

## Clarification Response 01

**RFT Reference: CFT 8782653 PAS139F - PROJ000010002**

**Issue Date: 13th August 2026**

**RFT Name: Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Procurement Support Services (Goods and Services)**

### Important Notice to Tenderers

The clarifications contained in this notice form part of the Request for Tender documentation and must be read in conjunction with the RFT and any previously issued clarification notices.

Where a clarification amends, supplements or otherwise affects the procurement documentation, tenderers should take account of the clarification when preparing and submitting their tenders.

All other requirements of the RFT remain unchanged, unless stated otherwise.

| Message Ref No: | Question                                                                                                                                           | OGP Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>754873</b>   | 1. Please publish the report of the stakeholder consultation undertaken by the OGP to inform its procurement strategy for this tender competition. | The Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC) with clients and suppliers informed the documentation and approach for this Framework. The Office of Government Procurement does not intend to publish individual consultation responses or commercially sensitive information. |
|                 | 2. A core objective of the OGP's National Procurement Strategy (August 2026) is simplification. As many of Ireland's                               | The following is stated on page 36 of the RFT:<br><br><i>'The Tenderer need not employ a separate permanent person at each grade but must demonstrate access to all four grades, be capable of providing each grade</i>                                                   |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>procurement professionals are owner/managers, sole traders and/or small business, the construct of the Framework is arguably anything but simple. Will the OGP re-consider some of the more disproportionate requirements, for example the requirement to have a minimum of four resources across four grades? This requirement discriminates against small businesses.</p> | <p><i>and enter a genuine deliverable rate, taking account of any delivery partner relied upon.'</i></p> <p>Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tenderer does not need to have four separate, permanently employed individuals, one for each required grade.</li> <li>• However, the tenderer must demonstrate that it has access to personnel at all four grades and can supply resources at each grade should it be required by a Framework Client in their SRFT.</li> <li>• The tenderer must submit a realistic and genuine rate for each grade in its tender response.</li> <li>• Where the tenderer intends to rely on an associate to provide any of the grades, the proposed rates should take that arrangement into account and reflect the actual cost of delivery.</li> </ul> |
|  | <p>3. The RFT states (page 51) that Framework Members are not required to operate a four-tier organisational structure or actually employ a separate permanent individual at each grade. Why then is the OGP insisting that tenderers price for grades they do not employ or may not employ?</p>                                                                               | <p>The four Functional Profiles provide a standard basis for tender evaluation and Framework pricing. Framework Members are not required to operate a four-tier organisational structure or employ a separate permanent individual at each Grade. However, the Tenderer must demonstrate access to the capability required for each Functional Profile and submit a genuine deliverable rate for each profile. The RFT does not require four permanent employees or the continuous reservation of a separate individual at each grade. The resources required for a particular assignment will be determined through the relevant SRFT.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | <p>4. Under TRD A10.1 tenderers are required on a Pass/Fail basis to list the resources they will have as a Framework Member. What are the consequences if a tenderer enters a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Tenderers must provide accurate information during the Framework formation stage. Misleading information will be dealt with in accordance with the RFT. The OGP/Contracting Authority may seek clarification, supporting evidence and confirmation of the availability of resources or entities relied upon, in accordance with the RFT.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|  |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | resource that they know will not be available to them should they be appointed a Framework Member? How will the OGP verify compliance?                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | 5. Are advices on below EU threshold open and restricted procedures in scope?                                                                             | Where a Framework Client requests such advice as part of an SRFT, such advice may be provided only to the extent that it is within the scope of the Framework.                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | 6. Are advices in relation to Corporate Procurement Plans, ad hoc advices, procurement strategy, help desk support and general information out of scope?  | Where a Framework Client requests such advice as part of an SRFT, such advice may be provided only to the extent that it is within the scope of the Framework.                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | 7. Are advices in relation to OGP central arrangements (that use the open procedure) out of scope?                                                        | Where a Framework Client requests such advice as part of an SRFT, such advice may be provided only to the extent that it is within the scope of the Framework.                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | 8. What residual scope of work remains within DPS (Procurement) Categories 1, 2 and 4?                                                                    | The Framework covers support for defined Open or Restricted procurements as described in the RFT. Framework Clients must assess whether their specific requirements fall within PAS139F or another available procurement arrangement<br>The future scope or operation of the existing DPS categories is not determined by this RFT. |
|  | 9. Please confirm that tenderers may price for the four functions but are not required to have these resources either as employees or as sub-contractors? | Tenderers are not required to have these resources employed at each grade. They must demonstrate access to the required capability through the delivery and reliance arrangements permitted by the RFT and must be able to provide the Services for which they tender.                                                              |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | 10. Do sole traders (who are not legal entities) have to sign the ESPD?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes, a sole trader is regarded as an economic operator. If your capacity relies on the support of a sole trader, they must complete and submit a separate eESPD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | 11. Why is the OGP requiring Framework Clients to prescribe in the SRFT the grade(s) required to provide procurement support? This at odds with the OGP's Guidance on the writing technical specifications where defining outputs is recommended. Best practice is that tenderers decide how a solution should be delivered and this includes allocating the most appropriate blend of resources. For example, if a Level 4 resource can deliver a task in two hours that would take a Level 1 resource ten hours, should the Framework Member not be the best judge of the proposed resource allocation? | Framework Clients are not required to prescribe a fixed grade mix in every SRFT. As the decision-makers and budget holders for their mini-competitions, they may identify required grades or require Framework Members to propose a proportionate grade mix. For fixed-price requirements, Framework Members may propose their resource and grade mix, subject to the SRFT and Framework pricing requirements.<br>This is at their discretion. |
