Request for Information

*Instructions and Guidance*

*NHS England NHS Bowel Screening Managed Service Re-Procurement*

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Dear Provider(s)

This Request for Information (RFI) process is being undertaken to engage the market to inform the further development of - a specification for future National NHS Bowel Screening Managed Service Provision (MSP), supporting the current Bowel Screening Hub Services.

The objective of the RFI is to:

* Understand market Capability and Capacity to deliver the service.
* Capture feedback on the current service model and specification and its ability to encourage the delivery of value for money.
* Enable the development of an effective specification to capture innovation and flexibility of provision.
* Understand the preferred / most viable contract length.
* Understand the financial risks in the delivery of the service.
* Understand the mobilisation requirements of the service.
* Understand any barriers to bidding and whole service risk and
* Understand the social value deliverables of the service.

Whereas this RFI has been prepared in good faith by NHS England it should not be assumed that the information in this RFI has been verified for absolute accuracy and completeness by NHS England and/or any advisor(s) to NHS England.

NHS England and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, and affiliates do not make and will not make at any time, in connection with this service, any representation or warranty, express or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of this RFI or any such summaries.

In providing this RFI, NHS England does not undertake any obligation to provide the recipient with access to any additional information or to update the RFI or correct any inaccuracies in the RFI, which become known to it. Nothing in the RFI or accompanying documentation should be relied upon as a promise or a representation as to the NHS England’s ultimate decisions in relation to the next stage, which will depend, at least in part, on the outcome of the discussions during this RFI process.

NHS England will not reimburse any expenses incurred by interested parties in preparing their responses to this RFI including attendance at any meetings. NHS England reserves the right to discontinue the process at any time and will not accept any liability towards interested parties should it be required to do so.

Completed RFI’s must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday 10th May 2024. Any submissions received after this specified deadline may not be considered in the market engagement process undertaken through the RFI process.

Yours faithfully

**Claire Burns**

**Senior Procurement Lead – Clinical Category**

**Commercial Directorate**

**NHS England**

1 **THE RFI PROCESS**

1.1 The RFI process is being undertaken to allow the early market testing for NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Managed Service Provider (MSP) services, this includes the supply of Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits to participants of the bowel cancer screening programme and provides the equipment to the screening hubs to analyse these kits and therefore provide results.

1.2 The documentation is available to all interested parties who have registered an interest in the service via the e-Tendering portal following the advertisement of a Prior Information Notice/RFI on Contracts Finder and Find a Tender (FTS).

1.3 Accompanying this document, the following attachments are available to interested parties to further inform the submission of the respective RFI: -

* Appendix A - RFI Response Document (Please note that this document needs to be completed and returned via the Atamis system).
* Appendix B – Service background information document.

1.4 These documents are provided to assist potential providers in the completion of the RFI submission, however, please note that this information is indicative only and may not reflect the data used in any forthcoming procurement process if applicable. Interested parties are required to complete Appendix A – RFI Response Document and return via Atamis.

1.5 NHSE (NHS England) reserves the right to meet with providers and discuss their submitted RFI. If we proceed with this approach further information will be provided following review of submissions.

**2 SCOPE OF THE SERVICE**

2.1 The service requirements are outlined in Appendix B – Background Information. Please note that this is a summary of the current service model and is subject to change based on feedback including that from the RFI process.

## 3 VISION

3.1 The NHS Long Term Plan outlines a commitment to detecting more people at risk of developing cancer and facilitating their treatment to prevent cancer.

3.2 The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) aims to prevent / aid early detection of bowel cancer by offering Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) for haemoglobin currently testing at 120µg Hb/g faeces for all 54 to 74-year-olds in England. By the end of March 2025 this will capture those aged 50 to 74 years old. Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) is a self-administered test where a participants stool sample is tested for traces of blood. 4.5 million people have been invited into the programme each year prior to the age extension roll out and once screened will be followed up every two years until the age of 74 years. Those aged 74 and over can opt to self-refer.

3.3 The programme has expanded to make it available to everyone aged 50 to 74 years old. This is happening gradually over 4 years and started in April 2021 with 58, 56 and 54 year-olds now part of the programme and the remaining 50 and 52 year old cohorts will be introduced form April 2024 to be completed by end March 2025.

3.4 From April 2023, bowel screening hubs also commenced management of the invitations (call / recall) element of the pathway for patients with Lynch Syndrome.

3.5 The NHS BCSP is organised around five programme hubs, this provision has been in place since 2006. Screening hubs cover geographical areas of the country, and their focus is to provide the national helpline function, call, and recall element for the programme for the screening centres in their area, analysis of the returned test kits and providing results to participants. Each screening hub has several screening centres attached to them.

# 4 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 This document is **not** an Invitation to Tender (ITT), nor does it form any part of a procurement process. It is a Request for Information (RFI) based on the draft service requirements provided with this document.

4.2 The RFI Response Document should be submitted by no later than 12:00 Noon on 10th May 2024

4.3 Interested parties’ responses do not constitute firm offers capable of acceptance. Instead, their responses will be construed as indicative only.

4.4 Unless otherwise agreed, NHS England shall not be obliged to return any materials submitted by interested parties before, during or after any procurement process.

4.5 Any information provided as part of this RFI may be used by the NHS England to inform future market analysis activity. NHSE reserves the right to seek further information and/or meet with respondents to explore the submissions in the interest of specification development.

4.6 NHS England recognises that with a new service model there is a clear need to test with interested parties that outline requirements are not deficient to any material degree and that the content as to outcomes, as designated, are deliverable and affordable. To understand and appreciate these issues, it is essential that NHS England seek a fuller understanding from interested parties to enable requirements to be fully reflective of issues and concerns, which are relevant, and to adopt these, where appropriate in the final service model.

4.7 In addition, there is an option to allow interested parties to submit their individual caveats in relation to any section of the proposed service model where they may identify outcomes that they may not be able to provide and/or offer alternative suggestions. It should be noted by interested parties that in making these suggestions, the areas where this information may arise should be substantive in the context of delivering service model outcomes.