Expression of Interest – Analytical Support and Verification Project.

The Department of Health and Social Care are interested to hear from organisations who can fulfil the requirement below. If you believe you can carry out the function as set out in the specification below, please return this document with your answers to the 5 questions below by NOON on Monday 8th April 2024.

Please email mike.farren@dhsc.gov.uk with any questions and with your responses by the deadline date/time.

This requirement includes the provision of analytical support and web delivery as detailed below. **The following requirements are non-negotiable and must be delivered in full**.

**Analytical support and verification**

The analytical component accounts for approximately 60% of the overall requirement. The supplier will need to:

1. Produce statistical bulletins, provisional-release statistics and national statistics relating to adult community and secure setting drug, alcohol and young people’s substance misuse, in accordance with the standards required for National Statistics and official statistics on substance misuse treatment in secure settings.
2. Produce externally validated analysis or statistics based on National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) drug and alcohol data (e.g. Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information requests, media enquiries, departmental requests – around 5-10 per month). The supplier will need to answer and provide supporting evidence for appropriate queries within 24-48 hours, depending on the request.
3. Support the production of peer reviewed publications based on NDTMS data, including support and advice for other academic departments using NDTMS data for research into drug and alcohol treatment. It is anticipated that this will account up to 5% of the activity requirements.
4. Build, verify and produce NDTMS derived management information in the form of multiple outputs to support the delivery of the web services component. Appropriate levels of disclosure control will need to be applied to all data that is public facing.
5. Support a cycle of continuous improvement and development of analytical methodologies and processes.
6. Any potential suppliers will need to demonstrate the following:
7. Academic credibility amongst peers within the field of drug and alcohol epidemiology.
8. Comprehensive understanding of National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) core dataset. This dataset currently has over 280 data items.
9. Ability to produce specified reporting outputs within two days of receipt of monthly NDTMS data.
10. Proven ability to produce high quality statistical methodology documentation.
11. Ability to comply with departmental data security requirements, such as NHS Data Security Protection Toolkit ([Data Security and Protection Toolkit (dsptoolkit.nhs.uk)](https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/)).
12. Highly advanced analytical skills, with analysis delivered using appropriate tools such as SPSS, R, STATA, SQL, Power BI.
13. Experience of producing National Statistics, and demonstrable understanding of the Code of Practice for Statistics ([Code of Practice for Statistics (statisticsauthority.gov.uk)](https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/)) as well as creation of and maintenance of analytical methodologies and processes.

**Web services and support**

The web services and support component accounts for approximately 40% of the overall requirement. The supplier will need to:

1. Build, maintain and provide and administration of a web site, at least equivalent to NDTMS.Net ([NDTMS - Home](https://www.ndtms.net/Home/Index)). NDTMS.Net is the primary gateway for local treatment systems and criminal justice partners to access the full suite of management information relating to drug and alcohol treatment via a bespoke role-based access system (2,000+ users). Alongside this, it is utilised in part to communicate and convey key information relating to all drug and alcohol treatment objectives.
2. This web site will be the primary access point for local authorities to access management information reports produced by DHSC and the supplier.
	1. Due to the sensitivity of most the data held within it, access to this component must be appropriately controlled through a bespoke role/individual-based access system that enables the department and supplier to tailor access at individual page level to either specific roles or individual users.
	2. There must also be a publicly accessible part of the web site that enables appropriate products and reports to be accessible there.
3. Build and regularly update a data visualisation product within the website at least equivalent to ViewIt ([NDTMS - ViewIt - Adult](https://www.ndtms.net/ViewIt/Adult)).
	1. This product must contain National Statistics at a local and national level, produced as part of the analytical component, and must be updated in line with statistics publications.
	2. Two separate versions of the product are needed:
		1. a publicly accessible version with appropriate levels of disclosure controls applied.
		2. a role-based restricted version that contains unsuppressed data.
	3. Build and maintain a user registration and user endorsement component within the web site.
		1. This must ensure that all users requesting access to the role-based access part are endorsed by either web site administrators or department endorsers.
		2. A strict endorsement process will need to be adhered to by the supplier and full documentation retained and maintained.
		3. The supplier will need to handle approximately 50-100 requests per month.
4. Build and maintain the criminal justice single point of contact directory (SPOC). This product will need to reside within the role-based access restricted area and contain:
	1. a repository of all criminal justice and community contact points (between 300-500).
	2. an interactive “Google maps” style interface that enables user searches, interrogation and recall of contact points down to “Street view” level.
	3. QR code facility to transfer information to user’s external device.
	4. In addition, this directory must enable contact point owners to manage their own contact points through the role-based access system.
	5. Only contact point owners should be able to perform this action.
5. Ensure documentation and guidance available on the publicly accessible section of the web site is kept up to date.
6. Provide a Power BI reporting platform that will support the prompt delivery and recall of multiple reports to 2,000+ users, with the most commonly used products viewed and interrogated around 100 times per day.
7. Provide a SQL Server Reporting Services platform that will support the prompt delivery and recall of multiple reports to 2,000+ users, with the most commonly used products viewed and interrogated around 50 times per day.
8. Support a cycle of continuous improvement and development of web services.
9. Any potential suppliers will need to demonstrate the following:
10. Ability to comply with departmental data security requirements, such as NHS Data Security Protection Toolkit ([Data Security and Protection Toolkit (dsptoolkit.nhs.uk)](https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk/)).
11. Demonstrable expertise in programme/project management for software development and operational management.
12. Highly developed in-house skills to develop and support the web site build, ongoing development and maintenance (ideally using C# and .Net development framework).
13. Proven ability to develop and support web reporting tools for health data, including dynamic tabular reports and GIS.
14. Demonstrable knowledge and experience in system security and maintenance.
15. Demonstrable knowledge and experience in managing ongoing user registration, endorsement and support.
16. Demonstrable knowledge and experience in the delivery of enhanced role-based access systems enabling distinct access to sensitive data to only those that need it.
17. Demonstrable knowledge and experience in the delivery of a Power BI reporting platform, including ongoing maintenance, development and support.

**Questions**

1. What is your experience in producing National or Official Statistics in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics?
2. How will you ensure that you have a comprehensive understanding of the NDTMS core dataset by contract start?
3. How will you ensure that you have an operationally ready analytical resource that meets the specification in full by contract start?
4. What is your experience of managing web sites where the primary function is secure data dissemination to large audiences both publicly and via a restricted-access area that is used by 2,000+ users?
5. How will you ensure that you will have an operationally ready website that meets the specification in full by contract start?