Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Subject of Quotation	**Provision of Annual Playground Safety Inspections 2026 for Donegal County Council**
Key Dates	
Issue Date	As Per eTenders
Closing Date for Queries	As Per eTenders
Closing Date for Quotations Submission	As Per eTenders
Contact for Queries	Submit via www.etenders.gov.ie
Format for submission of quotations – use the Quotation Response Document provided	
Submit via www.etenders.gov.ie Please note that information relating to this Request for Quotations, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal www.etenders.gov.ie. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents. Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties. Please upload your response as a ZIP FILE to protect the integrity of the file names.	

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1 Disclaimer

This Request for Quotation (RFQ) document issued herewith ("the Document") is for information only and does not constitute, and shall not be interpreted as, an offer for sale, prospectus, or the basis of a contract.

Tenderers are recommended to read the documents thoroughly. While all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the information set out in the Document is accurate and up to date, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made or given in relation to the accuracy or the completeness of any information contained in the Document or otherwise provided by or on behalf of the Contracting Authority (in writing or otherwise) to any interested party or its advisers. No responsibility or liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance on these documents, or for the information contained in these documents or for any omission is or will be accepted by the Contracting Authority or by any of its officers, employees, agents or professional advisers. No officer, employee, agent, or professional adviser of the company has any authority to give or make any representation or warranty, express or implied, in relation to such information. The Contracting Authority's officers, employees, agents, and professional advisers expressly disclaim any and all liability arising out of such documentation or information and any errors or omissions in or from the documents and information.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to discontinue the procurement process at any time.

2 Use of eTenders

Please note that information relating to this Request for Quotations, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal www.etenders.gov.ie. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents. Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties. In order to submit a response, it is mandatory to have **ASSOCIATED** your company with the competition using the eTenders log in.

3 Use of a Quotation Response Document (if applicable)

The Contracting Authority have provided a Quotation Response Document (QRD) as a separate document for tenderers to use in preparing their response to this Request for Quotations. This document and format must be used. Tenderers should note that personalisation of the QRD is not allowed, and they must not add their branding/colours to the QRD.

Please note that in addition to this RFQ and the QRD, the following documents form part of the tender documentation:

- Any Clarification documents issued by the Contracting Authority during the Quotation submission period. Tenderers must ensure they regularly monitor eTenders and review any Clarification documents published.

It is recommended to upload your response as a **Zip file** in order to protect the integrity of file names.

4 About the Contracting Authority

4.1 The Contracting Authority

Donegal County Council herein after referred to as the Contracting Authority, is the authority responsible for this procurement.

Further information is available at our corporate website www.donegalcoco.ie

4.2 Small and Medium Enterprise Participation

It is the policy of the Contracting Authority to encourage participation by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in this competition.

SMEs are encouraged to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises to meet the financial, economic or technical capacity requirements of the competition, if required.

5 Scope of Requirement

5.1 Specification of Requirements

Donegal County Council are responsible for the management and control of 68 facilities consisting of 52 playgrounds, 4 multi-use games areas (MUGAs), 10 outdoor gyms, 1 skate park and 1 pump track throughout County Donegal. A full list of the facilities is included with the tender documents along with a map of their location.

Donegal County Council requires the professional services of a registered Register of Play Inspector International (RPII) approved inspector to undertake annual playground safety inspections across these 68 facilities.

This contract will be to undertake annual playground safety inspections for a two-year fixed period (2026 & 2027) with the option to extend for a third year (2028). The option to extend to contract for the third year will be at the sole discretion of Donegal County Council at a later date.

The appointed RPII approved inspector will be required to adhere to the following timeframe:

- 2026 Inspections: Submit final annual safety reports to Donegal County Council by the 6th of November 2026.
- 2027 Inspections: Submit final annual safety reports to Donegal County Council by the 6th of November 2027.
- 2028 Inspections (if contract extended): Submit final annual safety reports to Donegal County Council by the 6th of November 2028.

Donegal Couty Council reserves the right to request further additional information during the assessment process.

In the event where Donegal County Council does not agree with the risk rating being applied to an item of equipment, etc, it reserves the right to engage with the inspector on the risk rating, annual safety report ratings will not be considered final if there exists a disagreement on a level of risk rating.

5.2 Pricing

Tenderers are required to submit a fixed price for:

a) Year 1 Annual safety reports for the 68 facilities listed for 2026.

b) Year 2 Annual safety reports for the 68 facilities listed for 2027.

c) Year 3 (if contract extended by Donegal County Council) Annual safety reports for the 68 facilities listed for 2028.

d) A unit rate for carrying out an annual safety report for a single facility. In the event any additional playgrounds, MUGAs, outdoor gyms, skate parks or pump tracks are built/taken in charge by Donegal County Council during the period of the Contract, this unit rate will be additional to the fixed rate submitted for the 68 facilities for that year.

