability confident, why becoming a disability confident employer will be good for your business and how you will be supported through your journey to being a Disability Confident leader here.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

- 34. The standard Terms and Conditions include provisions to put in place safeguards to protect children and vulnerable adults from a risk of significant harm which could arise from the performance of this Contract. The potential Contractor will agree these safeguards with SMC before commencing work on the Contract.
- 35. In addition, the potential Contractor will carry out checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS checks) on all staff employed on the Contract in a Regulated Activity. The DBS check must be completed before any of the Contractor's employees work with children in Regulated Activity.

DOCUMENT 4

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1. DRAFT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- 2. EVALUATION CRITERIA

DOCUMENT 5

DECLARATIONS AND INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE TENDERER

1 Grounds for mandatory exclusion

You will be excluded from the procurement process if there is evidence of convictions relating to specific criminal offenses including, but not limited to, bribery, corruption, conspiracy, terrorism, fraud and money laundering, or if you have been the subject of a binding legal decision which found a breach of legal obligations to pay tax or social security obligations (except where this is disproportionate e.g. only minor amounts involved).

Please answer the following questions in full. Note that every organisation that is being relied on to meet the selection must complete and submit the self-declaration.

2	Grounds for mandatory exclusion		
Q. No	Question	Response	
2.1(a)	Regulations 57(1) and (2) The detailed grounds for mandatory exclusion of an organisation are set out on this web page, which should be referred to before completing these questions. Please indicate if, within the past five years you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences within the summary below and listed on the webpage.		
	Participation in a criminal organisation.	☐ Yes☐ No If Yes please provide details at 2.1(b)	
	Corruption.	☐ Yes☐ No☐ If Yes please provide details at 2.1(b)☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes	
	Fraud.	☐ Yes☐ No☐ If Yes please provide details at 2.1(b)☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes☐ Yes	
	Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities	☐ Yes☐ No☐ If Yes please provide details at 2.1(b)	
	Money laundering or terrorist financing	☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes please provide details at 2.1(b)	

		1
	Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings	☐ Yes☐ No☐ If Yes please☐ provide details at 2.1(b)☐
2.1(b)	If you have answered yes to question 2.1(a), please provide further details. Date of conviction, specify which of the grounds listed the conviction was for, and the reasons for conviction, Identity of who has been convicted If the relevant documentation is available electronically please provide the web address, issuing authority, precise reference of the documents.	
2.2	If you have answered Yes to any of the points above, have measures been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (Self-Cleaning)	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.3(a)	Regulation 57(3) Has it been established, for your organisation by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.3(b)	If you have answered yes to question 2.3(a), please provide further details. Please also confirm you have paid, or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the outstanding sum including where applicable any accrued interest and/or fines.	

Please Note: Social Mobility Commission reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude a potential supplier where it can demonstrate by any appropriate means that the potential supplier is in breach of its obligations relating to the non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.

3	Grounds for discretionary exclusion		
Q. No	Question	Response	
3.1	Regulation 57 (8) The detailed grounds for discretionary exclusion of an organ this web page, which should be referred to before completing Please indicate if, within the past three years, anywhere in the following situations have applied to you, your organisation of who has powers of representation, decision or control in the	ng these questions. The world any of the Or any other person	
3.1(a)	Breach of environmental obligations?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1 (b)	Breach of social obligations?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1 (c)	Breach of labour law obligations?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1(d)	Bankrupt or is the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings, where the organisation's assets are being administered by a liquidator or by the court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under the laws and regulations of any State?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please provid details at 3.2	de
3.1(e)	Guilty of grave professional misconduct?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1(f)	Entered into agreements with other economic operators aimed at distorting competition?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1(g)	Aware of any conflict of interest within the meaning of regulation 24 due to the participation in the procurement procedure?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1(h)	Been involved in the preparation of the procurement procedure?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de
3.1(i)	Shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity, or a prior concession contract, which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions?	☐ Yes ☐ No If yes please providetails at 3.2	de

3.1(j)	Please answer the following statements		
3.1(j) - (i)	The organisation is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of the selection criteria.	☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes please details at 3.2	provide
3.1(j) - (ii)	The organisation has withheld such information.	☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes please details at 3.2	provide
3.1(j) –(iii)	The organisation is not able to submit supporting documents required under regulation 59 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.	☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes please details at 3.2	provide
3.1(j)-(iv)	The organisation has influenced the decision-making process of the contracting authority to obtain confidential information that may confer upon the organisation undue advantages in the procurement procedure, or to negligently provided misleading information that may have a material influence on decisions concerning exclusion, selection or award.	☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes please details at 3.2	provide
3.2	If you have answered Yes to any of the above, explain what measures have been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (Self-Cleaning)		

Taking Account of Bidders' Past Performance

The Social Mobility Commission may assess the past performance of a Supplier (through a Certificate of Performance provided by a Customer or other means of evidence). The Social Mobility Commission may also assess whether specified minimum standards for reliability for such contracts are met.

