



Crown  
Commercial  
Service

**CONTRACT TERMS**

**RESEARCH**

**MARKETPLACE**

**DYNAMIC PURCHASING**  
**SYSTEM**

**REFERENCE NUMBER**

**RM6018**

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## Contract Terms

This Contract is made on the 21<sup>st</sup> Day day of December 2021 between:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (known as NHS Digital) with offices at 7 - 8 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP (“the **Customer**”); and

National Centre for Social Research a company registered in *England and Wales* under Company Number 04392418 whose registered office is at 35 Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0AX (“the **Supplier**”),

Both the Customer and the Supplier can be referred to as a “**Party**” or together the “**Parties**”.

### INTRODUCTION

- (1) The Supplier is one of a number of organisations appointed by Crown Commercial Service (**CCS**) to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and is therefore able to enter into this Contract to provide the Project(s) to the Customer.
- (2) This Contract, made between the Customer and the Supplier, sets out the terms of the Supplier’s appointment as a provider of the Project to the Customer. The Project will be delivered according to the terms of this Contract, any agreed Statement of Work, and the DPS Agreement.
- (3) The Supplier’s appointment has been confirmed in the Letter of Appointment.
- (4) The Parties agree that the Project and associated Deliverables shall be supplied in accordance with the terms of the DPS Agreement and this Contract.



## 1. APPOINTMENT & STATEMENTS OF WORK

- 1.1. Throughout the Term of this Contract, the Supplier will perform Projects in accordance with agreed Statements of Work.
- 1.2. Subject to Clause 1.4 the Parties may agree new Projects to be delivered under this Contract by agreeing a new Statement of Work. This must be done in writing and using the form set out at Schedule 2 (Statement of Work). Once both Parties have signed a Statement of Work, it shall form part of this Contract.
- 1.3. Any schedule attached to a Statement of Work will describe in detail the different types of Services to be provided under that Statement of Work. A schedule attached to a Statement of Work only applies to the relevant Project to be delivered under that Statement of Work, and not to any other Statement of Work, or to the provision of the Project as a whole.
- 1.4. Where a Customer requires changes to the Project being provided this shall be dealt with as a proposed Variation to this Contract in accordance with the Variation procedure set out in Clause 9.

## 2. TERM

- 2.1. This Contract starts on the **Effective Date** and ends on the **Expiry Date**, as stated in the Letter of Appointment unless changed in accordance with the terms of this Contract.
- 2.2. The Customer may extend this Contract for any period up to the Extension Expiry Date by giving the Supplier notice in writing before the Expiry Date. The minimum notice which must be given in order to amend the Expiry Date is specified in the Letter of Appointment.
- 2.3. The revised date the contract will end (the **New Expiry Date**) will be set out in the notice given under Clause 2.2 above.
- 2.4. The terms and conditions of this Contract will apply throughout any extended period.
- 2.5. Each Project starts on the Project Commencement Date and ends on the Project Completion Date, unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with Clause 23.

## 3. CONTRACT GUARANTEE

- 3.1. Where the Customer has stated in the Letter of Appointment that this Contract is conditional on receipt of a Guarantee, then, on or prior to the Effective Date (or on any other date specified by the Customer), the Supplier must provide:
  - 3.1.1. an executed Guarantee from a Guarantor; and

- 3.1.2. a certified copy extract of the board minutes and/or resolution of the Guarantor approving the execution of the Guarantee.
- 3.2. The Customer may at any time agree to waive compliance with the requirement in Clause 3.1 by giving the Supplier notice in writing.

#### 4. CUSTOMER'S OBLIGATIONS

- 4.1. The Customer will give the Supplier instructions as to its requirements for the Project. These will be included in a Statement of Work and may include start and end dates for each stage of the proposed Project.

#### 5. SERVICE DELAY, DELIVERY & RECTIFICATION

##### Service Delivery

- 5.1. The Supplier will give the Customer full and clear instructions as to what, if any, Customer Materials it reasonably requires to perform the Project.
  - 5.1.1 comply with all Law;
  - 5.1.2 use all reasonable and proper skill and care in its performance of Project;
  - 5.1.3 comply with all reasonable Customer instructions regarding the Project, as long as these instructions do not materially amend the Statement of Work (unless the amendment has been agreed in accordance with Clause 9.1);
  - 5.1.4 keep Customer Materials under its control safe and secure and in accordance with any security policy provided by the Customer; and
  - 5.1.5 provide all Deliverables by any dates set out in the applicable Statement of Work or any other date(s) agreed by the parties in writing.