|  | 12. What is meant by 'partners' (TRD A page 27)? Do partners include sole traders?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | "Partner" is an example of a title that may correspond to the Level 4 Functional Profile. It does not require a particular legal form or organisational structure. A sole trader may demonstrate the Level 4 capability where the applicable Functional Profile requirements are met                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | 13. Do the Foreign Subsidies Regulations apply to this tender competition? Why is appendix 3A included in the RFT when TRD A does not mention the declarations?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Each Tenderer is responsible for determining if the Foreign Subsidies Regulation applies to its circumstances. Clause 2.1.6 and Appendix 3A state that the notification or declaration requirements apply where the applicable thresholds are met.                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Appendix 3A is included to provide the applicable notification or declaration information where the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 are engaged.</p> <p>Tenderers should obtain their own legal advice where necessary.</p>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  | <p>14. Why was crime insurance included? This is not a requirement under many other frameworks and is not mentioned in Circular 05/2023. Another disproportionate requirement.</p>                                                            | <p>Crime insurance was included following advice from the State Claims Agency. It is intended to address potential losses arising from risks such as fraud, employee dishonesty, payment scams and computer fraud, and to support continuity of service.</p> <p>Under clause 2.21.1, the relevant Framework Client will specify the types and levels of insurance required for its Services Contract in the SRFT.</p> |
|  | <p>15. As the ESPD covers exclusion criteria why is the Declaration of Personal Circumstances required? It also covers the same exclusion criteria.</p>                                                                                       | <p>The eESPD is required as a standard item for this procurement. The Declaration of Personal Circumstances provides supporting evidence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <p>16. Many other frameworks are based on a 7.5 working day. Why is a working day defined as an eight hour day?</p>                                                                                                                           | <p>The eight hour day provides a standardised basis for calculating the hourly and daily rates. It applies consistently to all tenderers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <p>17. As many Framework Clients will be located at great distances from Framework Members, will you allow prior approval of travel and subsistence at civil services rates? As drafted the quoted costs are inclusive of these expenses.</p> | <p>No, Framework rates and fixed prices must be all inclusive. Framework members should take this into consideration when submitting their rates and responding to Mini competitions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | <p>18. Is the OGP considering new central arrangements for advices covered by the current DPS arrangements and if so when might these tenders be published?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>This competition concerns PAS139F only. The timing or scope of any other future procurement competition is outside this competition.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>755376</b></p> | <p>Query 1: Relevant experience: inconsistencies between the RFT and TRD Part A</p> <p>(a) Reference period. RFT Part 3, paragraph 3.2.B.1 states that each contract reference must “have been completed within the previous three years”. TRD Part A, section A9, states that the three contract examples must have been “completed or substantially performed during the five years preceding the Tender Deadline”. Please confirm which period applies for the purposes of the relevant-experience selection criterion.</p> <p>(b) Minimum value of procurement support services. RFT paragraph 3.2.B.1 and the body of TRD Part A, section A9, both state a minimum procurement support services value of €50,000 excluding VAT. However, the contents page heading of TRD Part A (page 2 of TRD Part A A9.1 Contract Example 1) refers to a “minimum comparable services value €100,000 ex. VAT”. Our assumption is</p> | <p>a) The applicable reference period is the five years preceding the Tender Deadline. The RFT and TRD Part A are amended accordingly by the <b>Addendum published on 13/08/2026</b>. References may relate to services completed or substantially performed during that period.</p> <p>b) The reference to €100,000 excluding VAT in the TRD Part A contents page is incorrect and is corrected by the <b>Addendum published on 13/08/2026</b>. Under the amended criterion, at least one of the three references must demonstrate procurement support services with a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT. The other two references are not individually subject to the €50,000 minimum.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | that this is simply a typographical error. Please confirm the minimum value of procurement support services that applies to each of the three contract references, is €50,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <p>Query 2: Acceptability of a Competitive Dialogue procedure</p> <p>The relevant experience criterion at paragraph 3.2.B.1 requires one contract reference relating to an Open procedure and one relating to a Restricted procedure. Please confirm whether a contract reference relating to a Competitive Dialogue procedure would be accepted as an alternative to a Restricted procedure refer</p> | No. A Competitive Dialogue reference will not satisfy the requirement for an Open or Restricted Procedure. The three references must collectively demonstrate one Open Procedure, one Restricted Procedure and one further Open or Restricted Procedure.                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p>Query 3: Use of the same client across contract references</p> <p>Please confirm that the same client/public body may be cited in more than one of the three contract references required under paragraph 3.2.B.1, provided each reference relates to a separate and distinct project and each reference independently satisfies all requirements of the criterion.</p>                             | Yes, the same client may be used for more than one reference, provided that the projects completed for that client within the last five (5) years demonstrate either the Open and Restricted procurement procedures as requested under Paragraph 3.2.B.1. The same services or procedures must not be counted more than once. The three references must collectively satisfy the amended criterion. |
|  | Query 4: €50,000 minimum: awarded value versus value delivered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The €50,000 minimum applies to <b>the value of procurement support services provided</b> under the qualifying reference or during the clearly defined reference period. An awarded, maximum or potential contract value is not sufficient where                                                                                                                                                     |

