

Invitation to Quote

Questions



Invitation to Quote (ITQ) on behalf of **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) - Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)**

Subject: ESRC Postdoctoral Fellows (PDF) Development Programme

Sourcing Reference Number: PS23245

Section 6 – Response Evaluation Questionnaire

Bidders should note that the response evaluation questionnaire is located within the eSourcing questionnaire.

Guidance on how to register and use the e-sourcing portal is available at <https://beisgroup.ukp.app.jaggaer.com/>

PLEASE NOTE THE QUESTIONS ARE NOT NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY

QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

SEL1.1	Please state the full legal name and address and contact details of the organisation tendering (or organisation acting as lead contact where a consortium bid is being submitted).																								
Bidder Guidance	The information should be based on the details of the organisation bidding (or organisation acting as lead contact where a consortium bid is being submitted). This is the legal entity with whom we will Contract if successful.																								
Scoring Criteria	For information only																								
Answer Type	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Text</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a)</td> <td>Bidders full legal name</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>Address line 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Address line 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Town / City</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Country</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Post code (or equivalent)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td>Bidder contact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td> <td>Telephone No.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e)</td> <td>Email</td> </tr> </table>	Text		(a)	Bidders full legal name	(b)	Address line 1		Address line 2		Address line 3		Address line 4		Town / City		Country		Post code (or equivalent)	(c)	Bidder contact	(d)	Telephone No.	(e)	Email
Text																									
(a)	Bidders full legal name																								
(b)	Address line 1																								
	Address line 2																								
	Address line 3																								
	Address line 4																								
	Town / City																								
	Country																								
	Post code (or equivalent)																								
(c)	Bidder contact																								
(d)	Telephone No.																								
(e)	Email																								
SEL1.2	<p>In the last three years, has any finding of unlawful discrimination been made against your organisation by an Employment Tribunal, an Employment Appeal Tribunal or any other court (or in comparable proceedings in any jurisdiction other than the UK)? And/or;</p> <p>In the last three years, has your organisation had a complaint upheld following an investigation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission or its predecessors (or a comparable body in any jurisdiction other than the UK), on grounds of alleged unlawful discrimination?</p>																								
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Fail – Please provide details within SEL1.2.1 No – Pass – No response required to SEL1.2.1</p> <p>*If you have answered “yes” please provide, as an attachment to SEL1.2.1 a summary of the nature of the investigation and an explanation of the outcome of the investigation to date.</p> <p>If the investigation upheld the complaint against your organisation, please use the attachment to explain what action (if any) you have taken to prevent unlawful discrimination from reoccurring.</p> <p>You may be excluded if you are unable to demonstrate to the Contracting Authority’s satisfaction that appropriate remedial action has been taken to prevent similar unlawful discrimination reoccurring.</p>																								
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail																								
Answer Type	Option List																								

	Yes – Fail – Please provide details within SEL1.2.1 No – Pass – No response required to SEL1.2.1
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SEL1.2.1	Supporting Documentation for SEL1.2.1
Bidder Guidance	<p>Where a bidder has responded 'Yes' to SEL1.2 please provide a supporting document attached to this question, including a summary of the nature of the investigation and an explanation of the outcome of the investigation to date.</p> <p>If the investigation upheld the complaint against your organisation, please use the attachment to explain what action (if any) you have taken to prevent unlawful discrimination from reoccurring.</p> <p>You may be excluded if you are unable to demonstrate to the Contracting Authority's satisfaction that appropriate remedial action(s) have been taken to prevent similar unlawful discrimination reoccurring.</p> <p>This information should be provided as an attachment to this question. Any bidder declaring unlawful discrimination within SEL1.2 but not providing evidence may not be considered.</p>
Scoring Criteria	For Information Only
Answer Type	Attachment

SEL1.3	If you are Commercial organisation with a minimum financial turnover of £36M, please confirm that you are compliant with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall choose from the following options;</p> <p>A. N/A – our turnover is less than £36M B. Yes – We are compliant and have attached information in SEL1.3.1 C. No (with justification) – we are not compliant but will be prior to commencement of a contract. See information attached in SEL1.3.1 D. No – we are not and will not be compliant at the time of award of the contract</p> <p>Bidders selecting option 'D' will be considered non-compliant for this Procurement.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass/ Fail
Answer Type	Option List <p>A. N/A – our turnover is less than £36M B. Yes – We are compliant and have attached information in SEL1.3.1 C. No (with justification) – we are not compliant but will be prior to commencement of a contract. See information attached in SEL1.3.1 D. No – we are not and will not be compliant at the time of award of the contract</p>