##### Delay

- 5.2. If the Customer materially breaches its obligations in connection with this Contract (including its payment obligations), and consequently delays or prevents the Supplier from performing any of the agreed Services or providing any of the agreed Deliverables this will be a "**Customer Cause**". In the event of a Customer Cause, the Supplier will be granted an appropriate extension of time (to be approved by the Customer, acting reasonably) to perform the agreed Services or provide the agreed Deliverables. The Supplier will not be liable for any Losses incurred by the Customer as a result of Customer Cause, provided the Supplier complies with its obligations set out at Clause 5.4.
- 5.3. The Supplier must notify the Customer within two (2) Working Days of the Supplier becoming aware that the Customer has breached, or is likely to breach, its obligations in connection with this Contract. This notice must detail:
  - 5.3.1 the Customer Cause and its actual or potential effect on the Supplier's ability to meet its obligations under this Contract, and
  - 5.3.2 any steps which the Customer can take to eliminate or mitigate the consequences and impact of such Customer Cause.

- 5.4. The Supplier must use all reasonable endeavours to eliminate or mitigate the consequences and impact of a Customer Cause. The Supplier must try to mitigate against any Losses that the Customer or the Supplier may incur, and the duration and consequences of any delay or anticipated delay.
- 5.5. If at any time the Supplier becomes aware that it may not be able to deliver the Project by any date set out in the applicable Statement of Work (or any other deadline agreed by the Parties in writing), this will constitute a Default and the Supplier will immediately notify the Customer of the Default and the reasons for the Default.
- 5.6. If the Default described in Clause 5.5 above is in the Customer's opinion capable of remedy the Customer may, up to 10 Working Days from being notified of the Default, instruct the Supplier to comply with the Rectification Plan Process.

#### **Rectification Plan Process**

- 5.7. If instructed to comply with the Rectification Plan Process by the Customer under Clause 5.6 above, the Supplier will submit a draft Rectification Plan to the Customer to review as soon as possible and in any event within ten (10) Working Days (or such other period as may be agreed between the Parties) from being instructed to do so. The Supplier shall submit a draft Rectification Plan even if the Supplier does not agree that the Default is capable of remedy.
- 5.8. The draft Rectification Plan shall set out:
  - 5.8.1 full details of the Default that has occurred, including the underlying reasons for it;
  - 5.8.2 the actual or anticipated effect of the Default; and
  - 5.8.3 the steps which the Supplier proposes to take to rectify or mitigate the Default and to prevent any recurrence of the Default, including timescales for such steps and for the rectification of the Default (where applicable).
- 5.9. The Supplier shall promptly provide to the Customer any further documentation that the Customer requires to assess the Supplier's reasoning behind the default. If the Parties do not agree on the root cause set out in the draft Rectification Plan, either Party may refer the matter to be determined in accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 (Dispute Resolution Procedure).
- 5.10. The Customer may reject the draft Rectification Plan by notice to the Supplier if, acting reasonably, it considers that the draft Rectification Plan is inadequate. An example of an inadequate draft Rectification Plan is one which:
  - 5.10.1 is insufficiently detailed to be capable of proper evaluation;
  - 5.10.2 will take too long to complete;
  - 5.10.3 will not prevent reoccurrence of the Default;
  - 5.10.4 will rectify the Default but in a manner which is unacceptable to the Customer;or

5.10.5 will not rectify the Default.

- 5.11 The Customer will tell the Supplier as soon as reasonably practicable if it agrees to or rejects the draft Rectification Plan.
- 5.12 If the customer rejects the draft Rectification Plan, the customer will give reasons for its decision in its rejection notice. The Supplier must take these reasons into account in the preparation of a revised Rectification Plan. The Supplier shall submit a revised draft of the Rectification Plan to the Customer for review within five (5) Working Days (or such other period as agreed between the Parties) of the Customer's rejection notice.
- 5.13 If the Customer agrees the draft Rectification Plan, or any revised draft Rectification Plan, the Supplier shall immediately start work on the actions set out in the Rectification Plan.



## **6. SUPPLIER: OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

- 6.1 Adverse public perception could have a detrimental impact on the Customers desired outcomes for the Project. To minimise this risk, the Supplier must not, without the Customer's Approval (not to be unreasonably withheld), provide research services to a third party during the Term of this Contract where the provision of such services (in the reasonable opinion of the Customer):
- 6.1.1 has the potential to adversely affect the Customer's desired outcome of the Project or diminish the trust that the public places in the Customer; or
  - 6.1.2 is likely to cause embarrassment to the Customer or bring the Customer into disrepute or may result in a conflict of interest for the Customer.
- 6.2 Where the Supplier is already providing research services to a third party in the situations set out in 6.1 prior to the Effective Date, the Supplier warrants that it has informed the Customer of this before entering into this Contract.
- 6.3 If the Supplier becomes aware of a breach, or potential breach, of its obligations under Clause 6.1, the Supplier must notify the Customer immediately, providing full details of the nature of the breach and the likely impact on any Projects
- 6.4 If the Supplier breaches Clause 6.1, the Customer may terminate this Contract, a Project, or any part of a Project with immediate effect in accordance with Clause 23.3.

