**1921 Census Records Digitisation and Licensing, Procurement Document**

**Description**

The National Archives is a non-ministerial government department and part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. As the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and England and Wales we are the guardians of some of the UK's most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. Our role is to collect and secure the future of the government record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible and available as possible.

The National Archives is seeking expressions of interest for the 1921 Census records digitisation and licensing project.

The project will be to digitise, transcribe and publish online the records of the 1921 Census of England and Wales. The contract award will include a commercial license to publish the images (and associated transcription data produced by the project) online and to complete all the required processes to complete this (including such activities as digital image capture, transcription of data to allow for meaningful searches of the records, online publication).

To demonstrate eligibility to be considered for this tender, potential Suppliers must demonstrate:

1. Experience of managing and completing large scale digitisation projects of heritage material
2. Online publication of heritage material specifically for use by the Family History Market
3. Viable commercial models that return an income stream to licensor partners

The National Archives intends to shortlist a maximum of five potential suppliers to be invited to tender, subsequent to the evaluation of the Standard Selection Questionnaires received.

Please submit your completed Standard Selection Questionnaire to procurement@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on 8 February, 2018.

**Background on The 1921 Census of England and Wales**

For genealogists and historians, the 1921 Census for England, Wales and Scotland will be a key source of information to support family or social history research. Since 1801, every household in England and Wales has been required by law to respond to a series of questions about the household and people within it. The result has been the production of an unparalleled source of consistent and comparable information about the population, household characteristics, housing and occupations.

The 1921 census is a household census taken in June 1921, and paints a picture of the UK population nearly one hundred years ago. It holds information on every household, vessel, institution and overseas residencies that were part of England and Wales in 1921.

**Census confidentiality**

The records are subject to the Statistics and Registration Act <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/confidentiality/censusconfidentialityprotectedbylaw>.

The 1921 Census of England and Wales remains in the custody of the [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk). The census records are kept confidential for 100 years before being made available to the public therefore the earliest publication of these records will be January 2022.