

Request for Quotes
for the sale of
the National Concert Hall's existing Kenneth Jones
Organ.

07/10/2026

Part A: Instructions:

1. The National Concert Hall, (“**NCH**”) seeks quotes for the sale and removal of the NCH’s existing organ, together with a proposal for its conservation/restoration and rehousing in a suitable alternative public venue (the “**Transaction**”). The 1989 organ is a carefully crafted musical instrument by Kenneth Jones, a native Irish organ builder. A key requirement is that any proposal retains the organ’s integrity and character and that the venue proposed for its rehousing will allow the essential qualities of the instrument to be enjoyed by others for many years to come. A Requirements document is set out in Part D of this Request for Quotes (“**RFQ**”).
2. This RFQ has been prepared for the purposes of providing information to parties interested in providing quotes to the NCH (“**Interested Party(ies)**”).
3. The NCH is Ireland’s national cultural institution for music. The NCH is home to the National Symphony Orchestra Ireland (NSOI), the National Symphony Chorus Ireland (NSCI), as well as providing residence for a range of other music organisations including Chamber Choir Ireland, Irish Baroque Orchestra, Music Network, Crash Ensemble and Music Generation. The NCH is a statutory body established under the National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) Act 2015 (the “**NCH Act**”).
4. Interested Parties should read this RFQ thoroughly. While all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the information set out in the RFQ 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 RFQ or otherwise provided by or on behalf of the NCH (in writing or otherwise) to any Interested Party or its advisers.
5. You are now invited to consider this RFQ and respond with a formal, completed Quote Document (“**QD**”).
6. The successful Party agrees to execute and comply with a contract for sale to be entered into between the parties for the sale of the organ. A draft of the contract for sale will be provided to the Interested Parties in due course.
7. Any queries in relation to this RFQ and any of the requirements specified herein must be directed to the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie no later than **12.00 pm noon (Irish Time) on Friday, 30th October 2026**. All responses to queries will be issued via the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie. Where appropriate, queries may be

amalgamated and responses shared with all Interested Parties via the eTenders platform. Questions or requests received after this date may not receive a response.

8. Your response should be submitted via the ‘electronic tenderbox’ available on www.etenders.gov.ie by **12pm noon (Irish Time) on Friday, 27th November 2026**. Only response submitted via this means will be accepted. The NCH may, in its absolute discretion, decide to reject any response submitted via any other means (including but not limited to: email, post or fax). Interested Parties must ensure they give themselves sufficient time to upload and submit all required documentation before the deadline and should take into account that upload speeds vary.
9. The NCH reserves the right to seek written clarifications from any or all Interested Parties to supplement, clarify or complete their quote. The NCH reserves the right not to consider (acting in its absolute discretion) late or incomplete documents not conforming to the requirements of this RFQ.
10. For the avoidance of doubt, this Transaction is not subject to the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (SI284/2016) (the “**Regulations**”).
11. The quote submitted in response to this RFQ is final and cannot be increased. All quotes in response to this RFQ must be all-inclusive (including cost of removal as detailed in Part D) and in Euro Currency (€), clearly stating that the price is exclusive of VAT.
12. Subject to Paragraph 14 below, the NCH proposes to accept the successful quote on the basis of the most economically advantageous quote received being deemed the “**Successful Party**”. An outline of how the marks will be awarded to identify the Successful Party is provided in **PART C: AWARD CRITERIA** of this RFQ.
13. This RFQ supersedes and replaces any and all previous documentation, communications and correspondence between the NCH and Interested Parties, and Interested Parties should place no reliance on such previous documentation and correspondence.
14. This RFQ contains no contractual offer. The NCH does not bind itself to accept any quote. All quotes will be regarded as offers by the Interested Parties, not as acceptance by the NCH. There will be no contractual relationship between the parties except pursuant to a duly signed contract for sale.
15. Interested Parties are advised that the NCH is subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts of 2014. If an Interested Party considers that any of the information supplied in their quote response is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases the relevant material will, in response to a request under the FOI Act, be examined in the light of the exceptions provided for in the Act.

