

Supplier open day 11th May 2017 questions and answers.

1. Will the £4.1m budget be re-evaluated and increased if needed?

The budget has been re-evaluated and is between 6 million to 10 million pounds.

2. How have we collated the statistics on number of teachers needed to be recruited?

Based upon research DfE commissioned and working with schools and academies to identify where gaps in the supply pipeline exist for shortage subjects such as maths, physics and MFL teachers.

3. What is the percentage split of teachers needed between Maths & Physics and MFL?

The split of maths, physics and MFL teachers will be based upon demand and will be informed within the call off stage of the contracts.

4. Are the statistics on teachers needed to be recruited annual or over a period of time?

The statistic on number of teachers to be recruited is over a 3-year period.

5. How does this differ from previous contracts?

This is a separate tender exercise from previous contracts that we envisage will act as a mechanism for some aspects of international recruitment via NCTL for up to 4 years.

6. Can suppliers bid for one subject specialism alone?

Due to the wide-ranging requirements we expect providers to be able to work with stakeholders to deliver multiple subject specialisms as required.

7. Can you provide further clarity on the Lots available to bid on? e.g. can it only be one or more?

Bidders can bid on any one of the three Lots available; any two of the three Lots available; or all three Lots available. This can be done individually, in partnership or as part of a consortium.

8. How does the bidding process work?

The Tender will include a technical section and a Financial Section. Each Bid will be subject to a rigorous evaluation process and will be individually scored.

9. How are the Lots split?

Lot 1 – Recruitment Services;

Lot 2 – Acclimatisation Services;

Lot 3 – Bespoke Training Services.

10. How would a bid be evaluated if it is for more than one Lot?

There will be a separate evaluation process for each lot.

11. Which countries are the target?

We are looking at a global perspective and further information will be provided at the call off stage.

12. Do teachers need to have QTS?

Teachers will require the necessary experience to receive QTS before they can be in post. The framework will also work with suppliers and schools to discern areas we can strengthen the supply pipeline of teachers and provide further training where deemed necessary.

13. Is this framework for secondary schools only?

This programme is for Secondary schools only (KS3 & KS4) at the moment however DfE retains the right to respond to any demand requirements that may need fulfilling.

14. How does the fast track for QTS work?

The fast track to QTS works on the principle of utilising a salaried approach into teaching.

15. Can TAs or someone with classroom experience utilise the fast track approach?

The salaried fast track approach will be open to candidates with the requisite skill set and relevant experience whilst meeting the minimum requirements of the teacher standards.

16. Are the suppliers expected to have a pipeline of teachers readily available?

Suppliers are not expected to have a pipeline of teachers readily available, however there will be expectation that suppliers have the resources in place to quickly respond to need.

17. Will the schools get charged for this service?

There is no charge to the school for this service however schools will pay the teachers' salaries.

18. How are the suppliers on the preferred supplier list (PSL) split if some are regional and some national?

DfE will be looking in to the best formula to split the regions per Supplier, however options alternative to regional splits are also under consideration.

19. What are the timeframes for acclimatisation?

NCTL are looking into holding but not be limited to holding 3 acclimatisation events per year, April, August and December.

20. When does the framework go out?

The framework is expected to be ready for call off contracts by November 2017.

21. What activity is DfE doing to get the schools on board?

Communication is ongoing with schools and school events are being considered.

22. How will the schools be managed?

Schools will have the option of calling off contracts directly from the framework and managing their own requirements. There will be a requirement of schools signing up to a service level agreement to access the framework services.

23. Can schools call Suppliers directly?

Schools will have the option to call off contracts directly from the framework and there is an expectation schools and suppliers will manage the demand aspect of their recruitment needs.

24. Are the teachers for full time permanent roles only?

This programme is looking to attract international teachers for full time roles with an expectation of candidates completing a minimum 1 year in post.

25. Why are the handbooks as part of the acclimatisation multi-lingual and not in English as the teachers would be expected to have a minimum standard of English?

The handbooks are designed to help acclimatise international teachers. Therefore, it has been established that it is beneficial to have the handbooks available in their mother tongue.

26. What is the minimum level of English required for teachers?

The minimum level of English expected is B2.

27. How do the costs work for Lot 1 – recruitment services regarding flights etc...?

Suppliers are expected to cover all costs including flights inclusive of the fee. The flight contribution can be a fixed amount as this would be a variable cost depending on the country the teacher has been recruited from.

28. Is there scope for Recruitment and Retention (R&R) services?

Suppliers are expected to cover all costs including recruitment and retention services inclusive of the fee.

29. How do we compare/compete against other countries who can offer higher salaries and benefits such as UAE?

We offer world class classroom experience and an excellent acclimatisation support package.

30. What if schools don't have the Sponsorship Licence?

Schools would be able to recruit from EU countries without a sponsorship licence.

31. Could a Sponsorship Licence be provided to all schools?

It would be the responsibility of individual schools to source a Sponsorship Licence.

32. Can contact details be shared between Suppliers?

Contact details can be shared between suppliers providing consent is given by each party.

33. Where is the shortage in MFL teachers geographically in the UK?

Currently there is demand across most regions of the UK and we will continue to identify demand versus gaps within the supply pipeline and also would encourage suppliers to source the demand themselves through existing links.

34. Is this for Independent Schools as well as State Schools?

This is currently for state schools only.

35. If open to Independent Schools, will there be a cost to them?

This framework is currently not open for independent schools.

36. Is DfE holding any events/school discussions to promote?

Communication is active with schools and opportunities for events are being considered.