

ECSC Framework – Invitation to Tender (ITT)

Supplier notice

Please note that responses to this ITT need to be made electronically through Jaggaer by completing the 'My Response' section. Further guidance on this process can be found on [Jaggaer](#).

This is the documentation required for an individual or organisation to register on Lot 10: Curriculum Subject Drafters of the Educational and Children's Social Care (ECSC) Framework Style Agreement, which varies for each lot.

Requirements

The Educational and Children's Social Care (ECSC) Framework, established on 1 February 2025, is the Department for Education's primary route for procuring specialist and advisory services. It runs for four years, with an option to extend by two, ending no later than 1 February 2031.

The framework is dynamic, allowing lots to be reopened and new lots added as needed. In line with this flexibility, the Department is creating Lot 10: Curriculum Subject Drafters to recruit experts in curriculum drafting.

Interested suppliers are invited to submit tenders during the window from 16 September to 14 October 2025. Appointment to Lot 10 will be contingent upon meeting the published award criteria and successfully completing the evaluation process.

Work will be allocated to contractors appointed to the framework via a call-off process, either through direct award or further competition, as set out in Schedule 3.

Please note that appointment to the ECSC framework does not guarantee the allocation of any work.

Background

For clarity, this document makes reference to the Department, which refers to the Department for Education (DfE).

In July 2024, the government commissioned Professor Becky Francis CBE to convene and chair a panel of experts to conduct the Curriculum and Assessment Review and published a set of principles to inform the scope of the Review. The Review is informed by research evidence, data, and input from experts, stakeholders and the public, including over 7,000 responses to the call for evidence, and a range of research and polling. The Review is being undertaken in close consultation with education professionals and other experts; parents, children and young people; and stakeholders such as employers, universities and trade unions.

An interim report was published in March 2025, which sets out the interim findings from the Review and helps to articulate some of the problem definition. The Review is working towards publication of the final report in autumn 2025. Since the interim report, the Review has carried out further investigation into specific policy and subject issues, working closely with the sector and building on the body of evidence gathered so far. Their final report will be published in autumn 2025.

The Secretary of State will consider the Review's recommendations in the autumn and will decide which of these should be taken forward. Following the Review, and subject

to acceptance of the recommendations, we anticipate resulting changes to curriculum Programmes of Study, and wish to prepare for such work.

The National Curriculum was reformed in 2013 and as such, the Department require subject drafters to support the DfE to conduct necessary scoping and preparatory work that will enable the eventual revision of the Programmes of Study and/or subject content for GCSE, AS level and A level. These subject drafters will require substantial expertise in and experience of teaching and leading their subject, understanding of pedagogical approaches, curriculum planning including how to effectively sequence and structure content to support excellent teaching; and/or knowledge/experience of developing similar material for a curriculum or academic qualification. They will need to know how the subject is currently taught in schools, and, in responding to Review recommendations when published and if accepted, communicate clearly what teachers need to know to teach the subject effectively based on the recommendations.

Mandatory Requirements

As part of this ITT, there are a number of specific requirements which must be met. These can be found within the 'My Response' section of the Jaggaer ITT. Please note that the Department may at its absolute discretion refuse to consider your quotation depending on your response to these requirements.

Detailed Requirements

Quality

- The Department is responsible for setting Programmes of Study and subject content for GCSE, AS level and A level qualifications. On the Department's behalf, subject to the Review recommending changes to these subjects and the SoS accepting these recommendations, the supplier will draft the Programmes of Studies and/or relevant qualifications subject content for one of the following subjects. This list includes all subjects in the National Curriculum as well as subjects which are compulsory to study and have corresponding GCSE and/or AS/A level subject content which is defined by the Department. It is not an indication of the subjects that will be included in the Review recommendations:
 - a) Art and Design
 - b) Citizenship
 - c) Computing
 - d) Dance
 - e) Design and technology
 - f) Drama
 - g) English
 - h) Food preparation and nutrition
 - i) Geography
 - j) History
 - k) Mathematics
 - l) Modern Foreign Languages
 - m) Music