## **7. CUSTOMER: OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

- 7.1 Subject to Clause 6 the relationship between the Parties is non-exclusive. The Customer is entitled to appoint any other Supplier to perform the Project which are the same or similar to the Project.

## **8. PERSONNEL**

- 8.1 The Supplier must ensure that Supplier personnel who provide the Project:
- 8.1.1 are appropriately experienced, qualified and trained to provide the Project in accordance with this Contract;
  - 8.1.2 apply all reasonable skill, care and diligence in providing the Project;
  - 8.1.3 obey all lawful instructions and reasonable directions of the Customer and provide the Project to the reasonable satisfaction of the Customer, and
  - 8.1.4 are vetted in accordance with Good Industry Practice and where applicable, the security requirements of the Customer and the Standards.

- 8.2 The Supplier will be liable for all acts or omissions of the Supplier personnel. Any act or omission of a member of any Supplier personnel which results in a breach of this Contract is a breach by the Supplier.
- 8.3 The Customer acknowledges and agrees that it may be necessary for the Supplier to replace the personnel providing the Project with alternative personnel with similar levels of seniority and experience.
- 8.4 The Supplier will seek to ensure that any Key Individual responsible for the provision of the Project will remain involved in the Project. If any Key Individual leaves the Supplier, or ceases to be involved in the provision of the Project for any reason (for example, if they are promoted to a different role within the Supplier), the Supplier will consult with the Customer and, subject to the Customer's Approval, appoint a suitable replacement.
- 8.5 If the Customer reasonably believes that any of the Supplier personnel are unsuitable to undertake work on this Contract, it will notify the Supplier who will then end the person's involvement in providing the Project.

## 9. VARIATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

- 9.1 Either Party may request a change to this Contract, a Project or a Statement of Work. Any requested change must not amount to a material change of this Contract (within the meaning of the Regulations and the Law). A change, once implemented, is called a "**Variation**".
- 9.2 A Party may request a Variation by completing, signing and sending the Variation Form to the other Party. The requesting Party must give sufficient information for the receiving Party to assess the extent of the proposed Variation and any additional cost that may be incurred by it.
- 9.3 Subject to Clause 9.5, the receiving Party must respond to the request within the time limits specified in the Variation Form. The time limits shall be reasonable and ultimately at the discretion of the Customer, having regard to the nature of the Project and the proposed Variation.
- 9.4 If the Supplier requests a Variation, the Customer can ask the Supplier to carry out an assessment of the effects of the proposed Variation (an **Impact Assessment**). The Impact Assessment must consider:
- 9.4.1 the impact of the proposed Variation on the Project and Supplier's ability to meet its other obligations under this Contract (including in relation to other Statements of Work);
  - 9.4.2 the initial cost of implementing the proposed Variation and any ongoing costs post- implementation;

- 9.4.3 any increase or decrease in the Contract Charges, any alteration in the resources or expenditure required by either Party and any alteration to the working practices of either Party;
- 9.4.4 a timetable for the implementation, together with any proposals for the testing of the Variation; and
- 9.4.5 any other information the Customer reasonably asks for in response to the Variation request.
- 9.5 The Parties may agree to adjust the time limits specified in the Variation Form so the Impact Assessment can be carried out.
- 9.6 If the Parties agree the Variation, the Supplier will implement it, and be bound by it as if it was part of this Contract.
- 9.7 Until a Variation is agreed, the Supplier must continue to perform and be paid for the Project as originally agreed, unless otherwise notified by the Customer.
- 9.8 Subject to Clauses 9.9 and 23.1 the Customer can require the Supplier to suspend or cancel any Project or Statement of Work, or any part of a Project, including any plans, schedules or work in progress at any time, regardless of whether a Variation has been requested. Any request shall be made by an Authorised Customer Approver in writing. The Supplier will take all reasonable steps to comply with any such request as soon as possible.
- 9.9 In the event of any cancellation under Clause 9.8, the Customer will pay the Supplier all Contract Charges reasonably and properly incurred by the Supplier during the Project Notice Period, provided that the Supplier uses all reasonable endeavours to mitigate any charges or expenses.

