

Period Product provision to schools and post-16 education institutions across England

Market Briefing Presentation – May 2019



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Agenda

- 1. Background**
- 2. The Requirement**
- 3. Tender Opportunity**

QUESTIONS: Should you have any questions relating to the scheme, please send them to PP.Procurement@education.gov.uk. The DfE will not be answering questions as part of this session.

NOTE: The DfE reserves the right to change or remove any aspect of the illustrated procurement prior to publication.



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Background

'Period poverty' has received considerable media and parliamentary interest since March 2017, with campaigners focussing on the need to fight stigma around menstruation and provide free period products.

The department's 2018 omnibus surveys found that:

- 6% of female school pupils and 14% of female college students had been unable to access period products in the previous year due to affordability
- 83% of secondary school leaders reported making free products available to pupils, with 41% doing so because of a reason related to pupils' inability to afford period products
- 78% of secondary school leaders who provided products said that provision was funded from school budgets but 26% used charitable donations and 17% said teachers funded products themselves



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Background

At the Spring Statement on 13th March 2019, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that free period products would be funded in secondary schools and colleges, and that this would be fully funded by the government .

On 16th April 2019, Minister Zahawi announced that funding would be extended to include provision in primary schools and that the scheme would launch nationally from early 2020.



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The Requirement

We are looking to procure the following services on a national scale:

Source an appropriate range of period products

We require a minimum range of products available for institutions to be able to order:

- Sanitary towels – two absorbencies, with one being a high absorbency
- Applicator tampons – a range of three different absorbencies
- Non-applicator tampons – a range of three different absorbencies
- Environmentally-friendly sanitary towels - two different absorbencies, with at least one being a high absorbency.

All products must conform with the [General Product Safety Directive 2001/95/EC](#).



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The Requirement cont...

Develop and manage an ordering interface/process

The service is to be made available to institutions on a self-serve basis. As such, we require an easily accessible, user friendly ordering process. We envisage that as a minimum this would include an online user interface and/or telephone ordering system.

Ordering frequency is open for bidding organisations to set out in their proposal, however the minimum frequency should be once per academic term.

All ordering processes must include an integrated verification procedure.

There should be no minimum order quantity, however a maximum will be established and implemented working with the successful organisation.



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The Requirement cont...

Delivery of products to institutions

Bidding organisations must be able to deliver to schools and post-16 institutions across England (including islands).

We expect that all deliveries should be completed in a timely manner and in line with industry standard.

Provide Customer Support to institutions

Customer service support should be made available in an appropriate format to all institutions during term time and office hours. Support should cover (but not be limited to) help with ordering and complaints.



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Tender Opportunity

The DfE will be looking to appoint a single supplier to deliver a national service for the provision of Period Products.

An open single-stage procurement exercise is expected to be published week commencing 10th June 2019.

This Procurement is being undertaken in line with OJEU procurement principles.



The resulting contract will be for 31 months, starting in September 2019, ahead of full rollout of the scheme from January 2020



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Tender opportunity cont...

Bidding organisations will be assessed in the following areas:

Criteria	Weighting
SSQ Compliance	Pass/Fail
Financial Standing	Pass/Fail
Quality	70%
Price	30%

For more information on the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ), please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-816-standard-selection-questionnaire-sq-template> .

The quality section will assess each bidding organisations ability to meet the entirety of the DfE requirements, whilst also taking into account any additional benefits offered. One area we are particularly interested in this regard (amongst others) is reducing environmental impact (linking with Social Values).



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Tender Opportunity cont...

This procurement will be published on the DfE's e-procurement system, Bravo. It is strongly recommended that interested organisations register in advance of publication to prevent delays in accessing the ITT pack.

<https://education.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>



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For more information

Contact us

Prior to publication -

By email: PP.Procurement@education.gov.uk

Contracts Finder Notice (for any updates):

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/ba165f72-c0a5-41dc-9efb-bd2c27593b85>

Post publication –

Please raise all queries via Bravo.



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