



INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) for University Benchmarks for Better Social Mobility Clarification Questions

Date: 14/11/2023

Question No	Question	Response
1	<p>On page 13 it states sections 1-4 should not exceed 4 sides of A4 and sections 5-6 should not exceed 2 sides, implying the page count is 6 pages.</p> <p>Below this it then states this a combined total of 5 pages.</p> <p>Can you also confirm if the costing template needs to be included in the page count or if this can be added separately?</p>	<p>Apologies for the confusion on this, we will therefore accept bids between 5-6 pages long.</p> <p>The costing template is included in section 3 of the bid that should be submitted. Therefore should be included in the 4 sides of A4 which covers sections 1-4.</p>
2a	<p>The ITT mentions the potential use of the LEO dataset. Could you please clarify if the SMC has a specific preference for this dataset, and are there any other datasets that the SMC would recommend or prefer for this project?</p>	<p>We are open to alternative suggestions on which datasets to use, but the supplier must demonstrate how they intend on using the alternative data source to develop the benchmarks in their bid. The LEO dataset is specified because during the project scoping phase we identified it as the key data source.</p>
2b	<p>The ITT states the project work will be collaborative in nature. Beyond the mentioned midpoint review with a technical panel, could you elaborate on the SMC's expectations for more detailed technical collaboration? Would the SMC provide support such as a data analyst or statistician for regular assistance in developing the benchmarks?</p>	<p>We would want to be involved in discussions and consulted in full on the design and interpretation of the benchmarks methodology and findings. However, we expect the data cleaning, wrangling, linking and creation of benchmarks and charts to be done by the supplier - as outlined in the deliverables.</p>