Economic operators must complete all required inputs in the pricing schedule to remain eligible in this competition. Any alteration or amendment to the pricing schedule may result in that economic operator's bid being rejected.

5.3 Review of Performance

A quality service is required under this contract. Therefore, performance will be continually monitored over the term of the contract. Cost competitiveness, performance, quality of service and turnaround time will be the main criteria for measuring performance.

5.3.1 Account Management

Economic operators submitting a quotation are required to nominate a dedicated account manager who will act as the main point of contact for the duration of the contract. This person shall have the authority to deal with all matters in relation to the contract and be responsible for the satisfactory delivery of the services required.

5.3.2 Invoicing

Invoices shall be submitted by the successful economic operator on a monthly basis for all costs incurred in the preceding month, or as otherwise agreed by the parties. All official invoices must quote a Contracting Authority purchase order number. All invoices which do not quote the relevant order number(s) will be returned to the service provider.

5.4 Award to Runner Up

If for any reason, it is not possible to award the contract to the successful economic operator emerging from this competitive process, or if having awarded the contract, the Contracting Authority considers that the successful economic operator has not met its obligations, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the contract to the next highest scoring economic operator on the basis of the terms advertised, at any time during the quotation validity period of 180 days.

6 Evaluation criteria

6.1 Suitability

The Contracting Authority will only consider quotations from competent and financially sound and compliant economic operators. To this end, you are required to confirm the following by completing the self-declaration contained in the separate Quotation Response Document (QRD).

(a) General economic operator information.
(b) Confirmation of tax compliance.
(c) Confirmation that the economic operator is appropriately insured.
(d) Confirmation via declaration that the economic operator is not bankrupt, guilty of corruption, fraud, money laundering, membership of a criminal organisation, not involved in child labour and/or human trafficking and is fully compliant with all its statutory obligations.
(e) Details of previous experience.

6.2 Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded on the basis of a quality and cost evaluation as assessed by the Contracting Authority, who is not obliged to accept the lowest or indeed any quotation. The following criteria will be applied:

a) Cost
b) Details of the proposed team
c) Methodology for delivery of the service
d) Programme of delivery
e) Environmental awareness

Responses to Criterion B to E can be included on a separate document, adhering to the instructions included with each question.

Please note that the maximum marks available is 10,000.

Criterion A		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
Cost		25%	2500	Not applicable
Description	Please complete the Quotation Form provided in the Quotation Response Document. Please ensure that all costs are catered for including customs duties, tariffs, travel, etc.			

Criterion B		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
Details of the proposed team		20%	2000	1200
Description	Tenderers shall submit details of proposed delivery team, indicating each team member's contribution to the project. As a minimum response's shall address; • Team structure / organisational chart (4%). • Role and responsibilities (4%). • Relevant experience and qualifications (4%). • Details of experience acting as an expert witness relating to claims concerning playground accidents (4%). • Resource allocation and time commitment (4%). Those undertaking the role of playground inspector **must** be registered as a Register of Play Inspector International (RPII) approved inspector to undertake annual playground safety inspections. Any submission failing to meet this requirement will be deemed to be non-compliant and excluded from the tender assessment process. Response page limit is 3 X A4 pages, Arial font size 10. Information provided beyond the page limit will not be considered.			

Criterion C		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
Methodology for delivery of the service		20%	2000	1200
Description	Tenderers shall submit a methodology how the contract will be delivered in accordance with the requirements of Section 5.1. As a minimum response's shall address; • Their approach to undertaking playground inspections, including the level of information inspected and details on the assessment of risk rating for items of equipment (10%). • Details of escalating any high-risk issues identified to the client (5%). • Submission of sample annual inspection report (5%). Response page limit is 3 X A4 pages, Arial font size 10. Information provided beyond the page limit will not be considered. Note: the sample annual inspection report will not be counted towards the 3 page limit.			

Criterion D		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
Programme of delivery		20%	2000	1200
Description	Tenderers shall submit details how they will deliver the contract within the timeframe as indicated within Section 5.1. As a minimum response's shall include details of; • Programme Gantt chart (or similar) outlining key delivery milestones (5%). • Report turnaround times (5%). • Risk management and contingency planning, including staffing continuity measures (10%). Response page limit is 3 X A4 pages, Arial font size 10. Information provided beyond the page limit will not be considered.			

Criterion E		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
Environmental awareness		15%	1500	1000
Description	Tenderers shall indicate what measures will be implemented to minimise the environment impact of the delivery of this service. Responses should be concise and focused on actions specific to this contract. General corporate environmental policies will not be scored unless clearly linked to contract delivery. Topics addressed could include: • Reduction of carbon emissions associated with the delivery of the contract. • Use of digital systems to reduce paper use. • Consideration of equipment maintenance life cycle costs. • Monitoring and reporting of environmental performance during the contract. Submissions will be assessed on the credibility, relevance and measurability solely in relation to the delivery of this service. Response page limit is 2 X A4 pages, Arial font size 10. Information provided beyond the page limit will not be considered.			