In addition, the Social Mobility Commission may re-assess reliability based on past performance at key stages in the procurement process (i.e. supplier selection, tender evaluation, contract award stage etc.). Suppliers may also be asked to update the evidence they provide in this section to reflect more recent performance on new or existing contracts (or to confirm that nothing has changed).

Non-payment of taxes/social security contributions

The Social Mobility Commission reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude a supplier where it can demonstrate the supplier's non-payment of taxes/social security contributions where no binding legal decision has been taken.

Please note that this section relating to tax compliance only applies where the Social Mobility Commission has indicated that the contract is over £5 million in value.

"Occasion of Tax Non-Compliance" means:

any tax return of the Supplier submitted to a Relevant Tax Authority on or after 1 October 2012 is found to be incorrect as a result of:

- 1. Relevant Tax Authority successfully challenging the Supplier under the General Anti-Abuse Rule or the Halifax Abuse Principle or under any tax rules or legislation that have an effect equivalent or similar to the General Anti-Abuse Rule or the Halifax Abuse Principle;
- 2. The failure of an avoidance scheme which the Supplier was involved in, and which was, or should have been, notified to a Relevant Tax Authority under the DOTAS or any equivalent or similar regime; and/or

The Supplier's tax affairs give rise on or after 1 April 2013 to a criminal conviction in any jurisdiction for tax related offences which is not spent at the Effective Date or to a penalty for civil fraud or evasion.

From 1 April 2013 onwards, have any of your company's tax returns submitted on or after 1 October 2012; (Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box).			
3.1	Given rise to a criminal conviction for tax related offences which is unspent, or to a civil penalty for fraud or evasion;	☐ Yes ☐ No	
3.2	 HMRC successfully challenging it under the General Anti-Abuse Rule (GAAR) or the "Halifax" abuse principle; or a tax authority in a jurisdiction in which the legal entity is established successfully challenging it under any tax rules or legislation that have an effect equivalent or similar to the GAAR or the "Halifax" abuse principle; or the failure of an avoidance scheme which the Supplier was involved in and which was, or should have been, notified under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Scheme (DOTAS) or any equivalent or similar regime in a jurisdiction in which the Supplier is established. 	☐ Yes	

If answering "Yes" to either 3.1 or 3.2 above, the Supplier may provide details of any mitigating factors that it considers relevant and that it wishes the Social Mobility Commission to take into consideration. This could include, for example:

- Corrective action undertaken by the Supplier to date;
- Planned corrective action to be taken;
- Changes in personnel or ownership since the Occasion of Non-Compliance (OONC); or
- Changes in financial, accounting, audit or management procedures since the OONC.

In order that Social Mobility Commission can consider any factors raised by the Supplier, the following information should be provided:

- A brief description of the occasion, the tax to which it applied, and the type of "non-compliance" e.g. whether HMRC or the foreign tax authority has challenged pursuant to the GAAR, the "Halifax" abuse principle etc.
- Where the OONC relates to a DOTAS, the number of the relevant scheme.
- The date of the original "non-compliance" and the date of any judgement against the Supplier, or date when the return was amended.
- The level of any penalty or criminal conviction applied.

Defining Different Types of Organisations

The Cabinet Office is keen to collect information about SMEs. We are particularly interested in discovering how many SMEs apply for our contracts through the tendering process. Completion of the table below is for departmental information purposes only and will have no effect on the evaluation process outcomes. Government is committed to changing how it does business to make sure that small companies, charities and voluntary sector organisations are included and encouraged to compete for our contracts.

A voluntary sector organisation may also be a SME if it has the same attributes.

Definition; A SME must be autonomous, an EU Company not owned or controlled by a non-EU parent, and employ less than 250 staff and have sales below €50 million. *Source* -http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_report_2009_en.pdf Please complete the table below.

