

# Expression of interest

# Title: LMI for All

**Project reference: 2018/030**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: 18/07/18**

## Summary

Expressions of interest are sought to run and promote the data service [LMI for all](http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/). LMI for all is a collation of high quality datasets. The service runs on the principles of open data, which means the data can be accessed free of charge via an API (application programming interface). Third party developers access the data to create careers applications, which can be embedded into careers websites. The data is then used by a wide range of stakeholders, such as schools, career practitioners, adults and young people.

The service compromises a technical infrastructure, data development, data housing and stakeholder engagement. We intend to re-tender the whole service.

Our intention is to let the contract for 3 years however the Department can only spend up to its Spending Review Agreement which currently runs up to March 2020. We therefore intend to let the contract until this date with the option to extend until October 2021.

## Background

The core aim of LMI for All is to have a source of high quality labour market data which is open and free for anyone to use. The aim is to widen the use of such data to support decisions about careers and learning, through awareness raising with its users.

The Labour Market Information for All service was transferred to DfE from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) in October 2016.

LMI for All builds on a proposition made by Sir John Holman in October 2011 as part of the government’s Growth Review. The core focus of the recommendations was on making high quality labour market information (LMI) more accessible, particularly to young people and their parents, to enable better, more informed decisions about careers, education and training options.

The key benefit of LMI for All is that it provides robust data from national sources that allow end-users to explore and compare occupations they are interested in on a consistent basis.

Since its inception LMI for All has been developed and run by The Institute for Employment Research (IER) at The University of Warwick. The current contract for this service ends on 30/09/18. A one month period of handover activities is anticipated in the event of a new contractor being appointed. The department expects continuity of service to ensure data continues to be available on demand.

### Project aims

* To maintain and develop a comprehensive, high quality data offering that can inform career choices.
* To offer a technical infrastructure that provides a secure, accessible and reliable platform for LMI for All.
* To promote the widest possible take-up among third-party websites and applications as a means of opening-up the data to individual decision-makers.
* To build wider awareness, understanding and support for LMI for All among key stakeholder groups, including careers and technical communities.

# Key features of the project

### Technical infrastructure

Maintaining a robust technical infrastructure is critical to the ongoing success of LMI for All.

The data offering is underpinned by a secure, robust and accessible technical infrastructure, accessible through an API (application programming interface). The ultimate purpose of the infrastructure is to provide access (via third-party interfaces) to key data that individuals need in order to make decisions about learning, skills and careers.

Maintaining a robust technical infrastructure includes the following services:

1. Management and maintenance of the LMI for All database including data management to ensure data is not disclosive.
2. Management of ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) processes to support the refreshment of existing datasets and integration of new datasets.
3. Management and maintenance of the cloud-based hosting environment for the database (including meeting server costs).
4. Development and maintenance of the LMI for All application programming interface (API) and data cube including API monitoring, management of the API key system and additional programming to support data enrichment and extensions.
5. Contribution to internal data management processes, documentation and quality assurance of data.
6. Management of the LMI for All website, including the wiki and developer community environment.
7. Preparation of regular analytic reports to assess and profile usage of the API (including through use of real-time API dashboard).
8. Real-time monitoring of the performance of the database and API to ensure a timely response to critical errors and outages.
9. Performance of periodic load testing of the LMI for All system to assess its ability to meet current and anticipated user demand.
10. Provision of ongoing customer care, including support for third-party developers who are users or prospective users of the service.

### LMI For All Server Environment

A secure server environment will include back ups to a remote server including daily snapshots, security monitoring and updates.

### The Data

The data offering available through LMI for All has been developed on the basis of its potential value in informing careers decisions. To make the data accessible and relevant to a careers context the organising framework for the database is occupation, using the standard occupational classification at its most detailed level of categorisation – 369 categories. The categorisation is aligned to an index of 27,000 job titles, which means that third-party interfaces can build in intuitive search tools that will enable users to easily find data relating to the job they are interested in.

The LMI data generally covers the following dimensions/characteristics:

* 369 detailed occupational categories (soc2010 4-digit level);
* 75 detailed industries (roughly equivalent to sic2007 2 dig level)
* Employment status (full-time, and part-time employees and self-employment);
* Highest qualification held (9 levels of the national qualification framework);
* Countries and English regions within the UK; and gender

For the following datasets:

* Employment: historical, projected and replacement demand (Working Futures based on LFS, BRES)
* Pay and earnings (estimates based on ASHE and LFS)
* Hours (ASHE)
* Unemployment rates (LFS)
* Number of vacancies (ESS)
* Occupational descriptions (ONS)
* Skills, knowledge, abilities and interests (O\*NET)
* Current vacancies (Universal JobMatch)
* Higher education destinations (HESA)

### Data Development

Much of the work in data development relates to the refreshment and consolidation of existing datasets on an annual cycle including:

* Pay estimates, derived from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and Labour Force Survey.
* Unemployment rates by occupation, taken from the Labour Force Survey.
* Analysis of the courses previously studied in higher education by people in particular jobs, taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency destination of leavers’ survey.
* O\*NET data relating to skills, abilities and interests associated with occupations.
  + Estimates of vacancies, hard-to-fill vacancies and skill shortages taken from the DfE Employer Skills Survey, next update is the 2017 survey.
* Updating of mapping between apprenticeship framework and Standards codes and SOC 2010 unit groups mapping to ensure that a comprehensive and up to date feed of apprenticeship vacancies is rendered by the LMI for All API.
* Updating of the index of job titles linked to SOC 2010 in line with the updates published by the Office for National Statistics.
* Utilising Working Futures data as and when available from DfE.

### Promotion of LMI for all

The promotion of LMI for all is key to meeting the aims of the service. Through effective stakeholder engagement we are seeking to raise awareness and understanding of the LMI for All service among key audiences in order to achieve the following objectives:

* To encourage third parties to develop applications or enhance existing applications in order to increase the reach of LMI for All among end-users (e.g. individuals making careers decisions).
* To encourage third-parties to implement the LMI for All “[widget](http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/widget/)” (Careerometer).
* To drive end-user traffic to existing applications that offer access to LMI for All data.
* To foster positive and supportive attitudes towards the LMI for All service among key groups, including policymakers.
* To engage with partners who offer applications that draw upon LMI for All with a view to evaluating the service from an end-user perspective.

**Consortium bids are welcome in order to cover the different aspects of running the service.**

Relevant links:

* <http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>
* <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714565/Labour_market_information_for_all.pdf>
* <http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/documentation/data-documentation/>

## Timing

* Deadline for EOIs: 5pm 18th July

## Assessment criteria

Bids will be assessed on the following criteria:

* Staffing and capacity to run the service including appreciation of the policy aims
* Relevant experience in running a data service
* Technical knowledge and ability in the three main areas of the project: technical infrastructure, data and stakeholder engagement

| **Closing date for EOIs:**  **Send your EOI form to:** [**eve.schofield@education.gov.uk**](mailto:eve.schofield@education.gov.uk) |
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## How to submit an expressions of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the NEW EOI Form which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the [Department’s Terms and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eoi-guide). You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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