# Social Work England 00330 – Response to Clarification Questions

# Question 1 – In relation to the tender opportunity, we would like to clarify the contractual position. The terms and conditions provided stipulates that the Supplier must ‘indemnify Social Work England against any expense, liability, loss, claim’ without a set financial limit. Can you please confirm if an amendment to this clause, or alternatively inserting an additional clause, which sets a limitation of liability will be acceptable?

Response 1 – As stated at clause 17.4 of the Invitation to Tender (ITT), Social Work England’s Supplier Terms and Conditions will be used alongside; the specification & details as set out within the ITT document and the Supplier’s tender submission, to form the contractual agreement. As standard practice, Social Work England do not allow any amendments to our Supplier Terms and Conditions. However, due to the value of work requested, and the subsequent commercial risk, Social Work England will be willing to consider a contractual amendment to set a liability cap. This will be agreed by the parties during contract formation.

**Question 2 - Point 5.11 states that Potential Providers are expected to include a survey that must reach a minimum of six-hundred people, at least two online focus groups and at least forty one-on-one interviews. Are you wedded to that quantitative methodology?**

Response 2 - If Potential Providers have a different approach, then Social Work England would be interested in hearing the rationale behind this. This approach should be detailed in your submission.

**Question 3 - As Social Work England are expecting Potential Providers to source participants for the quantitative survey, do Social Work England hold the required data to determine how to represent the population of Social Workers by age, service, gender etc.?**

Response 3 - Social Work England hold a register of Social Workers, but as we are currently interrogating large amounts of data, we would only be able to provide basic breakdowns of information. We would not be averse to using other reliable sources of information around the social work profession, to inform that work – either instead of, or supplementary to.

**Question 4- Would there be any support in terms of promoting the research?**

Response 4 - We can amplify in terms of the work the successful provider is carrying out, and direct potential participants towards them. We will also use Social Media channels to promote the work.

**Question 5 - With regards to the CPD records data that Social Work England will require the successful provider to analyse. What format will this be in, and what types of variables will be used, i.e. written responses, coded data etc.?**

Response 5 - Our CPD offer to social workers is an online platform, where they can record their CPD through two methods. Method 1- is a structured form which guides them through some key questions associated with our standards, and offers a space for social workers to subsequently reflect on these questions. And highlights how this may have impacted on their practice. Method 2 - is an unstructured form, with free text space to highlight a piece of learning, record their reflection and impact on practice. They can also attach a piece of work.

**Question 6 - Social Work England have stated they will provide samples of records, do we know what size the sample will be?**

Response 6- We have left this decision with the Potential Providers to confirm what is a manageable quantity, or will provide a reliable benchmark.

**Question 7 - We have stated that Potential Providers are expected to include a survey that must reach a minimum of six-hundred people, at least two online focus groups and at least forty one-on-one interviews. Given that the budget is £29,000, these figures may be difficult to achieve within this budget. If a Potential Provider believes they cannot achieve these numbers within the given budget, what would Social Work England advise?**

Response 7 - We would advise Potential Providers to still put forward their proposal, as we can sometimes be flexible where the budget is concerned. We always score the tender on both price, and none price questions. We also use the MEAT methodology (most economically advantageous tender) when scoring each bid.

**Question 8. The requirements in the specification are split into two parts, and you have specified numbers that we expect Potential Providers to achieve in the first part, but not the second part. If there was more focus by Potential Providers on the second part of the tender would there be flexibility on the first, and vice versa?**

Response 8 - We encourage Potential Providers to build this into the tender submission, and explain what they think is the best approach to achieve the required objectives.

**Question 9 - With regards to the format of the data within the structured and unstructured records, is it possible to share any data in advance at this stage?**

Response 9 - The CPD guidance is available on Social Work England’s website. We will also be publishing examples of using the online forms on Social Work England’s website soon.

**Question 10 - Social Work England are building on previous research, will this research be made available to Potential Providers?**

Response 10 – We have published reports that cover two areas of research. These pieces looked into public perceptions of social work, attitudes among social workers and the varying aspects of their work. The reports can be found here: [**https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/publications/research-reports/**](https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/publications/research-reports/)

**Question 11 – Are we able to recruit social workers via SWE’s database, or must all social workers be sourced free-find?**

Response 11 – All social workers must be sourced by the Potential Providers.

**Question 12 – What data do you envisage being shared as part of the CPD files?**

Response 12 – We will share random samples of complete CPD records with Potential Providers. Please refer to the CPD guidance within the Social Work England website, for an indication of what information the records will contain.

**Question 13 - Do you have an understanding of the profile of social workers across England - i.e. how many fall into each social work area, to help with designing a sample frame that is reflective of the sector? Are there any recruitment criteria which are of a higher priority?**

Response 13 – Whilst Social Work England are currently interrogating our own data, we would encourage Potential Providers to construct submissions based on a reliable source. Two examples of reliable sources could be the DFE, and the DHSC.