6.3 Methodology for Calculating the Cost Score

The following formula will be applied to the cost score of tenders who comply:

The lowest cost tender that also meets all the minimum requirements of the qualitative award criteria will receive the maximum score achievable under this criterion. The scores of the other valid tenders will be calculated using the following formula:

Maximum Points available for Cost	**A**
Cost of lowest valid tender received	B
Cost for the tender being evaluated	C
Formula employed	$\frac{A \times B}{C}$

6.4 Methodology for Calculating Scoring of Qualitative Criteria

Each qualitative criterion will be assessed using the following weighted system

Scoring Band	Description
1 **(90% - 100%)**	An **excellent** response that fully meets requirements and provides comprehensive, detailed and convincing assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to an excellent standard.
2 **(80% - 89%)**	A **very good** response demonstrating very good understanding offering assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to a very good standard.
3 **(60% - 79%)**	A good response that demonstrates real understanding of the requirements and assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to a good standard.
4 **(40% - 59%)**	A **satisfactory** response which demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the requirements and gives reasonable assurance of delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements to an adequate standard but does not provide sufficiently convincing assurance to award a higher mark.
5 **(20% - 39%)**	A **poor** response where some capabilities to meet the requirements are detailed however reservations exist. Lacks full credibility and/or convincing detail, and there is a significant risk that the delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements will not be successful.
6 **(1% – 19%)**	A **very poor** response where limited information was provided and serious reservations exist. This may be because, for example, insufficient detail is provided, and/or the response has fundamental flaws, is seriously inadequate or seriously lacks credibility with a high risk of non-delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements.
7 **(0%)**	No response or response completely fails to address the criterion under consideration.
Marks in the score ranges outlined above can be awarded where responses so merit additional marks.	

Note: where there is a tie-break, the economic operator with the highest quality score will be awarded the quotation. In a case where the overall qualitative scores are identical the economic operator with the highest score on the highest weighted qualitative criterion will be awarded the quotation.

All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the quotation process.

7 Format of Response

Economic operators are required to complete the separate **Quotation Response Document (QRD)** which contains:

(i) General Economic operator Information
(ii) Information regarding compliance with the Suitability Criteria – tax, insurances and declarations, details of previous experience
(iii) The Quotation Form for pricing information and where relevant response to the Qualitative Award Criteria.

Please ensure you read the Instructions to economic operators Quoting as detailed in Section 8.

8 Instructions for economic operators quoting

8.1 Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of quotations is listed on the title page of this document. Quotations that are received late will not be considered in this competition.

8.2 Submission of Quotations

Quotations should be submitted through www.etenders.gov.ie.

8.3 Queries

All queries regarding this quotation must be submitted via the process listed on the title page of this document. Queries should also be marked referencing the title of the procurement.

For the purpose of circulating responses, queries will be edited to avoid disclosing the identity of the querist, and any sensitive information included in the query should be clearly indicated.

8.4 Currency and Payments

The currency in which all prices and rates shall be tendered, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euro (€). All prices and rates quoted should be exclusive of VAT, with the applicable rate of VAT clearly indicated.

A schedule of payments will be agreed with the successful tenderer and invoices shall be submitted in accordance with the terms agreed with the Contracting Authority.

8.5 Confidentiality

The distribution of the quotation documents is for the sole purpose of obtaining offers. The distribution does not grant permission or licence to use the documents for any other purpose. Economic operators are required to treat the details of all documents supplied in connection with the quotation process as private and confidential.

8.6 Conflict of Interest

Any conflict of interest involving a tenderer (or tenderers in the event of a consortium bid) must be fully disclosed to the Contracting Authority. Any registrable interest involving the tenderer and the Contracting Authority or employees of the Contracting Authority, or their relatives must be fully disclosed in the tender submission or should be communicated to the Contracting Authority immediately upon such information becoming known to the tenderer, in the event of this information only coming to their notice after the submission of a bid and prior to the award of the contract. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may disqualify a tenderer or invalidate an award of contract, depending on when the conflict of interest comes to light.

8.7 Freedom of Information Acts

All responses to this Request for Quotation will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the tenderer except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the response or as may be required under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, EU and Irish Government Procurement Procedures, or in response to questions, debates or other parliamentary procedures in or of the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament).