SEL1.3.1	Supporting Documentation for SEL1.3
Bidder guidance	<p>Where a bidder has responded 'Yes' or 'No (with justification)' to SEL1.3, please provide your supporting information as an attachment.</p> <p>Any bidder declaring they are compliant within SEL1.3 but not providing</p>

	evidence may not be considered.
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Attachment

SEL1.4	Please state the relevant classification of your organisation (state whether you fall within one of these, and if so which one)
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall choose from the following options;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) B. Sheltered Workshop C. Public Service Mutual D. N/A <p>Where options A, B and C are not applicable to your organisation please respond with option D</p>
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) B. Sheltered Workshop C. Public Service Mutual D. N/A

SEL1.5	Please state the size of your organisation at the time of bid submission
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall choose from the following options;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Micro – fewer than 10 persons employed B. Small – 10-49 persons employed C. Medium – 50-249 persons employed D. Large – 250 or more persons employed
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Micro – fewer than 10 persons employed B. Small – 10-49 persons employed C. Medium – 50-249 persons employed D. Large – 250 or more persons employed

SEL1.10	<p>Information Security</p> <p>The information security requirement may include conducting a security assessment based on the Cloud Security Principles on suppliers who access, process or store Personally Identifiable Information (PII), sensitive or confidential data.</p> <p>In addition to this, we require suppliers to have at least one of the following</p>
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	<p>accreditations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyber Essentials certification 2. Cyber Essentials Plus certification 3. ISO 27001 certification 4. ISO 27017 for cloud services 5. IASME Governance standard certification 6. SOC 2 Type 2 report 7. CSA STAR certification <p>In the absence of any of the above certifications, in SEL1.10.1 bidders should attach for review a copy of their Information Security Policy, that has been approved and which is in use internally, demonstrating the effective management of risks to the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.</p> <p>Please refer to the link below for the full NCSC guidance on the cloud security principles:</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cloud/the-cloud-security-principles/responses-to-the-cloud-security-principles</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>Bidders can answer</p> <p>Yes – the requirements are currently in place</p> <p>Intend – the requirements are not in place and we intend to have them in place for commencement of the contract.</p> <p>No – the requirements are not in place and we have no intention of having them in place for commencement of the contract</p> <p>A response of 'Yes' or 'Intend' will result in a pass and a response of 'No' will result in a fail against this question.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Options List</p> <p>Yes – the requirements are currently in place</p> <p>Intend – the requirements are not in place, and we intend to have them in place for commencement of the contract.</p> <p>No – the requirements are not in place and we will not have them in place for commencement of the contract</p>
<p>SEL1.10.1 Supporting Documentation for SEL1.10</p>	
Bidder Guidance	<p>Where a bidder has responded 'Yes' to SEL1.10 please provide a copy of the valid certificate or in the absence of any of the listed certifications a copy of your Information Security Policy, that has been approved and which is in use internally, demonstrating the effective management of risks to the</p>

	<p>confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.</p> <p>This information should be provided as an attachment to this question.</p> <p>Any bidder responding Yes to SEL1.10 but not providing evidence may not be considered.</p> <p>Bidders that responded “Intend” to SEL1.10 will be asked to provide evidence of meeting these requirements in order for the contract to be awarded. Failure to evidence compliance to these requirements prior contract award will result in the contract not being awarded to the bidder.</p>
Scoring Criteria	For Information Only
Answer Type	Attachment

SEL2.12	<p>United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018</p> <p>The UK GDPR is a mandatory requirement for all contracts or agreements both in the Public, Private and Third sectors that involves the transfer, storing and processing of personal data. The UK GDPR sits alongside the Data Protection Act 2018 as the UK's data privacy law that governs the processing of personal data domestically.</p> <p>The UK GDPR was drafted as a result of the UK leaving the EU, which resulted in the EU's GDPR not applying domestically to the UK any longer. The UK GDPR sits alongside the Data Protection Act 2018. It is mandatory for bidders to demonstrate that they are able to meet the technical requirements and obligations prescribed by the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 and that they will adhere to their processing obligations and as detailed in the supporting Annex 1.</p> <p>All contracts or agreements that are awarded by the Contracting Authority (the data controller) shall contain terms and conditions that oblige the successful bidder and any bidder supply chain (data processor or sub-processors) used under this Contract to comply with their information law obligations and indemnify the Contracting Authority (data controller). Please note that the appointment of any sub-processor/s should only occur after authorisation is received in writing from the Data Controller or UK SBS.</p> <p>Further information and helpful guidance relating to the UK GDPR is available from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) at: https://ico.org.uk/</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Contracting Authority actively encourages all bidders to ensure that they visit the ICO website via the advised link and understand the implications of information legislation in the UK (including Data Protection Act, UK GDPR and other relevant legislation) and have your Data Protection Officer complete this section if you have one or alternatively seek external professional advice before completing this section of your bid</p> <p>Bidders can answer</p>