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | Where a Tenderer has been awarded a procurement support services contract with a value of €50,000 or more (excluding VAT), but the value of services actually delivered to date (i.e. invoices issued) has not yet reached €50,000, please confirm that this is acceptable for the purpose of meeting the €50,000 de minimis applying to the value of the procurement support services under paragraph 3.2.B.1.        | procurement support services to that value have not been provided. The reference may relate to services completed or substantially performed within the five-year reference period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>755693</b> | Section A9 requires that each contract example demonstrates procurement support services with a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT. Could the Contracting Authority confirm whether this threshold refers to: (a) the fee charged by the tenderer for procurement support services on the specific contract being cited; or (b) the estimated value of the public contract being procured through that procedure? | The €50,000 threshold refers to the value, excluding VAT, of the procurement support services actually provided under the cited contract or assignment. It does not refer to the estimated value of the goods or services being procured. A reference contract may comprise a single procurement assignment or a clearly defined period of operational procurement support delivered during the term of a contract, provided the services relied upon are aligned with the scope of the Framework and can be verified. |
| <b>758482</b> | Request: We respectfully request that the Contracting Authority:<br>a. confirm the basis and assumptions on which the €50,000 minimum contract value has been set; and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The OGP has reviewed the relevant-experience requirement. The criterion is amended so that only one of the three references must demonstrate procurement support services with a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT.<br><br>The remaining two references must demonstrate relevant and comparable operational procurement-support experience but are not individually subject to that monetary minimum. A reference may relate to a single procurement                                                            |