Tenderers are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in response to this request for tenders should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. However, any blanket or all-encompassing request for exemption from disclosure is not acceptable; tenderers must identify explicitly any such information and give relevant reasons for considering it to be economically sensitive or confidential in nature. If this is the case, tenderers should specify the information that is sensitive and the reasons for its sensitivity. The Contracting Authority cannot guarantee that any information provided by tenderers, either in response to this tender or in the course of any contract awarded as a result thereof, will not be released pursuant to the Contracting Authority's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, or to those under EU and Irish Government Procurement rules. The Contracting Authority accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released, or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such disclosure.

8.8 Data Protection

Data Protection Laws" means all applicable national and EU data protection laws, regulations and guidelines including but not limited to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (the "General Data Protection Regulation"), the Data Protection Act, 2018 and any guidelines and codes of practice issued by the Data

Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland from time to time.

The Contracting Authority will be a Controller (where Controller has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) in respect of any Personal Data (where Personal Data has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) required to be provided by the Tenderer in response to this Request for Quotation.

The Tenderer, as Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided by it in its Tender, is required to confirm by way of statement in the "Declarations" section of the accompanying Quotation Response Document (QRD) that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Tenderer have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Tenderer, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the etenders.gov.ie website, for the purposes of the participation of the Tenderer in this Competition or that the Tenderer otherwise has a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of its participation in this Competition.

8.9 Publicity

Economic Operators shall not undertake (or permit to be undertaken) at any time, whether at this stage or after the award of the agreement, any publicity activity with any section of the media in relation to this tender/agreement other than with the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority. Such consent shall extend to the content of any publicity. For the purposes of this paragraph, the word "media" includes (but is not limited to) radio, television, newspapers, trade and specialist press, the Internet and e-mail accessible by the public at large and the representatives of such media.

The Contracting Authority will have the right to publicise or otherwise disclose to any third-party information regarding this process and the agreement.

8.10 Tax Compliance

It will be a condition of award of this contract and any subsequent contract that the successful economic operator(s) comply with all EU and national tax laws. Economic operators are referred to the Irish Revenue web site http://www.revenue.ie. Non-resident economic operators should apply to the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Non-Resident Tax Clearance Unit, Office of the Collector General, Sarsfield House, Francis Street, Limerick, Ireland; e-mail: nonrestaxclearance@revenue.ie.

8.11 Withholding Tax

Relevant payments shall be subject to Irish 'Professional Services Withholding Tax' at the prevailing rate (currently at 20%) as laid down by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland. Non-residents may be able to reclaim such deducted Tax from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, International Claims Section located currently at Government Buildings, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland (Tel: +353-67-63400).

8.12 Irish Legislation and Law

Economic Operators should be aware that national legislation applies in other matters such as Employment, Working Hours, Official Secrets, Data Protection and Health and Safety. Tenderers must have regard to statutory terms relating to minimum pay and to legally binding industrial or sectoral agreements in the Contracting Authority tenders and in delivering contracts awarded to them. The contract(s) awarded on foot of this tender process will be governed by Irish law.

8.13 Dignity at Work

The successful economic operator(s) shall comply with all relevant legislation relating to dignity at work. As a public body and employer, the Contracting Authority is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all personnel.

In line with the Disability Act 2005, accessibility requirements should be clearly stated in request for tenders / quotations where applicable. Under Section 27 of the Act the Contracting Authority is required to ensure that both the goods supplied, and services provided to it are accessible to persons with disabilities.

8.14 Interference and Inducement to Purchase

Any effort by the economic operator to unduly influence the Contracting Authority, relevant agency personnel or any other relevant persons or bodies in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of quotations and in decisions concerning the Award of Contract shall have their quotation rejected. The presumptions (including as to any gift, consideration or advantage) and other provisions under the Criminal Justice Act 2018, and all other measures for the time being governing the subject-matter in any applicable jurisdiction, shall be applicable.

8.15 Notification of Evaluations

All parties will be informed of the outcome of their proposals following evaluation and any necessary clarifications. All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the tender process.

8.16 Replacement Personnel

Notification must be sent in writing (by post or electronic means) as soon as possible to the Contracting Authority on any proposed change of nominated personnel, such change to be subject to the written approval of the Contracting Authority. Replacement personnel must be of equal or better standing that the existing personnel in terms of qualifications and experience.

8.17 Copyright

The Contracting Authority will have copyright ownership of any material developed for use by the Contracting Authority under the terms of this quotation. The successful tenderer may have a non-exclusive licence to use such material but only for its own purposes (subject to agreement).

8.18 Brand Names, etc.

Please note in relation to this tender document; where reference is made to a particular make, source, process, trademark, type or patent, that this is not to be regarded as a de facto requirement. In all such cases it should be understood that the reference in question is accompanied by the words "or equivalent".

8.19 Responsibility of Successful Party

As a condition of award, it shall be the successful tenderer's sole responsibility to ensure they have taken account of all obligations under the Contract including supply chain and related risk factors.