Shape, rectangle

Description automatically generated



About the GDC

The General Dental Council (GDC) is the UK-wide statutory regulator of around 115,000 members of the dental team, including over 42,000 dentists and 73,000 dental care professionals (DCPs) - dental nurses, clinical dental technicians, dental hygienists, dental technicians, dental therapists and orthodontic therapists.

Our over-arching objective as set out in the Dentist Act 1984 (as amended) is to protect the public. We achieve this through the following objectives:

• to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public

• to promote and maintain public confidence in the professions regulated

• to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for members of those professions

Patients and the public should be confident that the treatment they receive is provided by a dental professional who is properly trained and qualified and who meets our standards. Where there are concerns about the quality of care or treatment, or the behaviour of a dental professional, we will investigate and take action if appropriate.

We fulfil our purpose by using our statutory powers to:

• grant registration only to those dental professionals who meet our requirements on education and training, health and good character. Only those who are registered with us can practise dentistry in the UK

• assure the quality of dental education and training programmes leading to registration with the GDC

• set standards of conduct, performance and ethics for the dental team

• investigate complaints against dental professionals and where appropriate, take action through our Fitness to Practise (FtP) process

• protect the public from individuals carrying out dentistry while not registered

• require dental professionals to keep their skills up to date through our continuing professional development (CPD) requirements.

In addition, we fund the Dental Complaints Service (DCS), which provides a free and impartial service to support patients and dental professionals in using mediation to resolve complaints about private dental care.

The GDC has two offices (London and Birmingham), office working is in-line with the government pandemic guidelines

For further information on the GDC, please visit our website at: [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org) .

Service Requirements

We are inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified suppliers for our **health assessment services for Dental Professionals to support our fitness to practise cases**.

We are looking to procure a contract which will run for circa 2 to 3 years from commencement date and the estimated value of the contract will not exceed the procurement threshold of £213,477 including VAT.

The service provision is for an end-to-end service which includes the access to medical examiners / assessors such as, but not limited to the following:

* Specialist Mental Health Psychiatrists
* Clinical Psychologists
* General Practitioners
* Occupational Health Physicians

The following services are required:

Services:

* Provide advice on the assessments that are required for individual cases
* Triage Referrals
* Review of medical records
* Consultation with individuals
* Health Assessment

Toxicology Services (directly or through a third party):

* Sample Analysis per donor (Instant Testing)
* Laboratory Confirmation Analysis (per drug)
* Hair and Blood Test for Alcohol where appropriate
* Hair and blood Test for Drugs where appropriate
* Toxicology report

Service Management

* Account management
* Project management

Written report:

The final deliverable will be a comprehensive written report on the dental professional’s health assessment including a professional opinion on the Dental Professionals fitness to practice and any recommendations for the case.

Provide up-dated medical reports, as required

Hearings Attendance

The medical examiners / assessors may be required to attend hearings to present findings and answer questions. Hearings would normally take place at our London Office, which during the Pandemic maybe held remotely.

The services would need to be available on a nationwide basis.

Please see attached data flow chart in Appendix A; which sets out our current process for the service.

Out of scope

* Employee Occupational Health Services are covered by a separate contract.

We are aware there are a small number of Occupational Health framework agreements that provide similar services, unfortunately these frameworks do not meet all of our requirements and therefore we are considering running a procurement as an open tender, which means any suitable supplier may tender.

The Market Engagement

The GDC is looking to conduct market engagement with suppliers to help us develop our Invitation to Tender documents ahead of running a formal procurement exercise. The market engagement is to enable us to:

* Understand more about the market and its suppliers
* Develop our Statement of Requirement/Specification
* Understand the limitation and opportunities available as part of the delivery of the services. i.e. technologies supporting delivery – such as, but not limited to, an online dashboard/management portal, additional services etc
* Understand how the costing element could be expressed to enable all bidders to respond.
* Understand how the GDC standard terms and conditions may need to be amended for this procurement
* Understand potential lead-time for the implementing services
* Understand the supplier ability to support with the attendance of hearing sessions.
* Other matters to support the robust procurement of this contract

If you are interested in engaging with us on this requirement, please submit an expression of interest to [procurement@gdc-uk.org](mailto:procurement@gdc-uk.org) by midnight on the 24 January 2022. *Your email must be titled ‘Expression of Interest – for Health Assessment Services* Your expression of interest should include the following information:

* Contact details for the person(s) that will be attending the market engagement session
* An overview of your organisation and its services in relation to fitness to practice occupational health assessments or equivalent services
* Provide details on the size of your organisation using the following classification:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Size of Organisation |
| A | A small business as employing less than 50 people and a turnover under £6.5 million |
| B | A medium business as less than 250 employees and turnover under £36 million |
| C | A large business 250+ employees and a turnover greater than £36 million |

Following the submission of an expression of interest, one of our team may call your organisation to screen your organisation for suitability to participate in the market engagement.

If you don’t want to participate in the market engagement sessions but would like to be kept informed of this requirement, please email us at [procurement@gdc-uk.org](mailto:procurement@gdc-uk.org) and we can add your details to the list for updates.

We are looking to engage with no more than 5 companies (the preferred split of companies for the engagement is 2 large companies and 3 small and medium size companies). The timetable for the market engagement activity and procurement are detailed below. Due to the COVID Pandemic, any engagement sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams. A note of the engagement with be distributed to all suppliers that express and interest in this requirement.

Overview Procurement timetable

Below is an overview of our anticipated timeline for this procurement

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **High level Activity** | **Timeline** |
| Expression of Interest | January 2022 |
| Market engagement sessions | Early February 2022 |
| Invitation to Tender | February/ March 2022 |
| Contract commencement | 1 June 2022 |

The timeline is subject to change