	<p>Yes – We can demonstrate full compliance as is required by the UK GDPR now and will adhere to the processing obligations detailed within Annex 1 – Pass</p> <p>No – We will not be compliant prior to any award – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Yes – We can demonstrate full compliance as is required by the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 now and will adhere to the processing obligations detailed within Annex A – Pass</p> <p>No – We will not be compliant prior to any award – Fail</p>

SEL2.13	<p>Data Storage</p> <p>Please confirm where UK GDPR data, as detailed within the Annex 1, will be stored for the duration of this Contract, including any additional Countries that data may be transferred to / accessed from throughout the life of this Contract.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>Bidders are required to confirm where UK GDPR data, as detailed within the Annex 1, will be stored for the duration of this Contract, including any additional Countries that data may be transferred to / accessed from throughout the life of this Contract.</p> <p>Please note, where successful bidders confirm that data may be stored, transferred, or accessed outside of the UK, there may be a requirement to include additional Contract Clauses to ensure UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 Compliance prior to Contract Award.</p>
Scoring Criteria	For Information Only
Answer Type	Text

FOI1.1	<p>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOI) AND / OR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 (EIR)</p> <p>Information provided in the course of the procurement process may be disclosed under Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.</p> <p>Please note that some of the information provided may be protected under the FOIA exemptions and EIR exceptions. More information on applying the exemptions or exceptions can be found under the information Commissioners Office (ICO) website http://ico.org.uk</p> <p>Please confirm you have been informed that information provided under this Bid may be disclosed under the FOI Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and agree to it being published irrespective of submitting a successful or unsuccessful Bid.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring	Mandatory Pass / Fail

Criteria	
Answer Type	Option List Yes – Pass No – Fail

FOI1.2	<p>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 (FOI) AND / OR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 (EIR) EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>Please complete this section <u>only</u> if you have agreed for your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1. If you have not agreed to your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1 please complete a field 'N/A' (Not applicable)</p> <p>If you have agreed for your information to be disclosed under the FOI Act or EIR in Question FOI1.1 please tell us what exemptions or exceptions may apply to your information and why?</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall provide details of their proposed exemptions/exception in the fields below.</p> <p>The Bidder shall note that if the Contracting Authority believes that the suggested exemptions or exceptions have not been applied properly, the Contracting Authority will disclose the requested information unless another exemption or exception can be applied by the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>Be aware that by completing FOI1.1 and answering 'yes' you have agreed for the Contracting Authority to disclose the provided information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulation 2004; therefore, you will not be approached for consent.</p> <p>Bidders are required to complete the table fields below, highlighting your proposed exemptions to this question.</p> <p>If you are not relying on any exemptions or exceptions, please complete each field 'N/A' (not applicable).</p>
Scoring Criteria	For information only
Answer Type	Confidential Information and justification for exemption/exception under FOI Act
	Text
	Commercially sensitive information and justification for exemption/exception under FOI Act
	Text

AW1.1	<p><u>FORM OF BID</u></p> <p>I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted in this ITQ are correct. I understand that the information will be used in the process to assess my organisation's suitability to be invited to bid for the Contracting Authority's requirement and I am signing on behalf of my organisation. I understand that the Contracting Authority may reject this ITQ if there is a failure to answer all relevant questions fully or if I</p>
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	<p>provide false/misleading information.</p> <p>I understand that the Government’s transparency agenda requires that sourcing documents, including ITQ templates such as this, are published on a designated, publicly searchable web site, and, that the same applies to other sourcing documents issued by the Contracting Authority, including the ITQ, and any contract entered into by the Contracting Authority or its customers with its preferred supplier once the procurement is complete.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree that our participation may be made public.</p> <p>I understand that the answers given in this response will not be published on the web site (but may fall to be disclosed under Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004).</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree and accept the justification for the Contracting Authority’s evaluation criteria.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agreed and accept that the Contracting Authority reserves the right to change without notice the procedure for awarding the Contract, to reject any or all bids for the Contract, to stop the process and not award the Contract (in whole or in part) at any time without any liability on its part.</p> <p>By submitting a response to this ITQ I agree and accept that nothing in this process is intended to form any express or implied contractual relationship between the Parties unless and until a Contract is awarded. The Contracting Authority is not liable for any costs resulting from cancellation of this process nor any costs incurred by Bidders taking part in this procurement process.</p> <p>I understand that where sourcing documents issued by the Contracting Authority or contracts with its suppliers fall to be disclosed the Contracting Authority will redact them as it thinks necessary, having regard (inter alia) to the exemptions/exceptions in the FOIA or EIR.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
AW1.3	<p>CERTIFICATE OF BONA FIDE BID</p> <p>The essence of procurement is that the customer shall receive bona fide competitive Bids, from all those Bidding. In recognition of this principle, we certify that this is a bona fide Bid, intended to be competitive and that we have not fixed or adjusted the amount of Bid by or under or in</p>