- n) Physical Education
 - o) Psychology
 - p) Religious Education and Religious Studies GCSE (*note that Religious Education is not a subject in the National Curriculum and is included here for purposes of comprehensive coverage of school subjects.*)
 - q) Science
- You will ensure that the Programmes of Study and/or qualifications subject content including for GCSE, AS level and A level meets Departmental and Ministerial requirements. Ultimately, Ministers will make the final decision about what is included in the Programmes of Study and qualifications content. You will work collaboratively with the Department and other subject stakeholders. You will therefore need to complete work/make amendments to drafts in line with pre-agreed deadlines, in response to feedback received from different stakeholders, offering solutions where feedback may differ.
 - You will need to have deep subject expertise and an understanding of its practical application in a school teaching environment, for example:
 - how the subject is taught in schools;
 - substantial understanding of curriculum planning for the subject (e.g. how to sequence content) to support excellent teaching and pedagogy;
 - what teachers need to know in order to teach the subject effectively within the curriculum; and/or
 - knowledge/experience of developing similar material for a curriculum or academic qualification.
 - Whilst you have significant expertise, you will also need to take a balanced and impartial approach to your work to ensure that the drafts you provide to the Department reflects an objective and evidenced-based view of the subject area, as well as a willingness to work constructively and proactively across a wide range of differing views. You will therefore need to have excellent stakeholder management skills, showing an ability to actively listen and influence stakeholders, both within and across organisational boundaries. You will also need to demonstrate an ability to identify compromises between conflicting groups of subject stakeholders and be able to reach an agreed consensus.
 - You will need to have excellent drafting skills to support the Department to produce clear and coherent Programmes of Study. You will need to set out clearly, specifically and in detail the knowledge and understanding that all students will be required to demonstrate for all key stages, avoiding the use of jargon and using plain English where applicable. The revised Programmes of Study will be tested with a wider range of users, including teachers.
 - The Department's current aim is for the Programmes of Study, as well as some GCSE content to be published for public consultation in 2026 and is working to a rigorous timeline to achieve this. You will need to be able to commit to the time to carry out this work, as set out in the 'Quantity' section below. You will need to be flexible, able to provide timely responses and turn work around quickly to support the Department to achieve this. You may be asked to work to short deadlines and will need to ensure the Department is updated regularly on progress made toward deadlines and inform the Department of any issues surrounding timescales/resources at the earliest opportunity. However, the Department will give advance notice of deadlines wherever possible. You will

need to manage your workload effectively to ensure drafting is completed by pre-agreed deadlines and within the number of days for which you have been contracted.

- You must not use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Co-Pilot, Gemini etc.) to draft the PoS and qualifications subject content assigned to you. We also expect that you protect the papers provided to you by the Department (for example, this document) by not inputting it into any AI tools as this is a security risk for the DfE.
- You will need your own IT equipment, including access to Microsoft Office and Outlook or other email platforms/services to complete this work.
- We expect the work will be carried out remotely, with subject drafters working from their chosen location. Some meetings between drafters, stakeholders and the DfE will take place via Microsoft Teams.
- You will also need to be willing to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- We reserve the right to amend, clarify or cancel any part of these requirements at any time.

Relationship with DfE

Subject drafters are not employed by DfE and are contractors procured for their expertise to support the Department for Education. Subject drafters do not exercise statutory powers on behalf of the Secretary of State. Subject drafters should therefore ensure they clear about their roles and responsibilities and how they are separate and distinct from the Department when interacting with any external stakeholders.

Contract Management

The procurement process and any contracts will be managed by the Department for Education, with a dedicated Contract Manager. Supplier performance will be monitored on an ongoing basis and will take into account progress against the key deliverable activity specified in the contract.

The Department is not responsible for deducting Income Tax and employee National Insurance contributions from fees paid to you.

Please note that appointment to the ECSC framework does not guarantee the allocation of any work.

Place/localism requirements

We expect the work will be carried out remotely, with drafters working from their chosen location. Some meetings between drafters, stakeholders and the DfE will take place via Microsoft Teams.

You will need your own IT equipment, including access to Microsoft Office and Outlook or other email platforms/services to complete this work.

Successful bidders must ensure they adhere to Departmental data security rules.

Quantity

Each contract will state the required number of days and the term of the work.