16. All documentation, data, statistics, drawings, information, patterns, samples or materials disclosed or furnished by the NCH to Interested Parties:
 - Are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this RFQ only;
 - May not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written consent of the NCH;
 - Shall be treated as confidential by the Interested Party and by any third parties (including subcontractors) engaged or consulted by the Interested Party; and
 - Must be returned immediately to the NCH upon cancellation or completion of this Transaction if so requested by the NCH.
17. All costs and expenses incurred by Interested Parties relating to their provision of a quote shall be borne by and are a matter for discharge by the Interested Parties exclusively.
18. No publicity regarding this RFQ and any subsequent Transaction is permitted unless and until the NCH has given its prior written consent to the relevant communication.
19. Any actual or potential conflict of interest, whether personal, professional or commercial must be fully disclosed in writing to the NCH. In the event of an actual or potential conflict of interest, the NCH will, in its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may include the exclusion of the Interested Party from consideration.
20. Any Registrable Interest involving any Interested Party and the NCH, members of the Government, members of the Oireachtas, or employees and officers of the NCH and their relatives must be fully disclosed in the quote or, in the event of this information only coming to the notice of the Interested Party after the submission of a quote, must be communicated to the NCH immediately upon such information becoming known to the Interested Party.
21. The terms “Registrable Interest” and “Relative” shall be interpreted as per Section 2 of the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001, copies of which are available at www.irishstatutebook.gov.ie. The NCH will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action.
22. “**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 Office of the Data Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland from time to time. The NCH will be a Data Controller (where Data 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 Interested Party in response to this RFQ. The successful Party, as Data Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided

by it in its QD, confirms by submitting a valid QD for this RFQ, that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Interested Party have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Interested Party, and the NCH, for the purposes of submitting a quote or that the Interested Party otherwise has a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the NCH for the purposes of submitting a quote.

23. Interested Parties must complete all required fields in the Pricing Schedule section of the QD in accordance with specific instructions provided.
24. Quotes must be submitted in English and in soft copy such that they can be read immediately using pdf. The NCH is not responsible for corruption in electronic documents. Interested Parties must ensure electronic documents are not corrupt.
25. Any and all taxes applicable to the Transaction will be the sole responsibility of the Successful Party and the Interested Parties so acknowledges and confirms.

Part B: Requirements:

The successful Party shall be required to demonstrate to the NCH that it shall hold insurances of the type and to the level specified as follows during the period of the removal of the organ from the premises of the NCH:

Type of Insurance	Indemnity Limit
Employer's Liability	€13m limit for any one claim or series of claims arising out of a single occurrence
Public Liability	€6.5m limit for any one claim or series of claims arising out of a single occurrence

1. Interested Parties are asked to provide, as part of their quote written confirmation that they hold or will hold, if successful, the above types and levels of insurance. A formal confirmation from the Interested Parties' insurance company or broker to this effect will be requested from the successful Party prior to the Transaction.
2. Prior to the Transaction, the Successful Party may be required to supply its Tax Clearance Access Number and Tax Reference Number to facilitate online verification of their tax status by the NCH. By supplying these numbers, the Successful Party acknowledges and agrees that the NCH has the permission of the Successful Party to verify its tax cleared position online. Interested Parties must provide the supporting documentation specified above without delay when requested by the NCH.

3. Demonstrate your Organisation has the economic and financial standing required to submit your quote (for example, by way of a bankers letter or evidence of turnover/financial accounts for the last 3 years).
4. Compliance by the Interested Parties with the above requirements will be verified. Any Interested Parties that does not meet the minimum requirements will be excluded from further consideration.

Part C: Criteria:

1. Criteria:

Any Transaction entered into as a result of this RFQ will be on the basis of the most economically advantageous quote received being deemed the Successful Party. If for any reason it is not possible to enter into a Transaction with the top scoring party following the conclusion of this process, the NCH reserves the right to invite the next highest scoring Interested Party. This shall be without prejudice to the right of the NCH to cancel this process.