	<p>accordance with any agreement with any other person.</p> <p>We also certify that we have not done, and we undertake that we will not do at any time before the hour and date specified for the return of this Bid any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Communicate to a person other than the person calling for these Bids the amount or approximate amount of the proposed Bid, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the Bid was necessary to obtain insurance premium quotations for the preparation of the Bid; (b) Enter into any agreement or arrangement with any other person that he shall refrain from bidding or as to the amount of any Bid to be submitted; (c) Offer to pay or agree to pay or give any sum of money or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person for doing or having done or causing or have caused to be done in relation to any other Bid or proposed Bid for the said supply / service any act or thing of the sort described above. <p>In this certificate, the word "person" includes any persons and anybody or association, corporate or unincorporated, and any "agreement or arrangement" includes any such transaction, formal or informal, and whether legally binding or not.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Contracting Authority will be entitled to cancel the contract and to recover from us the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if we or our representatives (whether with our without our knowledge) shall have practiced collusion in Bidding for this contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority or shall employ any corrupt or illegal practices either in the obtaining or execution of this contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>We agree that the Contracting Authority may disclose the Bidders information / documentation (submitted to the Contracting Authority during this Procurement) more widely within Government for the purpose of ensuring effective cross-Government procurement processes, including value for money and related purposes.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
AW3.1	<p>In the event of a Bidder successfully providing the most advantageous offer to the Contracting Authority against a procurement requirement,</p>

	<p>the Bidder is expected to provide an answer to the validation check that can be seen within Attachments section prior to the award of any Contract.</p> <p>If the Bidder fails to meet the Contracting Authority’s expectations, we reserve the right to not award the Contract to the relevant Bidder and either award to the Bidder with the second most advantageous response or run a new procurement.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder is not required to complete the validation check at this stage but will be required to respond to the questions in the event of providing the most advantageous offer to the Contracting Authority’s against a procurement requirement.</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>

AW3.2	<p>Conflict of Interest</p> <p>Please confirm you have nothing to declare with respect to any current or potential interest or conflict in relation to this project (or any subcontractors or consortium member where applicable) which could be reasonably perceived to affect the actual or perceived deliverables.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>By conflict of interest, we mean, anything which could be reasonably perceived to affect the impartiality of this project, or to indicate a professional or personal interest in the outcomes from this project.</p> <p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No with justification.</p> <p>Yes, we can confirm we are not in a position of a conflict of interest – Pass</p> <p>No with justification, we declare all interests and have given full details in response to AW3.2.1. Please refer to AW3.2.1 for details of what amounts to a valid justification - Pass</p> <p>If your situation changes during the procurement process you must promptly notify the Contracting Authority via Jaggaer eSourcing Portal if any conflicts of interest arise or any additional information arise in relation to the conflict of interest you have declared.</p> <p>For absolute clarity should a bidder select ‘Yes’ you are not required to respond to AW3.2.1, however if you select ‘No with Justification’ you will be required to complete AW3.2.1 in order to be considered.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass/Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes, we can confirm we are not in a position of a conflict of interest – Pass</p>

No with justification, we declare all interests and have given full details in response to AW3.2.1. Please refer to AW3.2.1 for details of what amounts to a valid justification.

<p>AW3.2.1</p>	<p>Where a Bidder has answered question AW3.2 with ‘No with justification’ they must provide full details of any current or potential interest or conflict in relation to this project (including any subcontractors or consortium member where applicable) which could be reasonably perceived to affect the actual or perceived deliverables.</p> <p>Bidders are also required to give a full account of the actions or processes that it will use to ensure that a conflict of interest is avoided. In any statement of mitigating actions, bidders are to outline how they propose to achieve a robust, impartial and credible approach to the project.</p> <p>Where a bidder has responded ‘Yes’ to AW3.2 you are not required to respond to this question.</p>
<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>By conflict of interest, we mean, anything which could be reasonably perceived to affect the impartiality of this project, or to indicate a professional or personal interest in the outcomes from this project.</p> <p>If your situation changes during the procurement process you must promptly notify the Contracting Authority via Jaggaer eSourcing Portal if any conflicts of interest arise or any additional information arise in relation to the conflict of interest you have declared.</p> <p>Where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest, it is suggested the organisation (or consortia where applicable) design a working arrangement such that the deliverables cannot be influenced (or perceived to be influenced) by the organisation which is the owner of an actual or potential conflict of interest. For example, consideration should be given to maintain an impartial approach to the project.</p> <p>Bidders are required to give a full account of the actions or processes that it will use to ensure that a conflict of interest is avoided. In any statement of mitigating actions, bidders are to outline how they propose to achieve a robust, impartial and credible approach to the project.</p> <p>The information received will be subject a Pass or Fail, according to whether based on the information provided there remains a conflict of interest which may affect the impartiality of the project and the deliverables.</p> <p>Failure to declare or avoid a conflict of interest at this or a later stage may result in exclusion from the procurement process.</p> <p>Any bidder selecting ‘No with Justification’ to AW3.2 and failing to upload an attachment to this question detailing the information above may not be considered further.</p>
<p>Scoring Criteria</p>	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
<p>Answer Type</p>	<p>Attachment</p>

