

# Expression of interest

# Title: Exploring Homelessness among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

**Project reference: GEO2018/06**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: 26 November 2018 (noon)**

## Summary

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are seeking expressions of interest to undertake research on homelessness amongst lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the UK.

## Background

In July 2018, the Government launched its LGBT Action Plan on improving the lives of LGBT people in the UK. It also launched its Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018, which set out how the Government intends to eliminate rough sleeping by 2027. The Action Plan and the Strategy made a commitment to developing the evidence base on the nature, scale and experience of services among homeless LGBT people in the UK.

The GEO previously published a wide-ranging evidence review on the nature of inequality and relative disadvantage experienced by LGBT in the UK by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR).[[1]](#footnote-2) One section of this report investigated the evidence on homelessness and housing disadvantage amongst LGBT (relative to non-LGBT people).

The report found evidence that inequality stems from LGBT people’s experiences and expectations of discrimination, including some unwillingness to be open about one’s sexual orientation or gender identity, which may affect usage of services, the quality of service experienced and the provision of appropriate services. It also found evidence that the needs of LGBT people may not be being adequately addressed within housing services.

In order to meet the commitments set out in the LGBT Action Plan and the Rough Sleeping Strategy, GEO and MHCLG would like to commission some research to better understand: a) the experiences and needs of homeless LGBT people; b) how their experiences differ, if at all, from non-LGBT homeless people; and c) what can be done to improve support for homeless LGBT people. Where possible, the evidence on homelessness should be explored separately for lesbian gay, and bisexual people, and also for transgender people or people with a minority gender identity. It also needs to explore the evidence by type of homelessness (e.g. family homelessness, hidden homelessness, and rough sleeping).

This research is intended to be used to help inform a policy position on housing and support services for homeless LGBT people in England.

## Project aims and objectives

**Aim**

The aim of the research is to improve understanding of the experiences of homelessness, expectations of treatment, and needs for support among LGBT people in the UK, and how this compares with non-LGBT homeless people, and what can be done to improve support for homeless LGBT people.

**Objectives**

In order to achieve the project aims, the contractor will need to synthesise and generate evidence on homelessness for both i) LGBT people and ii) non-LGBT homeless people (i.e. general homeless population) and compare/contrast this evidence to develop an assessment about the unique challenges faced by being LGBT and homeless, over and above being homeless.

The research must disaggregate experiences of homelessness and support by sexual orientation group and by gender identity. It must also disaggregate experiences by type of homelessness.

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|  | **Objectives** |
| 1 | to map evidence on the nature and causes of homelessness for both LGBT and non-LGBT groups |
| 2 | to synthesise evidence on the experiences of homelessness and housing and support services amongst both LGBT and non-LGBT groups |
| 3 | to explore homeless LGBT people’s attitudes to housing and support services, and their expectations of discrimination (on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity) when accessing those services |
| 4 | to assess the needs and preferences for support amongst both homeless LGBT and non-LGBT groups |
| 5 | to analyse the approaches to, and challenges involved in, delivering housing and support services for homeless LGBT people, and how to improve support |

## Methodology

Key research questions are:

1. What is the profile of homelessness and its causes amongst LGBT people, and how might they differ from non-LGBT people? Specifically, what type of homelessness are they experiencing, which groups are experiencing it, where in the UK and why?
2. What are LGBT people’s experiences of homelessness and housing and support services, and how do they differ from non-LGBT people? We would like to draw out differences in housing and support services (i.e. between commissioned and non-commissioned services).
3. What are homeless LGBT people’s attitudes to housing and support services, and what are their expectations of discrimination (on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity) when accessing those services?
4. What are the needs and preferences for support of homeless LGBT people compared with homeless non-LGBT people, and to what extent are services currently meeting those needs?
5. What can be done to help improve support for homeless LGBT people?

