**International teacher recruitment framework Webinar 18th April 2017 questions & answers**

1. What is the relationship between this and the previous two tenders from the DFE- The Maths/Physics Tender (now closed) and the acclimatisation tender (also closed)?

The previous tenders were for the delivery of a defined, time limited, interim service. The framework will be a completely separate procurement and include an updated service and commercial models.

1. What countries are out of scope for this?

The intention is for the framework to become a global solution so going forward the DfE will consider expanding the scope to include additional markets from where eligible teachers can be sourced. The full international scope of the framework will be outlined at the tender stage but will include both EU and Non-EU countries.

1. Will the new £30,000 threshold apply for visas and is there a reason why primary education has been excluded at this point?

The Tier 2 minimum salary requirement increased from £25,000 to £30,000 in April 2017 for experienced workers entering the UK. The following subjects are currently exempt from the salary threshold until July 2019: secondary mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer science, and Mandarin. Teachers and trainees choosing to teach in any of these subjects will be exempt from the threshold. Please note that even though Chemistry is exempt from the salary threshold, it is not exempt from Resident Labour Market Tests (RLMT).

Modern foreign language teachers can still qualify under Tier 2 even though they are not a shortage occupation.  The sponsor needs to ensure they first carry out a RLMT.

Teachers not on the shortage occupation list would only be exempt from the £30k threshold if they were classed as “new entrants”.  This means that the applicant must be under age 26 or the RLMT must have been a graduate recruitment campaign, and the visa must not be for more than three years.  (It can be extended beyond three years but the £30k threshold would then apply.)

Primary teachers are not exempt from the salary requirement as there is no shortage of primary teachers.

1. When do you anticipate going to tender?

The indicative date for publication of the tender opportunity is 26 May 2017.

1. In terms of lot 1, could you explain what you mean by 'end of campaign solution'?

It is proposed that the provider would conduct an end of campaign survey and submit a report to the DfE outlining the outputs, outcomes and feedback from the recruitment campaign.

1. Why would you want several varieties of this acclimatisation?

The service model is still under development and the proposed approach is subject to ongoing review. However, the framework needs to be adaptable enough to provide the right level of service to respond to different markets and we recognise the needs will differ by markets and experiences.

At this stage we are not exploring several different varieties of acclimatisation, but rather several aspects that can be combined in different ways to different extents subject to need, market, experience and scale to ensure that the framework can cover the wide scope involved with global recruitment. The DfE is looking to undertake further market engagement to support the development of the proposed model, and will clearly define the approach in the tender document.

1. Will you want providers who have a breadth of services across the UK?

The service needs to be available across England. Part of the development work is to explore whether this is best represented via a national service or split into regional provisions. Therefore, at this stage we want to engage with both national and regional providers to help develop the optimum approach.

1. Has anything changed from the earlier notice we received?

The WebEx event provides additional context to the information included in the PIN notice and we will continue to publish any further updates via the PIN: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/dea96121-15ee-467f-9d4c-d6f420697645>

1. Could you give more detail on the tender process - for example is it a written submission only that will be reviewed or will there be presentations?

At this stage we are still developing the tender process and it has not yet been agreed what evaluation model will be used. The proposed evaluation model will be shared at the supplier open day and finalised in the tender documents.

1. Are you looking for commercial suppliers as opposed to academic suppliers?

The DfE is inviting interest from all potential suppliers and is looking to award to the supplier(s) who can provide the best combination of service quality and value for money. There is no predetermined supplier type or industry restrictions.

1. How many suppliers will be approved on the framework?

At this stage the commercial model is still under development and work is underway to determine the optimum number of providers for each lot of the framework. The proposed commercial model will be shared at the provider open day and finalised in the tender document.

1. Do you know how much work per year will be called off the framework?

At this stage the financial and demand modelling is still under development and work is underway to determine the breakdowns for each lot of the framework. The proposed commercial model including demand and financial information will be shared at the provider open day and finalised in the tender document.

1. Will the chosen supplier work with schools directly or through the NCTL?

At this stage we are exploring the possible options for making call-offs from the framework and are currently open to utilising both direct and central call-offs from the framework. The agreed approach will be defined in the tender documents.

1. In lot 1 you mention practical logistical support in relocating - could you confirm what you mean by this?

Practical logistical support in relocating entails, but is not limited to, providing candidates with immigration advice and answering any queries where necessary and helping with registering as a migrant worker in the UK, providing one to one support and follow up contact through and after the selection and interview process.

1. How does this relate to the earlier DfE tender for the targeted recruitment of STEM subject teachers from overseas countries, your ref RFX 159?

See response to question 1.

1. Are you expecting schools to come direct to you or would you be interested in a multi-layered approach with current clients already using our services? I think case studies would be beneficial.

See response to question 13.