AW4.1	Please confirm your acceptance of the Contract Terms that can be found within the Instructional Attachments section within this question.
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes, No with justification or No</p> <p>Yes, we accept the terms and condition in their entirety – Pass</p> <p>No with justification – Pass. Complete the document upload attached to AW4.2 with details of what amounts to a valid justification.</p> <p>No – Fail</p> <p>For absolute clarity should a bidder select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ you are not required to respond to AW4.2, however if you select ‘No with Justification’ you will be required to complete AW4.2 in order to be considered.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes, we accept the terms and condition in their entirety – Pass</p> <p>No with justification – Pass. Complete the document upload attached to AW4.2 with details of what amounts to a valid justification.</p> <p>No – Fail</p>

AW4.2	<p>Where a Bidder has answered question AW4.1 with ‘No with justification’ they must detail the justification and the proposed change to the clause.</p> <p>Where a bidder has responded ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to AW4.1 you are not required to respond to this question.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>A justification for not accepting a specific clause or series of clauses from the attached Contract Terms is that the Bidder would be in breach of legal requirements or statutory regulations by complying with that clause or series of clauses (i.e. for the avoidance of doubt, being unable to comply with a clause or series of clauses because of an internal policy reason will not be considered to be a justification for a legal requirement or statutory regulation).</p> <p>Where the Bidder has answered question AW4.1 as "no with justification", the Bidder shall provide a Contract mark-up utilising track changes detailing the relevant clause, the proposed changes to the clause and the justification for the changes. In this case, the Bidder shall score a pass if (but only if) the Contracting Authority considers both the following requirements are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reasons stated as justifying the Bidder's statement that it cannot accept the Contract Terms due to legal requirements or statutory regulations are valid; and • the changes submitted do not create significant risk for the Contracting Authority and are reasonably necessary and proportionate to ensure the Bidder complies with the legal requirements and statutory regulations. <p>In the event of a Bidder answering Yes or No to Question AW4.1 and then providing a proposed mark-up, rejection of a clause or a justification for a change then the response will be a Fail.</p> <p>Any bidder selecting ‘No with Justification’ to AW4.1 and failing to upload an attachment to this question detailing the information above may not be</p>

	<p>considered further.</p> <p>Bidders are to note that any requested modifications to the Contracting Authority Terms and Conditions on the grounds of statutory and legal matters only, should be raised as a formal clarification during the permitted clarification period.</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Attachment

AW4.3	<p>Public Procurement Policy Note 01/22 - Contracts with suppliers from Russia or Belarus</p> <p>The Government introduced its Public Procurement Policy Note 01/22 ‘Contracts with suppliers from Russia or Belarus’ (PPN 01/22) in response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which was met with unprecedented global condemnation. The UK Government has introduced financial and investment sanctions aimed at encouraging Russia to cease actions which destabilise Ukraine.</p> <p>The PPN requires the Contracting Authority to decline to consider (or otherwise exclude from participating in the procurement) bids from suppliers (or their sub-contractors) who are constituted or organised under the law of Russia or Belarus, or whose ‘Persons of Significant Control’ information states Russia or Belarus as the place of residency or where materials in the supply chain originate from those states in accordance with Procurement Policy Note PPN 01/22.</p> <p>Unless exceptions within the PPN apply, the Contracting Authority may exclude from this competition any tenders that are deemed from suppliers (including any subcontractors) who are constituted or organised under the law of Russia or Belarus, or whose ‘Persons of Significant Control’ information states Russia or Belarus as the place of residency; or materials within the supply chain originate from those states.</p> <p>Mandatory Information questions:</p> <p>Question 1- Please confirm if the country or territory of origin of any supplies to be used within the supply chain for this contract opportunity is the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.</p> <p>Question 2- Please confirm if your own (or your subcontractors) location of business activities or interests of a contractor is constituted or organised under the law of Russia or Belarus, or whose ‘Persons of Significant Control’ information states Russia or Belarus as the place of residency</p> <p>Bidders are to complete the document provided in the instructional attachment and state Yes or No to each question.</p> <p>If you answer Yes to either of the questions in this table above, then you must clearly set out in your attachment provided, why you believe one of the exceptions within PPN 01/22 apply.</p>
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<p>Bidder Guidance</p>	<p>The Bidder shall replicate the above 2 questions in an attachment and answer Yes or No to each of the above, along with an explanation to any question answered as Yes.</p> <p>A failure to provide a Yes or No response may result in your exclusion from further consideration under this procurement.</p> <p>A failure to provide a supporting justification of an exemption to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority, may result in your exclusion from further consideration under this procurement.</p> <p>The Contracting Authority may seek further clarification from any bidder in regards to any attachment provided, that seeks to rely upon any exemptions provided in PPN 01/22.</p>
<p>Scoring Criteria</p>	<p>Mandatory Pass / Fail</p>
<p>Answer Type</p>	<p>Attachment</p>