Describe your Organisation		
What this bi	type of supply arrangement best describes you in relation to d.	Delete as appropriate
1.	We are a SME by definition	☐ Yes ☐ No
2.	We are a Charity or Voluntary Sector Organisation (VSO)	☐ Yes ☐ No
3.	We are a mutual organisation	☐ Yes ☐ No
4.	We anticipate using a supply chain to deliver against this service.	☐ Yes ☐ No
5.	We estimate that that our service delivery will be i.e. 40% delivered by VSO's/SMEs	%
6.	If none of the above applies please describe the type of organisa	tion you are:
7.	Please provide us with your Dun and Bradstreet Number, or a consortium, the lead bidder's number.	
	http://www.dnb.co.uk/dandb-duns-number	

The Department uses Dun and Bradstreet Numbers to manage its data around suppliers; we strongly encourage all suppliers to apply for a free Dunn's number. The link to apply is:
-http://www.dnb.co.uk/myduns - add 'GOVERNMENT SUPPLIER' as a reason for requesting your D&B DUNS number.

Do not delay returning your tender if you do not already have a Dun and Bradstreet number, returning your tender within the deadline is more important.

Dec	arations	s

- agree that the Social Mobility Commission may disclose the Contractor's information/documentation (submitted to Social Mobility Commission during this Procurement) more widely within Government for the purpose of ensuring effective cross-Government procurement processes, including value for money and related purposes.
- declare that we have not communicated to any other party the amount or approximate amount of the tender price other than in confidence and for the express purpose of obtaining insurances or a bond in connection with this tender. The tender price has not been fixed nor adjusted in collusion with any third party, and
- 4. declare that the tender will remain valid until (insert a date) and that we are not entitled to claim from the Social Mobility Commission any costs or expenses incurred in preparing the tender or subsequent negotiations whether or not the tender is successful

Signed on behalf of the Tenderer

Attachment 1

Draft Terms and Conditions

Attachment 2

Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be assessed on both quality and cost. A 80-20 split will be applied with 80% of the total score for quality and 20% for cost.

Quality

Bids will be assessed against 5 questions. A maximum score is 100.

Question	Criteria	Max possible score
1. Does the proposal describe a robust method / suitable approach?	 Demonstrates a clear understanding of the objectives and approaches outlined Creative and constructive thinking demonstrated by the proposed approach to this project in meeting the objectives The suitability of the proposed approach to deliver against requirements, and identification of any opportunities to add value to this Clear articulation of methods used to garner particular findings, with reference to datasets and analytical techniques used. 	25
2. Team and organisational experience in conducting similar work	 Demonstrate experience of the team doing relevant work Evidence of experience in the challenges and considerations involved in this work How the skills and experience of the team will be used and managed to best effect (where there is a partnership please include specific about how this will be managed, add value and any experience of successful collaboration) Specifics about the methodology and quality assurance process 	25
3. Risks and mitigations and data protection	 That the risks and challenges are considered and mitigation integrated into the proposed methodology Consideration of security, confidentiality and data protection 	10
4. Presentation	 Clear articulation of plans for presenting work in clear way Evidence of ability to deliver high quality research, fieldwork and outputs Ability to present findings clearly in both writing and visual formats (e.g. PowerPoints tailored to a range of audiences - analysts, commissioners, wider secretariat) 	20
5. Project management	 Clear plan for communication and demonstration of a collaborative approach to taking the work forward, working closely with SMC as appropriate. Evidence of organisational capacity, project management and quality assurance procedures, to deliver the project in the specified timescales and quality The quality, timing and suitability of proposed outputs 	20

Scoring scale

0	Nil or inadequate response. Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement.
1	Response meets less than half the stated requirement. It is partially relevant but generally poor and lacks relevant detail.
2	Response meets some but not all of the stated requirements. Lacks detail on how the requirement will be fulfilled in several areas.
3	The response meets the stated requirement. Answers are relevant and acceptable but may lack some detail.
4	The response fully meets the stated requirement in all areas. Answers are clear, relevant and elements of the response exceed the requirement by offering some added value.
5	The response exceeds the requirement in all areas. Answers are comprehensive, unambiguous and offer significant added value to the requirement which benefits SMC.

Quality scoring will represent 80% of the overall evaluation. A bidder who receives a score of less than 60 will not be considered. Below is an illustration of how the scoring will apply for the quality aspect.