## **10. APPROVALS AND AUTHORITY**

- 10.1 For the purposes of this Contract, any reference to Customer Approval means written approval in one of the following ways:
  - 10.1.1 the Customer issuing a purchase order bearing the signature of an Authorised Customer Approver, or
  - 10.1.2 e-mail from the individual business e-mail address of an Authorised Customer Approver, or
  - 10.1.3 the signature of an Authorised Customer Approver on the Supplier's documentation
- 10.2 Any reference to Supplier Approval means written approval in one of the following ways:
  - 10.2.1 e-mail from the individual business e-mail address of an Authorised Supplier Approver, or



- 10.2.2 the signature of an Authorised Supplier Approver on the Customer's documentation
- 10.3 The Supplier will seek the Customer's Approval of:
  - 10.3.1 any estimates or quotations for any costs to be paid by the Customer that are not agreed in a Statement of Work.
- 10.4 The Supplier will seek the Customer's Approval of any draft Deliverables. The Customer's Approval will be the Supplier's authority to proceed with the use of the relevant Deliverables.
- 10.5 If the Customer does not approve of any matter requiring Approval, it must notify the Supplier of its reasons for disapproval within fourteen (14) days of the Supplier's request.
- 10.6 If the Customer delays giving Approval or notifying the Supplier as to its disapproval, the Supplier will not be liable for any resulting delays or adverse impact caused to the delivery of the Project.

## **11. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

- 11.1 During the Term of this Contract, the Supplier will:
  - 11.1.1 keep the Customer fully informed as to the progress and status of all Services and Deliverables, by preparing and submitting written reports at such intervals and in such format as is agreed by the Parties.
  - 11.1.2 promptly inform the Customer of any actual or anticipated problems relating to provision of the Deliverables.
- 11.2 During the Term, the Parties' respective project managers will arrange and attend meetings to review the status and progress of the Project(s) and to seek to resolve any issues that have arisen. These meetings will be held at locations and intervals as agreed by the parties.
- 11.3 Unless otherwise agreed in the Statement of Work, the Supplier will produce contact reports providing each Party with a written record of matters of substance discussed at meetings or in telephone conversations between the parties within three (3) Working Days of such discussions. If the Customer does not question any of the subject matter of a contact report within seven (7) Working Days of its receipt, it will be taken to be a correct record of the meeting or telephone conversation.



## **12. FEES AND INVOICING**

- 12.1. The Contract Charges for the Project will be the full and exclusive remuneration of the Supplier for supplying the Project. Unless expressly agreed in writing by the Customer in the Statements of Work, the Contract Charges will include every cost and expense of the Supplier directly or indirectly incurred in connection with the performance of the Project.
- 12.2. All amounts stated are exclusive of VAT which will be charged at the prevailing rate. The Customer shall, following the receipt of a valid VAT invoice, pay to the Supplier a sum equal to the VAT chargeable in respect of the Project.
- 12.3. The Supplier will invoice the Customer in accordance with the payment profile agreed in the Statements of Work. Each invoice will include all supporting information required by the Customer to verify the accuracy of the invoice, including the relevant Purchase Order Number and a breakdown of the Project supplied in the invoice period.
- 12.4. The Customer will pay the Supplier the invoiced amounts no later than thirty (30) days after verifying that the invoice is valid and undisputed and includes a valid Purchase Order Number. The Customer may, without prejudice to any other rights and remedies under this Contract, withhold or reduce payments in the event of unsatisfactory performance.
- 12.5. If the Customer does not pay an undisputed amount properly invoiced by the due date, the Supplier has the right to charge interest on the overdue amount at the interest rate specified in the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.
- 12.6. The Customer is entitled to deduct from any sum due any money that the Supplier owes the Customer. This includes any sum which the Supplier is liable to pay to the Customer in respect of breach of this Contract. In these circumstances, the Supplier may not assert any credit, set-off or counterclaim against the Customer.
- 12.7. The Supplier will indemnify the Customer on a continuing basis against any liability (to include any interest, penalties or costs incurred, levied, demanded or assessed) on the Customer at any time in respect of the Supplier's failure to account for or to pay any VAT on payments made to the Supplier under this Contract. Any amounts due under Clause 12.2 will be paid by the Supplier to the Customer not less than five (5) Working Days before the date upon which the tax or other liability is payable by the Customer.
- 12.8. If there is a dispute between the Parties about an amount invoiced, the Customer will pay the undisputed amount by the due date. The Supplier will not suspend the supply of the Project in any Project, unless the Supplier is entitled to terminate that Project for a failure to pay undisputed sums in accordance with Clause 23.7.7.

## **13. THIRD PARTY AGENCIES: ASSIGNMENT AND SUB-**

### **CONTRACTING Assignment and Sub-Contracting**