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

AW6.1	Please confirm your compliance to the requirements of Section 4 Specification
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes – Pass No – Fail
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes – Pass No – Fail

AW6.2	Variable Bids The Contracting Authority shall not accept variable bids as part of this Procurement. The criteria in regard to variable bids for this Procurement is outlined below.
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes - We have provided a variable bid only – Fail No - We have chosen to only offer a main bid and have not chosen to provide an alternative bid submission – Pass
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes - We have provided a variable bid only – Fail No - We have chosen to only offer a main bid and have not chosen to provide an alternative bid submission – Pass

PROJ1.1	<u>Methodology and Approach</u> Bidders are to outline their approach and methodology to deliver the PDF development programme, clearly explaining the reasons for your proposed approach and methodology and how it meets objectives as detailed within Section 3 and 5 of the Specification Document for ESRC Postdoctoral Fellows (PDF) Development Programme. We welcome innovative ideas, but the design of the development programme must contain a series of themed events with a policy challenge as a core component and build on the success of the previous two-year pilot programme, as well as similar initiatives, such as the Crucible model discussed in the Specification. The programme must be appropriate and inclusive for the entire cohort of PDFs participating, noting the diversity of fields, disciplines, and backgrounds. Relevant ED&I good practice must be fully embedded within your response. Activities should be context-driven and action-orientated and offer experiential learning opportunities through a variety of interactive formats and session types, including challenge-led, experiential, skills development, masterclasses, informal networking. Bidders are encouraged to think innovatively in terms of how they propose to address the aims/objective and
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	<p>are encouraged to suggest additional and / or alternative innovative activities and provide a rationale for their inclusion. As detailed within the Specification Document, three pump priming awards will be available to successful Postdoctoral Fellow collaborative bids nurtured through this development programme and bidders should include details of their approach and methodology to administer and manage these funds.</p>
<p>Bidder guidance</p>	<p>As a minimum, bidders must include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed forward plan of how the programme will be delivered and all proposed activities for the year-long programme, including an appropriate series of events that include the stated essential components as set out within the objectives as detailed within Section 4 – Specification. This should include details of all activities and events within the proposed programme, clearly indicating which activities will act as free-standing elements and open to the full cohort of ESRC PDFs. • Plans for the communication and dissemination of activities that are appropriate for the diversity of PDFs and which effectively link PDFs into appropriate wider networks to support their development as researchers and advocates for ESRC. • Details of how the PDF Development programme will be evaluated and how they will measure the success of the development programme. • Demonstrate how they will evaluate and measure the success of the development programme, noting the objectives and upon completion of supported activities, information provided to the ESRC should include details of all those who benefited from the activity, the immediate impacts and expected long term impacts of the programme. • Details of how they will build in reflective practice throughout the programme, enabling PDFs to reflect on their leadership practice and careers, which will also feed into evaluation of the programme • Outline how they will administer and manage the pump priming funds and have clear effective mechanisms and criteria for the awarding the pump priming funds, this should include peer review and an applicant response stage. • Outline where within the programme the pump priming opportunity will feature and how it will be used to embed learning from the programme and catalyse collaboration across the PDFs. <p>This question is limited to 6 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
<p>Scoring criteria</p>	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p> <p>Maximum Mark: 30%</p>
<p>Bidder response</p>	<p>Attachment</p>

