



To awarding body Responsible Officers, by email

1 August 2018

Dear Responsible Officer

Pre-tender engagement opportunity for Construction and the Built Environment qualifications for learners in Wales aged 16-19

Following on from the publication of the [notice of intention to restrict](#) and commission a number of qualifications in Construction and the Built Environment, we are keen to engage with recognised awarding bodies that may be interested in participating in a procurement process to establish a concession contract to develop and award these qualifications. Such an agreement would be with an awarding body or a consortium of awarding bodies which would allow the successful bidder to develop this suite of qualifications in Wales on an exclusive basis, for publicly funded programmes of learning, for a given period of time.

Whilst we await, and will give full consideration to, representations in response to our notice of intention to restrict, we would like to talk to awarding bodies who are already operating in the sector to further improve our understanding and others that may be interested in developing qualifications in this area. The information that we gather will be used to inform the development of the initial contract specification which would be used if we decide to proceed with the procurement process.

We have published a Prior Information Notice (PIN) of our intention to tender in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) and on Sell2Wales:

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=JUL261160

We will be arranging conference calls with potential bidders to take place between 28 August and 7 September. The calls will take the form of a structured discussion with us (which is often termed 'pre-tender engagement'). This would involve us asking participants a series of questions which we will provide in advance. Responses will be informal and not be considered in or form part of any subsequent procurement process.

Questions that participants put to us during the dialogue will be collated so that when we are in a position to respond, we will issue one set of information to all interested parties at the same time.

If your organisation is interested in participating in this pre-tender engagement with us please email **procurement@qualificationswales.org** to book a call. Please insert '**CBE pre-tender engagement**' in the subject area of the email, state your interest, confirm your preferred dates /times between 28 August and 7 September and the names, titles and email addresses of those who will take part from your organisation

Please contact us at your earliest convenience to secure your preferred slot.

Only awarding bodies recognised by Qualifications Wales will be able to deliver this contract therefore interested parties must either already be recognised awarding bodies or achieve recognition by Qualifications Wales within a period starting from the notification of intention to award a contract. The period for achieving recognition will be confirmed in the contract notice should we proceed to tender.

Participants in the pre-tender engagement will not be committed to taking part in any subsequent tender exercise. Should we proceed to the formal procurement process, we will publish another notice in the OJEU and on Sell2Wales (anticipated to be October 2018) and we will run the process using the electronic tender system etenderwales (<https://etenderwales.bravosolution.co.uk>). Eligible organisations that do not participate in the pre-tender engagement will still be able to participate in any subsequent tender exercise.

Summary of actions:

Before Friday 24 August 2018 but preferably sooner: confirm that you are interested in taking part in this exercise by emailing procurement@qualificationswales.org with the information requested.

Week commencing 13 August 2018: we will send you an outline of the questions we would like to discuss with you.

Between Tuesday 28 August and Friday 7 September 2018: we will organise separate conference calls with each awarding body to discuss the questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elizabeth Frizi', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Frizi

Head of Procurement