Each contract offer will set out the academic curriculum and/or qualification subject and scope the drafter will work on. Contracts will include requirement to draft within the following scope::

- Some or all of the National Curriculum subject Programme of Study (up to Key stage 4)
- Subject content for qualifications related to the Programmes of Study, including GCSE and AS/A level

Bidders will need to state the following in their response:

- Their chosen academic curriculum subject(s) – note that we typically expect the drafters to cover only one subject.
- Which key stage(s) they wish to be considered for within the academic subject(s). The options are:
 - KS1 and KS2 – this covers PoS for primary
 - KS3, KS4 – this covers PoS for secondary; GCSE subject content;
 - KS5 – this covers AS/A level subject content

We do not yet know the extent to which the Review will recommend changes and in what subjects. The below table sets out the current suite of curriculum subjects and whether they have Programmes of Study, GCSEs and A levels. This table is not an indication of the subjects that will be included in the Review recommendations.

Subject	KS1 and/or KS2	KS3, KS4		KS5
	PoS for primary	PoS for secondary	GCSE subject content	AS/A level subject content
Art and Design	X	X	X	X
Citizenship	X	X	X	
Computing	X	X	X	X
Dance	X (within PE*)	X (within PE*)	X	X
Design and technology	X	X	X	X
Drama	X (within English*)	X (within English*)	X	X
English	X	X	X	X
Food and Nutrition	X	X	X	
Geography	X	X	X	X
History	X	X	X	X
Maths	X	X	X	X
Music	X	X	X	X
Modern Foreign Languages	X	X	X	X
Physical Education	X	X	X	X
Religious Education/RS GCSE (included for school subject coverage)	X	X	X	X
Science	X	X	X	X
Psychology A level				X

**Drafters covering PE and English KS1,2 and 3 will be required to give due regard to the Drama and Dance elements within these subjects*

For each subject listed above, we anticipate that the following pieces of work will typically take up to 30 days each, per drafter (note that some subjects will likely have more than one drafter per subject or phase (primary/secondary/post-16). For illustrative purposes:

- Where a drafter covers only PoS for primary, this would likely mean working up to 30 days
- Where a drafter covers PoS for secondary and GCSE subject content, this would likely mean working up to 60 days
- Where a drafter covers PoS for secondary, GCSE subject content, and AS/A level subject content this would likely mean working up to 90 days
- Where a drafter covers all four of the above, this would likely mean working up to 120 days
- Drafters will need to be prepared to work with their counterparts working on other sections or age ranges of the PoS or qualifications.

The Department reserves the right to offer an option to extend contracts. Any extension is at the sole discretion of the Department and will be subject to internal departmental governance and approvals prior to being invoked. Any future extension will be offered in whole days and in multiples of our choice. Before any extension, the Department would aim to give the supplier at least 10 days notice.

- We will pay drafters a day rate of £500 (excluding VAT).

Please note that the contract can be ended early at the absolute discretion of the Department as set out in the core terms.

We expect the majority of PoS updates to be completed between September 2025 and Summer 2026. Work on GCSE and A level updates will likely be phased from autumn 2025. Timescales are subject to change once the Review recommendations have been published and government response has been confirmed.

IT, Publicity and media enquiries

Successful bidders are required to use their own IT equipment.

The supplier shall not make any press announcements without the Department's prior written approval. Any such press announcements shall remain subject to the rights relating to Confidential Information. Successful bidders will be required to sign contracts with confidentiality clauses contained and any breach of this agreement will be considered a breach of contract. Successful bidders shall not publicise the Contract in any way unless required to do so by law.

The supplier shall not do anything or permit to cause anything to be done, which may damage the reputation of the Department or bring the Department into disrepute.

Evaluation Process and award criteria

All applications received will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria and scoring methodology as stated within this ITT and Jaggaer.

The evaluation criteria for each of the questions, within each evaluation section, are detailed below along with the weighting to be applied.

Please Note:

- All responses will be redacted, removing details which reveal who the bidder is, this may include but is not limited to: name of individuals, locations referred to, name of bidder.
- Bidder's response to questions in this ITT will be scored against the detailed requirements listed under the section marked 'A satisfactory bid will include evidence of' and assigned a score from the evaluation scoring matrix.

- Words above the maximum word count for each question will be redacted and not scored.