Supplier	Quality score (for example purposes only)	Calculation	Final Quality Mark
А	60	60*0.8	48
В	55	N/A	N/A
С	80	80*0.8	64
D	75	75*0.8	60

Financial scoring

Financial scoring represents 20% of the overall evaluation. The bidder with the cheapest overall price will receive 20 marks and all other bids will be marked as a proportional variance from the top scoring bid. The formula being used for Relative Assessment for this procurement is:

Bid Score = (Lowest Price/bid price) x 20

E.g. a bid that is 10% more expensive will receive 18 marks; one that is twice the price will receive 10 marks. An illustrative example is provided below:

Supplier	Price (for example purposes only)	Calculation	Final Finance Mark
А	50k	n/a	20
В	55k	(50/55) x 20	18
С	70k	(50/70) x 20	14
D	100k	(50/100) x 20	10

ANNEX A: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

For research and analysis, **conflict of interest** is defined as the presence of an interest or involvement of the contractor, subcontractor (or consortium member) which could affect the actual or perceived impartiality of the research or analysis.

A conflict of interest for this project would include the circumstance in which a contractor, sub-contractor or member of a consortia has had prior involvement with the scheme which is being evaluated, either through governance or delivery of services.

Where there may be a potential conflict of interest, it is suggested that the consortia or organisation designs working arrangements such that the findings cannot be influenced (or perceived to be influenced) by the organisation which is the owner of a potential conflict of interest. For example, consideration should be given to the different roles which organisations play in the research or analysis, and how these can be structured to ensure an impartial approach to the project is maintained.

The process by which this is managed in the procurement process is as follows:

- 1. During the bidding process, organisations may contact the Cabinet Office to discuss whether or not their proposed arrangement is likely to yield a conflict of interest. Any responses given to individual organisations or consortia will be shared with all tendering organisations (in a form which does not reveal the questioner's identity).
- 2. Contractors are asked to sign and return the Conflict of Interest Declaration Form (below) to indicate whether or not any conflict of interest may be, or be perceived to be, an issue. If this is the case, the contractor or consortium should give a full account of the actions or processes that it will use to ensure that conflict of interest is avoided. In any statement of mitigating actions, contractors are expected to outline how they propose to achieve a robust, impartial and credible approach to the research.
- 3. When tenders are scored, this declaration will be subject to a pass/fail score, according to whether, on the basis of the information in the proposal and declaration, there remains a conflict of interest which may affect the impartiality of the research.

Potential conflicts of interest may include (but are not restricted to);

- For evaluation projects, a close working, governance, or commercial involvement in the project under evaluation
- A professional or personal interest in the outcome of this research
- Current or past employment with relevant organisations
- Payment (cash or other) received or likely to be received from relevant organisations for goods or services provided (including consulting or advisory fees)
- Gifts or entertainment received from relevant organisations
- Shareholdings (excluding those within unit trusts, pension funds etc) in relevant organisations

• Close personal relationship or friendships with individuals employed by or otherwise closely associated with relevant organisations

Conflict of Interest Declaration Form

Organisations must complete either part 1 or 2. Please return this form with your ITT documentation.

A declaration of interest will not necessarily mean the individual or organisation cannot work on the project; but it is vital that any interest or conflict is declared so it can be considered openly.

Failure to declare or avoid conflict of interest at this or a later stage may result in exclusion from the procurement competition, or in Cabinet Office exercising its right to terminate any contract awarded.

Part 1

I have nothing to declare with respect to any current or potential interest or conflict in relation to this research (or any potential providers who may be subcontracted to deliver this work, their advisers or other related parties). By conflict of interest, I mean, anything which could be reasonably perceived to affect the impartiality of this research, or to indicate a professional or personal interest in the outcomes from this research.

If my situation or that of my organisation changes during the project in terms of interests or conflicts, I will notify the Cabinet Office immediately.

notify the Cabi	net Office immediately.
Signed	
Name	
Position	
OR	
Part 2	
	re the following with respect to personal or professional interests related to relevant insert name(s) below):
•	
•	
please clearly o	tial conflict of interest has been declared for an individual or organisation within a consortia, butline in your tender the role which this individual or organisation will play in the proposed wany conflict of interest has or will be mitigated.
•	or that of my organisation changes during the project in terms of interests or conflicts, I will net Office immediately.
Signed	
Name	
Position	