

Procurement

Framework agreement RM1059

RM1059 was let in August 2014. Six of the major housing system suppliers are represented on the framework:

- Aareon
- Capita
- Civica
- Kypera
- MIS
- Orchard

What is a framework?

The framework provides a route to procurement compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 with no risk of legal challenge. All suppliers on the framework have already completed an OJEU procurement and negotiated a framework agreement with the Crown Commercial Service. As a purchaser the bulk of the contract is pre-negotiated, there are some bits for you still to agree (in particular the payment schedule!) but in essence, it's all been done for you.

With the inclusion of the major suppliers to social providers (with the exception of Northgate Public Services which chose not to bid) it makes a more attractive route than the previous framework RM865. A number of housing providers are finding this option very attractive.

How do we procure using the framework?

There are two options – legally you can draw down an individual supplier from the framework but best practice (and the Crown Commercial Service preferred option) is to complete a further mini-competition. A simple procurement process will enable you to select a preferred supplier from the framework – you can construct the process as you see fit. You then download the agreement from the CCS website here (link through to their website - http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/?field_views_search_value=%22RM1059%22&items_per_page=10)

It's then a simple matter of filling in the bits you still need to negotiate with your preferred supplier and signing the agreement – job done!

Public Contract Regulations 2015

New regulations have been introduced from 26 February 2015. A copy of the regulations can be found here (link at this point to the resources page). While much is the same there are some essential differences:

1. Two new procurement routes are introduced – Competitive Procedure with Negotiation and Innovation Partnership
2. In assessing cost, you can include lifetime costs
3. There is no longer a need to issue a contract notice if a PIN has been issued