Evaluation Scoring Matrix

Find below a standard 5-point scoring matrix, which can be used to score the technical quality questions.

Suggested Scoring Matrix

Responses will be scored on a 5-point scale and evaluators will use this to assign a score to each evaluation question response.

Score	Guidance
1	Does not meet the requirement or has not answered the question. Does not comply and/or insufficient information provided to demonstrate that the Bidder has the understanding and skills required to provide the services, with little or no evidence to support the response
2	Major reservations. Considerable reservations of the Bidder's understanding and skills required to provide the core services, with little or no evidence to support the response.
3	Satisfies the requirement. Demonstration in the Bid of the understanding and skills required to provide the services, with adequate evidence to support the response
4	Satisfies the requirement with minor additional benefits. Above average demonstration in the Bid of the understanding and skills required to provide the services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with evidence to support the response.
5	Exceeds the requirement. Exceptional demonstration in the Bid of the understanding and skills required to provide the services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with substantial evidence to support the response.

Note: Responses to all questions should be entered/ uploaded into Jaggaer under Technical Envelope (for Mandatory and Technical Requirements)

Evaluation Section 1: Mandatory Requirements		Pass/Fail
Ref	Question(s)	
1.1	Do you have the capacity to meet the requirement set out in this ITT?	
1.2	Please confirm you have read and accept the Terms and Conditions set out in Documents: Framework Agreement and Call off Terms and Conditions, which can be found within the attachments for this tender.	
1.3	Have you declared all your interests? Bidders must declare any interest(s), specifically, any links, roles, or positions held with any	

	educational organisations within the past 10 years (this should include voluntary as well as contractual roles). Providing this information does not preclude bidders from the bidding process, but allows the Department to check that bidders will not present a conflict of interest. Due diligence checks will be undertaken prior to allocation of work. The Department reserves the right to exclude bidders based on the information provided or identified through our due diligence checks.		
Evaluation Section 2: Mandatory Requirements			
Ref	Question (s)		
2.1	Please attach a full CV detailing the employment history.		
Evaluation Section 3: Technical Requirements		Section Weighting: 100%	
Ref	Note(s)		
	To join the framework, a minimum score of 3 (Satisfies the requirement) for questions 3.1 to 3.2 is required for a successful tender. Please see the section entitled 'Quality' for more information.		
Ref	Question	A satisfactory bid will include evidence of;	Question Weighting:
3.1	<p>Please provide evidence of your expertise in your given subject and its application in a school teaching environment, including specific examples.</p> <p><u>Please limit your response to a max 750 words</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantial understanding of how the subject is taught in schools.• Substantial understanding of curriculum planning for the subject (e.g. how to sequence content) to support excellent teaching and pedagogy.• Substantial understanding of what teachers need to know in order to teach the subject effectively• How do you build your expertise and how do you	50%

		keep up to date with subject discipline?	
3.2	<p>Please provide detail of your stakeholder management skills, including working with diverse groups of stakeholders and reaching a consensus.</p> <p><u>Please limit your response to a max 750 words</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong ability to build effective interpersonal relationships, across and beyond organisational boundaries.• Strong ability to influence and work together effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.• Strong ability to respect the needs, responses and opinions of others.• Strong ability to take account of differing opinions to reach a consensus.• If entity: How do you bring views of your members if you are an organisation?	50%
Evaluation Section 5: VAT		Section Weighting: Information Only	
Ref	Question		
5.1	Are you registered to charge VAT?		
Special Conditions			
The Call-Off Terms will form part of the contract with the successful Supplier. A copy of these can be found in Jaggaer (go to the 'Buyer Attachments' area of the ITT). A final version will be issued to the successful associate upon acceptance of their quotation.			
Queries and Guidance			
Queries			

Any queries and dialogues in respect of the ITT should be raised via Jaggaer through the 'Messages' tab

Technical

Responses to the ITT need to be made electronically through Jaggaer by completing the 'My Responses' sections and questions. Further guidance on this process can be found on [Jaggaer](#).

Bidders experiencing technical difficulties should contact the Jaggaer Helpdesk by calling 0800 069 8630 / +44 203 608 4013 or emailing help_UK@jaggaer.com