

QUESTIONS AT ONS' INFORMATION MEETING – 14th July 2005

Please note that the information provided in this document (and at the meeting) represents our current thinking but may be subject to change.

- Q1 What is the value of the contracts being outsourced?
A Approximately £150m
- Q2 When do you expect to start procurement for Route A?
A We have to wait for agreement on funding for the next 3 years and we expect this to be around September/October 2005.
- Q3 How will I know when the OJEU advert is released? Will ONS tell me or is it up to me to find out?
A It will be up to you to check the OJEU. One of the purposes of this meeting was to alert suppliers to our plans and the likely timing (see previous question).
- Q4 Have you considered a single end to end service for the whole operation?
A Yes. However, it was felt for a number of reasons that this approach was inappropriate. Firstly, there are specific aspects that it was felt important to retain in-house because they are core ONS competencies and the level of expertise required is not widely available elsewhere. Secondly, there are very few organisations, other than ONS, with the experience of running the end-to-end census operation.
- Q5 Will you be using Local Authority staff?
A Involvement of Local Authority staff will be encouraged, as it has been in previous censuses. Also as before, they would need to take time off from their LA duties and would be paid and managed by ONS.
- Q6 Will there be criminal record checks when employing field staff?
A The requirement for, and feasibility of doing, this is currently being investigated.
- Q7 Have you considered interview at delivery?
A There are problems associated with time and cost. Delivery will be prior to Census Day so collecting information on 'visitors' cannot be achieved. Also the costs associated with employing the required number of highly trained staff (and equipment) to cover the whole country would be prohibitive.
- Q8 Will suppliers bidding for one route be excluded from bidding for work in the other routes?

A No, our current thinking is that suppliers would not gain any significant advantage and we don't want to discourage or exclude the best suppliers in any route

Q9 Does ONS need business consultancy to support the main procurement routes? How will this be procured?

A Yes. Given the smaller nature of the potential contract spend we will try to use existing framework arrangements where possible. In areas where this is not currently possible, and the cost is above £10k, we would look to hold a mini competition with SCat suppliers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS FOR CLARIFICATION

Off-shoring

Because of the sensitive nature of the information we are collecting data must be protected and this cannot be sent offshore. However there will be some elements of the development of process where sensitive data is not involved and we would be happy to consider off-shoring proposals for these.

Confidentiality

Suppliers will be asked to demonstrate how they will protect the confidentiality of the data against any accidental breaches of security and also against any direct or indirect breaches.

Prime Contractor

To clarify the situation on grouped contracts.

Within Route A, we expect that this will be a group of specialist suppliers led by a Prime Contractor. We will look to the Prime Contractor to provide the integrated project management of the supplier team and demonstrate how this will be managed.

Within Route C, we may want to group suppliers into one contract and this will be clarified in the advert.

Revised timetable for Field Staff

This timetable appears in all the documents produced to the meeting. Please note the amendment to start dates for Delivery and Communal Establishment staff.

Employment Dates	TEST	REHEARSAL	CENSUS
Regional Managers	n/a	n/a	April 09 – July 11
Area Managers	Aug 06 - July 07	Aug 08 - July 09	Aug 09 - July 11
Pre-Delivery staff	Sept 06 - Oct 06	Sept 08 - Oct 08	Aug 10 - Sept 10
Team Managers	Nov 06 - July 07	Nov 08 - July 09	Sept 10 - July 11
Delivery staff	Mar 07 – May 07	Mar 09 – May 09	Mar 11 – May 11
Follow-up staff	April 07 – July 07	April 09 - July 09	April 11 - July 11
Communal Establishment Staff	Mar 07 – June 07	Mar 09 – June 09	Mar 11 – June 11
Non-compliance staff	n/a	n/a	April 11 – Dec 11