|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | <p>b. revise that minimum to a level consistent with the realistic value of procurement support services generated by a single Open or Restricted procedure of the type contemplated by this RFT;</p> <p>or, in the alternative, remove the fixed monetary floor and assess the relevance of each reference on the qualitative comparability basis already set out at clause 3.2.B.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>assignment or a clearly defined period of support during the term of a contract. The three references must collectively demonstrate one Open Procedure, one Restricted Procedure and one further Open or Restricted Procedure. The applicable reference period is five years preceding the Tender Deadline. The amendments are set out in the <b>Addendum published on 13/08/2026</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>759296</b> | <p>The Selection Criterion at section 3.2.B.1 requires one contract reference relating to a Restricted Procedure. Tenderers may have extensive experience of other procedures conducted under Directive 2014/24/EU which involve substantially equivalent or more complex multi-stage procurement processes, including the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation, the establishment of Dynamic Purchasing Systems and Framework Agreements, and subsequent competitions involving an initial qualification/selection stage followed by a tender stage. Please confirm whether experience of such multi-stage procedures may be submitted as evidence of relevant experience for the Restricted Procedure requirement where the tenderer can demonstrate that the assignment involved comparable two-stage selection/tender processes and all of the procurement-support</p> | <p>The three references must collectively demonstrate:</p> <p>one Open Procedure<br/>one Restricted Procedure and<br/>one further Open or Restricted Procedure.</p> <p>A Competitive Dialogue, Competitive Procedure with Negotiation, Dynamic Purchasing System, Framework Agreement or subsequent competition will not satisfy the mandatory Restricted Procedure requirement.</p> <p>The requirement reflects the scope of PAS139F, which is limited to operational procurement support for Open and Restricted Procedures.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>activities required under section 3.2.B.1. Specifically, within e-tenders, the workflow functionality for multi-stage procedures is identical as you move from stage to stage. While there may be more than one stage in more procedures, it will, at a minimum have an initial qualifying stage and at least one award criteria stage. Therefore, we believe that competitive dialogue procedures or competitive procedures with negotiation provide an equivalent demonstration of capability to that which is outlined in the specification of requirements for the services to be provided as part of the tender. If not, please clarify the rationale for limiting the relevant experience criterion specifically to the Restricted Procedure rather than accepting comparable multi-stage procedures conducted in accordance with Directive 2014/24/EU.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <p>Section 3.2.B.1 requires each of the three contract references to have a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT for the procurement support services provided, rather than referring to the value of the public contract which was the subject of the procurement. Procurement consultancy assignments involving above-threshold public</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>The Contracting Authority has reviewed the requirement.</p> <p>Under <b>Addendum published on 13/08/2026</b>, only <b>one of the three references</b> must demonstrate procurement support services with a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT.</p> <p>The other two references are not individually subject to the €50,000 minimum but must satisfy the remaining relevant-experience requirements.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>contracts can involve the full procurement lifecycle and significant complexity while the professional fees for an individual procurement exercise remain below €50,000. Please confirm whether the Contracting Authority will consider amending this requirement so that the €50,000 threshold relates to the value of the underlying public contract being procured, or alternatively removing/reducing the minimum consultancy-fee threshold, provided that the reference demonstrates the required scope, complexity and full range of procurement-support activities. In particular, please confirm whether an assignment relating to an above-EU-threshold public contract, which demonstrates all of the required stages and comparable complexity but where procurement-support fees were below €50,000 excluding VAT, will be accepted.</p> | <p>The €50,000 threshold relates to the value of the procurement support services provided. It does not relate to the estimated value of the goods or services being procured.</p> <p>A contract involving procurement-support fees below €50,000 may therefore be submitted as one of the other two references.</p> |
|  | <p>Section 3.2.B.1 of the RFT states that each contract reference must have been completed within the previous three years, whereas section A9 of TRD Part A refers to contract examples completed or substantially performed during the five years preceding the Tender Deadline. Please confirm the applicable reference period</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The applicable reference period is the five years preceding the Tender Deadline.</p> <p>The services relied upon must have been completed or substantially performed during that period.</p> <p>RFT paragraph 3.2.B.1 and TRD Part A, section A9, are amended accordingly by Addendum</p>                         |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Paragraph 2.21.1 identifies Crime Insurance of €100,000 including cover for social engineering and third-party theft, together with a separate Cyber Insurance/data protection liability requirement. Please confirm whether the Crime Insurance requirement may be satisfied through equivalent cover contained within another insurance policy (for example a Cyber/Technology policy), provided that the policy provides at least €100,000 cover for the specified crime risks including social engineering and third-party theft, rather than requiring a separately titled Crime Insurance policy</p>                             | <p>Crime Insurance was included following advice from the State Claims Agency. Under clause 2.21.1, the relevant Framework Client will specify in the SRFT the types and levels of insurance required for its Services Contract. Tenderers must demonstrate compliance with the insurance requirements specified in the relevant SRFT.</p>                                                                |