The Transaction will be conditional upon the Successful Party agreeing to the contract for sale to be provided by the NCH.

Marks will be awarded according to the criteria outlined in the following tables.

No.	CRITERIA	WEIGHTING RANGE	Marks
	QUALITY	90%	90
01	Demonstrate the suitability and quality of the proposed future location of the organ to optimise the appearance and sound of the organ.	45%	45
02	Demonstrate accessibility to the public (proposed frequency of concerts/religious services/recitals (as appropriate) of the proposed future location of the organ.	10%	10
03	Appoint a Reputable organ consultant /expert/advisor (brief CV to be provided).	5%	5
04	Demonstrate, with suitable supporting evidence, the recipient has adequate financial resources to: • Pay the purchase price proposed for the organ; • Cover the cost of carefully dismantling and removing the organ; packing and transporting it to a suitable organ Workshop, and eventually to its new location (include an estimate of cost); • Carrying out all necessary restoration, repair, replacement of parts (as applicable) to return the organ to its optimal operational and aesthetic condition (include an estimate of cost); • Fitting the organ in the proposed future location (include an estimate of cost); and • Commissioning and voicing of the instrument (include an estimate of cost).	30%	30
	COST		

05	Proposed purchase price payable to the NCH for the organ	10%	10
06	Total:	100%	100

2. Scoring Methodology:

2.1 Interested Parties will be marked out of a total of 100 marks which will be allocated by criteria as shown in the table above.

2.2 For the purposes of determining marks scored for responses to the non-cost criteria above which will be based on an assessment of the information provided by the Interested Parties in their completed QRD; the following weightings will apply with their according scoring methodologies:

Weightings	Meanings
91% to 100%	Excellent response providing comprehensive and convincing assurance that the Interested Party will fulfil the requirements to an excellent standard.
80% to 90%	A very good response which demonstrates real understanding and assurance that the Interested Party will fulfil the requirements to a good or high standard.
60% to 79%	A satisfactory response which demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the requirements and gives reasonable assurance of fulfilment of the requirements to an adequate standard.
30% to 59%	A response where reservations exist. Lacks full credibility/convincing detail.
1% to 29%	A response where serious reservations exist.
0%	No Response or response completely fails to address the requirements under consideration.

3 Price:

3.1 The highest purchase price offered shall be awarded the maximum marks available under the cost criterion and the marks of all other prices offered under this criterion shall be calculated using the following formula.

Price Score	=	$\frac{\text{Price under consideration}}{\text{Highest price offered}} \times \frac{\text{Maximum Number of Marks Available}}{1}$
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4 Tie Break:

4.1 Where the evaluation results in a tie between two or more quotes, then the following process will be followed to determine the ranking and the Successful Party:

4.1.1 The Interested Party with the highest overall 'Qualitative' score (total of marks awarded under the non-cost criteria above) shall be deemed the most economically advantageous quote.

Part D: Requirements & Brief:

1. Description of the NCH

The NCH site at Earlsfort Terrace dates from 1865, when it was built to host the Great Exhibition. After becoming a University, it was the stage for significant events surrounding the War of Independence, including the Dáil Éireann debates on ratification of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1922, which took place in the College Council Chamber, now the Kevin Barry Recital Room.

In 1970, when the University predominately moved to a new campus off-site, it was proposed that the Great Hall of the Earlsfort Terrace site be used to accommodate the National Concert Hall. Following conversion by the Office of Public Works, the long-standing dream of Irish music lovers was realised when President Hillery opened An Ceoláras Náisiúnta on the 9th of September in 1981.

It remains one of the nation's finest cultural assets occupying a historic landmark building in the centre of Dublin.

Since opening, the NCH has played host to an astonishing variety of artists in every genre, from around the globe. As well as being home to the National Symphony Orchestra Ireland, (NSOI) audiences have enjoyed performances of every type of music produced in Ireland, from classical to country, from sean-nós to rap.