We expect that the methodological approach for this project will encompass both a synthesis of existing evidence *and* the generation of new evidence, in the form of qualitative research (i.e. a series of semi-structured interviews with relevant participant groups, including homeless LGBT people).

An important aspect of this research will be to generate a **comparison** between the experiences of homeless LGBT people and those of non-LGBT homeless people in an efficient and cost effective way.

We anticipate this research comprising two elements:

The first element would comprise **a critical evidence review** in order to review and synthesise evidence on the causes of homelessness and the experiences of homelessness and housing services for both LGBT groups and non-LGBT groups. We anticipate that the review will build on i) the findings of the report by NIESR on LGBT inequalities and ii) the embargoed findings of an evidence review on the causes of homelessness in the general population (which we will share with contractor in confidence).

The second component would comprise **semi-structured interviews** with relevant participants, including LGBT homeless people. We envisage conducting around 40 face-to-face interviews, with topic guides being informed by the findings from the first component.

In order to facilitate recruitment of respondents from hard-to-reach groups (i.e. homeless LGBT people) for the research, the successful bidder would be expected to work closely with GEO, MHCLG and their stakeholders to identify potential routes to recruiting participants. However, we would also expect the contractor to have access to their own networks of contacts and stakeholders, and develop their own recruitment strategies, to complement any joint working with GEO and MHCLG.

Further details of the expected methodological approach will be provided as part of the invitation to tender. Please note that at the expression of interest stage, we do not require bidders to provide any information about the methodology they would use to carry out this particular project. All that is required at this stage is for bidders to be able to demonstrate their expertise in the above-noted research methods and their capability to deliver them to a high standard and within the anticipated timescale.

## Procurement timetable

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| EOI published | 09 November 2018 |
| EOI deadline | 26 November 2018 (12.00) |
| ITT circulated | 27 November 2018 |
| ITT deadline | 14 December 2018 (12.00) |
| Contract signed | w/c 17 December 2018 or w/c 4 January 2019 |

We aim to sign a contract for this project prior to Christmas 2018, in order to provide the contractor with the opportunity to begin work on the evidence review before the New Year, should they wish to do so.

## Provisional project timetable

The **indicative** timetable is set out below. The key date for completion is currently 31 August 2019, by which point a final report from the evidence review and the qualitative research must be agreed and ready for publication.



Please be aware that while there is some flexibility in the timetable, there are some deliverables with fixed timings (marked by an ‘x’). These include:

* a workshop with GEO and MHCLG policy officials and researchers and the contractors, to share emerging findings and insights to inform policy thinking and development, in early April 2019; and,
* the draft research report (comprising findings from the evidence review and qualitative research) in mid-June 2019.

Bidders should set out in the capacity section of their EOI whether they have capacity to deliver a project of this scale in the proposed timeframe.

## Budget

We envision a budget for this work in the region of £40,000 - £60,000. However, please note that we are not expecting any costs to be provided by bidders at the EOI stage.

## Assessment criteria

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the following three criteria:

* **Relevant subject matter experience and expertise (35%)**, ideally to include the following:
  + Experience and knowledge of LGBT research, including conducting research with LGBT participants
  + Experience and knowledge of homelessness and housing research, including conducting research with homeless participants
* **Methodological skills and expertise (30%)**, ideally to include the following experience:
  + Conducting rapid evidence reviews and systematic reviews
  + Using qualitative research techniques, such as semi-structured interviewing
  + Conducting research on sensitive and potentially distressing topics
  + Recruitment of hard-to-reach research participants
* **Capacity to deliver (35%)**
  + Necessary staff, with the right skills, in place to deliver within the required timescales

| **Closing date for EOIs: Noon, Monday 26 November 2018**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**kaite.emmerson@geo.gov.uk**](mailto:kaite.emmerson@geo.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expressions of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and GEO does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback, however, is available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department for Education’s standard research contract [terms and conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

**1,500 word limit**

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1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inequality-among-lgbt-groups-in-the-uk-a-review-of-evidence> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)