



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

## Request for Information

**Project Title:** Strategic Public Health and Economic  
Resource Effectiveness (SPHERE) Modelling  
Platform - Non-communicable disease modelling  
partnership

**Project Ref: C226695**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The Department of Health and Social Care ('The Authority') wishes to gain further insight into a project for modelling support, required by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), to operationalise a current experimental version of a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) dynamic microsimulation model called SPHERE (the Strategic Public Health and Economic Resource Effectiveness) Modelling Platform. Work is required to ensure the SPHERE model can add robust and innovative predictive analysis to inform policy and decision making across OHID's priorities.

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute an Invitation to Tender (ITT) or a promise to issue an ITT in the future. This RFI does not commit the Authority to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. The information provided in the RFI is subject to change and is not binding on the Authority.

Please note the Authority is not at this time seeking proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. The Authority will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. The release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorisation, to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought.

By responding to the RFI the responder accepts these terms.

Responding or not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any potential future ITT, if any is issued.

Please highlight any commercially sensitive information that is sent to the Authority. Any commercially sensitive information will not be shared outside of the Authority.

## **2.0 Background to the Requirement**

Over the last few years, the Non-Communicable Diseases Modelling Team within the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have developed a complex microsimulation model to assist with the detailed evaluation of potential health policies. This is called the Strategic Public Health and Economic Resource Effectiveness (SPHERE) Model.

To date an experimental first version of the modelling platform has been developed and initial test use cases are currently being trialed with policy teams.

We are looking into commissioning a technically experienced modelling partner to support the independent peer review of SPHERE code, methods and outputs

and enabling SPHERE's operationalisation as an externally validated and business critical tool for the DHSC. Experience in innovative health modelling is required to bring insights to and assist with the planning of further development of the modelling tool to support government policy analysis and decision making.

### 3.0 The Requirement

Expertise in highly technical microsimulation mathematical modelling, health modelling and health economics evaluation is required. Ideally with an understanding and perspective on the evolving landscape of health modelling across the UK.

Ability to deliver independent peer review of model code (mostly in R scripting-based language), epidemiological and health economic outputs produced by SPHERE. This requires multidisciplinary support by suitable external experts and the ability to bring in or work with topic area experts and advisors on key health areas such as obesity, smoking and alcohol prevention.

Working with partner experienced with working with government or similar high-profile stakeholders. To improve engagement, communication and understanding of dynamic modelling techniques, and the strengths and limitations of forecasted outputs within the DHSC and wider stakeholders.

We envisage this work forming 2 lots covering the technical and engagement activities. The project may be delivered by a single provider or a consortium.

We would be aiming to start this work in **early 2024**, with the work lasting approximately 12 months (subject to contract).

Indicative budget for this work as being in the range of **£140,000 to £230,000 (excluding VAT)**.

For further clarification of the requirement, the Authority will also be hosting a **Market Engagement Event on 30th November 2023 at 11:00**.

### 4.0 Requested Information

Please provide responses to the following questions:

- 4.1 Please register your interest to attend the Market Engagement Day on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- 4.2 Do you have the current technical expertise to undertake the requirement.
- 4.3 Do you have current capacity to undertake the requirement commencing early 2024.

4.4 If you do not have current capacity, how soon could you commence work on this requirement?

## 5.0 Responses

Responses are due no later than **29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 12:00** and shall be submitted through the Atamis e-portal system.

Your response must also include the following information (not included in word count):

- Organisations' name
- Organisations' address
- Contact person and e-mail address for contact.

## 6.0 Clarifications Questions

If you require clarification on any part of this RFI please use the messaging center function on the e-procurement portal. [Please note that the deadline for clarification questions is \*\*21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 17:00\*\*](#), and they may not be answered after this point.