<p>PROJ1.2</p>	<p><u>Team Composition and Capability to Deliver</u></p> <p>Bidders are to provide an overview of the resources, skills, and expertise within the team to successfully deliver the requirement.</p>
<p>Bidder guidance</p>	<p>As a minimum, bidders must include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the necessary expertise and skills to undertake this project, explicitly linking how the skills of the project team will enable the successful delivery of their proposed approach. Bidders must be able to demonstrate their understanding of researcher/academic development within the social sciences and must be able to demonstrate expertise in design and delivery of professional development programmes of this kind. The bid must demonstrate that the appointed team has the competencies required to effectively deliver the project. • We recognise consortium bids can enable bidders to compile teams with the breadth of expertise required. Please provide details of any support that would be needed beyond the bidder / bid consortium. Provide details of who, when and where this external support will be sourced and how this will contribute to the delivery of the programme. • Demonstrate time has been committed by individuals in the team to deliver the programme of work proposed. Roles, responsibilities, and time commitments of team members need to be set out clearly in bids. • Demonstrate the presence of an appropriate balance of skills in the project team and representative diversity and disciplinary spread; and any additional support that would be needed and from whom, in order to undertake and complete this project. • Evidence of an effective management structure that has appropriate expertise and plans in place to deliver and manage the contract • Evidence of the appropriateness and justification of the requested resources, including timelines, and the value for money represented through the programme, including any leveraged funds (if applicable) • Assurance that all key personnel will commit the amount of time to the contract as identified in the proposal and costing, with a description of how any necessary changes in staff will be managed to maintain the quality of delivery <p>This question is limited to 6 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
<p>Scoring criteria</p>	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p> <p>Maximum Mark: 20%</p>
<p>Bidder response</p>	<p>Attachment</p>

PROJ1.3	<u>Understanding the Project Environment</u> Bidders are asked to demonstrate their understanding of the environment, detailing any knowledge relevant to the programme.
Bidder guidance	As a minimum, bidders must include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of the programme and what is required to ensure effective delivery and outcomes. • How the bidder will ensure the successful delivery of this programme acknowledging the variety of environments researchers go on to operate within and the associated skills needed at post-doctoral stage; and an awareness of the important contribution that social science research makes to help shape public policy and inform public debates. • Demonstrate an understanding of working with the social sciences; and an understanding of the Higher Education training and funding landscape, and the importance of connecting with policy and government. <p>This question is limited to 4 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
Scoring criteria	Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology. Maximum Mark: 20%
Bidder response	Attachment

PROJ1.4	<u>Project plan, risk management and equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)</u>
Bidder guidance	As a minimum, bidders must include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project plan including key milestones and deadlines, which should include quarterly meetings with an ESRC appointed Independent Advisory Group, and suggested progress updates with ESRC. • A risk management strategy. • Clear evidence of mechanisms to enable all programme activities to be inclusive and supportive of the full diversity of PDFs to participate, and there should be evidence of appropriate monitoring to ensure proposed plans are effective, including clear evidence of the mechanisms and criteria used for shortlisting and selecting the cohort of PDFs. • Evidence of the quality of plans to ensure any associated ethical issues are identified and addressed, including any responsible innovation and governance issues. • An Equality Impact Assessment indicating that potential impacts of the Programme have been considered and a clear plan by which to ensure PDFs are linked to and inspired by a diverse range of people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences as a result of the

	<p>activities.</p> <p>This question is limited to 2 sides of A4. Any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered or scored during the evaluation process. Responses should be submitted in Font Arial 11pt using single line spacing. Please use the Normal margin setting 2.54cm.</p>
Scoring criteria	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p> <p>Maximum Mark: 10%</p>
Bidder response	<p>Attachment</p>

<p>PROJ1.5</p>	<p><u>Interview</u></p> <p>An interview will make up part of the evaluation process of this tender. This interview will be worth 10% of the final score.</p> <p>Suppliers will be invited to an interview on week commencing Monday, 18th September 2023 or WC Monday 25th September 2023 (date subject to confirmation, giving a minimum of 2 working days’ notice). Bidders will be required to make provision for this date and have the necessary resources and skill sets available to attend and represent your organisation with regard to your tender submission.</p> <p>Interview Format</p> <p>Interviews will be held virtually, via Zoom, following the detailed evaluation of all of the other scoring criteria via the e-tendering system and a process of due diligence has been completed. Bidders are invited to bring up to 3 representatives to participate in the interview. These should be the key personnel who would be involved in delivering this development programme.</p> <p>Please note that the interview is not an opportunity to discuss the written bid and bidders should ensure that responses provided at the interview are standalone to the written submission. There will be no allowance of scores provided covering off material that will have already been scored under the written response.</p> <p>The Interview will last a total of 45 minutes.</p> <p>During the interview bidders will be asked to:</p> <p>Deliver a 15 minute scored presentation which addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the bidder considers to be the key challenges in delivering this programme, and their proposed approach to addressing them. • What quality assurance processes will be in place in relation to outputs and deliverables.
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	<p>A further 30 minutes will be available for discussion and questions around their presentation (unscored).</p> <p>After 45 minutes has elapsed your interview will be brought to a close. Your organisations overall result attained during due process will be announced to you formally by the Contracting Authority at a later date.</p> <p>All suppliers will be invited to attend an interview. However at the discretion of the Contracting Authority, if after evaluating your written submission, you are more than 10% behind the lead supplier's score and therefore have no possibility of being the winning bidder we will engage with you so that you may choose not to attend if preferred.</p> <p>Please note, that if applicable the responses you provide during the interview will be documented and appended to the Contract should you be successful.</p> <p>Your organisations overall result attained during due process will be announced to you formally by the Contracting Authority at a later date.</p>
Bidder guidance	<p>Yes – I will be available to attend interview No – I will not be available to attend interview</p>
Scoring criteria	<p>Scoring shall be based on 0-100 scoring methodology.</p> <p>Maximum Mark: 10%</p>
Bidder response	<p>Option List</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>

COMMERCIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

AW5.1	<p>Please confirm your bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>Bidders shall provide their bid submission price for completion of all Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification.</p> <p>The scoring methodology for this question shall be:</p> <p>The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100.</p> <p>All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The score is then subject to a multiplier to reflect the percentage value of the price criterion.</p> <p>Where the scoring criterion is worth 50% then the 0-100 score achieved will be multiplied by 50</p> <p>In the example if a supplier scores 80 from the available 100 points this will equate to 40% by using the following calculation: Score/Total Points multiplied by 50 (80/100 x 50 = 40)</p> <p>The lowest score possible is 0 even if the price submitted is more than 100% greater than the lowest price.</p> <p>The lowest price for a response which meets the pass criteria shall score 100. All other bids shall be scored on a pro rata basis in relation to the lowest price. The lowest score possible is 0.</p> <p>For example, assuming the lowest bid is £100,000.</p> <p>Bid Price £100,000 Differential to the lowest price which meets mandatory pass criteria ('Differential') 0 Score 100</p> <p>Bid price - £120,000 Differential - 20% Score - 80 Bid price - £140,000 Differential - 40% Score - 60 Bid Price - £150,000 Differential - 50% Score - 50 Bid Price - £175,000 Differential - 75% Score - 25 Bid Price - £200,000 Differential - 100% Score - 0 Bid Price - £300,000 Differential - 200% Score - 0</p>
Scoring Criteria	Maximum Marks 10%
Answer Type	Numeric

AW5.2	<p>Based on the Bidders AW5.1 bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification, Bidders are now required to complete the attached Excel AW5.2 Pricing Schedule document with a breakdown of all the costs that make up their final bid price.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p> <p>All costs appearing elsewhere in the Bid but not mentioned in this Pricing Schedule shall be presumed waived.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>Based on the Bidders AW5.1 bid submission price for completion of all the Services as detailed in the Section 4 Specification, Bidders are now required to complete the attached Excel AW5.2 Pricing Schedule document with a breakdown of all the costs that make up their final bid price.</p> <p>All prices shall be in £ GBP and exclusive of VAT.</p> <p>All costs appearing elsewhere in the Bid but not mentioned in this Pricing Schedule shall be presumed waived.</p> <p>The total submitted within your excel pricing schedule must equal the total price submitted in AW5.1</p>
Scoring Criteria	For Information Only
Answer Type	Attachment

AW5.3	<p>Please confirm your price shall remain firm and fixed for the full term of the Contract. Thereafter they shall be subject to change in accordance with the terms of the contract.</p>
Bidder Guidance	<p>The Bidder shall answer Yes or No</p> <p>Yes – Pass No – Fail</p>
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List
	Yes – Pass No - Fail

AW5.4	<p><u>Maximum Budget</u></p> <p>As stated within the tender documents, the maximum budget for this requirement will be £75,000.00 ex VAT.</p> <p>The maximum Contract value includes £15,000.00 excluding VAT for the Pump Priming Awards (fixed at £5,000.00 per award x 3 awards per year) over the course of this Contract.</p> <p>For transparency, the £15,000.00 excluding VAT has been added to the AW5.2 Price Schedule and is to be included within all bid responses.</p>
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	Please confirm that your final price submitted within AW5.2 will fall within this budget.
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes – Pass No – Fail
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes – Pass No – Fail

AW5.5	<p>The Contracting Authority is committed to delivering payments to suppliers within the timescales stated within our Contract terms and intend to embrace e-invoicing.</p> <p>Further information and helpful guidance regarding e-invoicing and iSupplier is available on the UK SBS website at: https://www.uksbs.co.uk/services/Finance/Pages/iSupplier.aspx</p> <p>Please confirm if you are successfully awarded this contract, that your implementation team will work with the Contracting Authority to ensure that e-invoicing is established within 28 days of Contract award by the Contracting Authority.</p>
Bidder Guidance	The Bidder shall answer Yes or No Yes – we will utilise an e-invoicing option - Pass No – we will not utilise an e-invoicing option – Fail
Scoring Criteria	Mandatory Pass / Fail
Answer Type	Option List Yes – we will utilise an e-invoicing option - Pass No – we will not utilise an e-invoicing option – Fail