2. Redevelopment of the National Concert Hall

The proposal for the redevelopment of the National Concert Hall Complex has received Planning Permission. The first phase of development, consisting of the conversion of the former Pathology building of University College Dublin (UCD) into a dedicated Learning & Participation facility, to be known as the Discover Centre, commenced construction in January 2026 and is scheduled for completion in Q2, 2027. The main project is scheduled to commence construction in Q1, 2028. As part of this redevelopment the existing auditorium will undergo a complete renovation including the design and installation of a new pipe organ. It is intended therefore to arrange for the sale of the organ and its re-housing in a suitable alternative location. The indicative dates

below set out the expected timeframes during which the Successful Party can arrange for the removal of the organ. Such dates are indicative only and subject to change.

3. Indicative Project Timeline:

- Receipt of Quotes for purchase of organ: 27/11/2026
- Carrying out of review of quotes and identification of Successful Party: 30/11/2026 – 08/01/2027
- Approval to enter contract for sale from NCH Capital Development Committee; NCH Board; and Project Steering Group (Made up of NCH, Office of Public Works (OPW), Dept. of Culture, Communications & Sport: 11/01/2027 – 19/02/2027
- Contract for sale finalisation and Contract for sale signing: 22/02/2027 – 12/03/2027

The dates following are provisional and are dependant on receipt of acceptable tenders for the main redevelopment project, and receipt of Government approval to award the Main Contract:

- Earliest date for removal of organ* (4 weeks allowed): 01/11/2027 – 25/11/2027.
 - Latest date for removal of organ* (4 weeks allowed): 29/05/2028 – 23/06/2028.
 - Organ installation completed in new venue: 28/06/2030
- (*These dates are provisional and will be set by NCH)

The above dates are indicative and subject to change.

4. The Brief:

The central aim of the NCH is to secure the long-term future of the Kenneth Jones organ currently in the Main Auditorium of the NCH. As is be noted from the Criteria above, the suitability of the organisation submitting a quote; the suitability of their venue to receive the organ and their ability to demonstrate that they have the necessary financial resources to remove the organ from the NCH, together represent 90% of the marks available, while the purchase price represents the remaining 10%. In assessing the price an Interested Party is prepared to offer, they should carefully consider that they will bear full responsibility for costs associated with the removal and re-housing of the organ and they will be solely responsible for and liable from inception to completion of the organ installation in their own venue including, but not exclusively, the following:

- (a) The dismantling of and removal of the existing organ, including the provision of all requisite scaffolding, hoists, packing of components into suitable crates for transport, and leaving the rear wall of the NCH with temporary weather protection. All work to be carried out in compliance with all applicable Health & Safety Regulations and with appropriate insurance cover.
- (b) Transportation of the organ components to a suitable Workshop; assessing the condition of all elements of the organ; carrying out all necessary restoration and/or replacement of parts if not capable of restoration. Design and build any additional elements for the instrument and/or its casework if required to render it suitable for installation in the receiving venue.

- (c) Storing the organ in a climate-controlled environment until the receiving venue is ready to install it (If applicable).
- (d) Appointing a specialist contractor/ organ builder to install the organ in the receiving venue. Arrange for the installation of the organ to be carried out in a dust-free environment, with no other building or maintenance works in progress at the same time (Any required works to be carried out and completed prior to the installation of the organ).
- (e) Commissioning the organ and carry out voicing.
- (f) And other matters associated with the re-housing of the organ as the Successful Party deems necessary.

5. Information provided:

- (a) A visit to the NCH main auditorium, including access to the organ chamber and an opportunity to play the instrument, will be facilitated by the NCH. Available dates will be circulated to those registering their interest.
- (b) Interested Parties will be deemed to have visited the NCH and to have taken into account: access; the organ; plant & equipment needed for the removal; loading and transport.
- (c) An Information Pack on the organ have been provided by the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Irish Government's architecture agency, and is attached as Appendix A.

Appendix A: Information Pack on Kenneth Jones organ