|  | <p>Section 3.2.B.1 provides that where a Tenderer relies on the experience of a consortium member, subcontractor or other entity, that entity must perform the part of the Services for which its experience is relied upon. The mandatory contract references each require the relevant entity to demonstrate experience across all six stages of an end-to-end procurement process. In the case of a consortium or joint tender, different consortium members may therefore contribute different qualifying contract references (for example, one member may provide the qualifying Open Procedure reference and another member the</p> | <p>The three references may be provided by different consortium members, subcontractors or other entities whose experience is relied upon. The references must collectively satisfy the amended A9 requirements. Where the Tenderer relies on the experience of another entity, that entity must perform the part of the Services for which its experience is relied upon, in accordance with the RFT</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>qualifying Restricted Procedure reference), notwithstanding that both members will participate in delivery of procurement support services under the Framework. This is an unusually restrictive approach that will have an impact on SMEs and other bodies including larger entities seeking to work with more specialised entities from collaborating. The aim of consortiums is to provide competition which is to the buyer's benefit. This will prevent any reactive consortiums from being able to respond to this tender. It is difficult to reconcile this with circular 05/23 and stated government goals for SME participation in public procurement</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  | <p>Please outline the rationale for how the selection criteria have been set. Under circular 05/23, there is a requirement to facilitate SME participation in public procurement. The setting of the threshold at €50,000 for a single tender process is significantly at odds with the value of most tender competitions supported by procurement consultants in the market in Ireland. We ask that the OGP considers moving the threshold to contracts with total fee values for procurement support services in excess of €50,000 which would facilitate greater</p>                                                                                               | <p>The OGP have reviewed the relevant-experience requirement.</p> <p>Addendum published 13/08/2026 provides that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the reference period is five years</li> <li>• only one reference must meet the €50,000 procurement-support-services threshold</li> <li>• the other two references are not individually subject to that threshold</li> <li>• the required lifecycle activities may be demonstrated collectively across the three references</li> <li>• references may be provided by permitted consortium members, Subcontractors or other entities relied upon and</li> </ul> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>participation and competition for the contracting authorities that use this framework. Further to our previous clarification, we would ask that you allow multi-stage procedures delivered in the course of a longer term contract to demonstrate capability of managing open and multi-stage procedures.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reference may relate to a single assignment or a defined period of operational procurement support during the term of a contract</li> </ul> <p>A reference may relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a single procurement project or assignment or</li> <li>• a defined period of operational procurement support provided during the term of a contract.</li> </ul> <p>A defined period may include more than one procurement assignment or procedure.</p> <p>The Tenderer must clearly identify the period, procedures, services, responsibilities, outputs and value relied upon.</p> <p>Only Open and Restricted Procedures will satisfy the mandatory procedure requirements.</p>                                  |
|  | <p>Can you review the selection criteria when set against the core service requirements. The service requirements are clearly focused on support functions and operational procurement assistance. This includes documentation preparation, e-tenders support and the other operational activities listed. There is an apparent inconsistency between seeking such high fee values from a single open or restricted process and the services outlined in the tender which focus on efficiency and being able to support operational requirements from a volume</p> | <p>Each PAS139F mini-competition and resulting Services Contract must have an estimated total value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT, calculated in accordance with the <b>Addendum published on 13/08/2026</b>.</p> <p>The three references must collectively demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one Open Procedure</li> <li>• one Restricted Procedure</li> <li>• one further Open or Restricted Procedure and</li> <li>• the lifecycle activities specified in the amended A9 criterion.</li> </ul> <p>At least one reference must demonstrate procurement support services provided with a value of at least €50,000 excluding VAT. This provides evidence of previous delivery at the minimum scale applicable to Services Contracts under PAS139F.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>perspective. References that can provide evidence of the operational capability to support the services described are being excluded at present because the references are linked to a single tender process.</p> | <p>Other than the €50,000 minimum applying to one reference, relevance and comparability will be assessed against the Services set out in the Requirements and Specification, having regard to the nature and scope of the work, the procedures supported, the responsibilities undertaken, the complexity of the requirement and the outputs delivered.</p> <p>The amended requirements are set out in Addendum published on the 13/08/2023 and the revised TRD Part A, section A9</p> |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|