Accelerated OPEN Procedure - Justification.

The Print Management Service procurement (RM6170) was originally planned to go to market 02/06/20 with an award approval date of 01/12/20.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic there were a number of delays leading up to us publishing the procurement and our ability to prepare the documentation. CCS engagement with suppliers evidenced that they faced business disruption, including disruption of resources.

There was a risk that due to COVID-19 the market would not be settled enough to participate in a tender exercise for a long-term agreement that requires suppliers to develop, prepare and issue a tender response when staff numbers have been reduced, increasing the risk of the OJEU result providing poor quality responses or a reduced number of bidders.

Our ability to engage customers who were able to act as evaluators was reduced due to the pandemic. We have started to see some movement on customer re-engagement in June/July and have been able to identify evaluators.

In addition to the above CCS staff were diverted to activity to support the Public Sector with urgent procurements required to deal with COVID19 and were not able to progress the procurement documentation as expected in March and April.

Current engagement with suppliers suggests that the market is now settled enough to participate in a tender exercise.

Although utilising the Accelerated OPEN Procedure we have reviewed timelines in order to award this procurement ahead of the current agreement expiring (27/12/20) and in order to allow bidders sufficient time we intend to allow 20 days for tender response rather than 15.