

**Commercial in Confidence**

**Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust**

**Prior Information Notice (“PIN”)**

**Body Storage**

1. **Background**

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (“MSEFT”) have issued this PIN notice in order to engage with the market in relation to the procurement of a provider to commission to store up to 200 flex up to 320 deceased at any time on the contingency premises as required.

MSEFT was created on 1st April 2020 from the merger of, Basildon & Thurrock, Mid Essex and Southend Hospital Trusts serving an estimated 1.2 million population. You can find more about our organisation at [Welcome to the website of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (mse.nhs.uk)](https://www.mse.nhs.uk/)

Mid Essex Hospital Services

Mid Essex Hospital Services is based at Broomfield Hospital (Chelmsford), and also includes St Peters (Maldon) and St Michaels (Braintree) sites. The Hospital provides local elective and emergency services to 380,000 people living in and around the districts of Chelmsford, Maldon and Braintree (including Witham). The trust also provides a county-wide plastics, head and neck and upper gastrointestinal (GI) Surgical Centre to a population of 3.4 million and a world renowned supra regional burns service at the St Andrew’s Centre that serves a population of 9.8 million. The Mid-Essex service employs nearly 4,000 staff.

Southend University Hospital

Southend University Hospital is an established 700 bed general hospital and provides a range of services to a local population of some 338,800 in and around Southend and nearby towns. The Hospital provides a range of acute services including acute medical and surgical specialties, general medicine, general surgery, orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, cancer treatments, renal dialysis, obstetrics and gynaecology and children’s services. Southend University Hospital is the South Essex Surgical Centre for uro-oncology and gynae-oncology surgery.

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals serves the 405,000 population of Basildon and Thurrock in South West Essex, plus residents of the neighbouring districts of Billericay and Brentwood and Castle Point. Basildon Hospital also includes St Andrews Centre in Billericay

and Orsett Hospital in Grays providing an extensive range of acute medical and surgical services with over 4,500 employees. In addition, The Essex Cardiothoracic Centre based at Basildon University Hospital treats patients with heart and lung diseases from the county of Essex and beyond.

**Potential Scope of Service**

The provider will make contingency storage available at their premises for up to 200 fridge spaces when required, flexing up to 320 in peak periods. Should additional contingency spaces be required over and above this amount, this will be reviewed and agreed by both parties at the time of requirement. This may also include the holding and storage of ‘bought in dead (BID)’, if required

The provider will provide transport arrangements between service receivers’ Mortuary sites and to contingency premises along with any returns if required. The provider will use their own vehicles, stretchers and staff for transfer, this may include the collection and transfer of bariatric deceased from MSEFT hospital site wards. The Provider out of hours will need to have a provision for the Broomfield site for deaths in the community.

The Trust would like to engage with interested suppliers who have the necessary experience, expertise and capacity to deliver the full scope of services at the scale of the service required.

This process does not preclude any supplier from bidding for the service once the formal procurement commences.

Suppliers who wish to engage with the Trust should send details covering the following:

* Indication of interest in the MSE service, willingness to engage openly with the Trust prior to the commencement of the procurement process.
* Details of previous experience and expertise at the scale required for MSEFT together with successful outcomes delivered.

This PIN has been published for the purpose of market engagement only. For the avoidance of doubt, this market engagement exercise implies no commercial commitment and is not a formal tender process.

**Appendix – Site plans**

****