Request for Tenders dated 19/11/2026

for the provision of

Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

Tender procedure: Open procedure

Tender Deadline 02/12/2026 12:00

Contents

Part 1:	Introduction
Part 2:	Instructions to Tenderers
Part 3:	Selection and Award Criteria
Appendix 1:	Requirements and Specifications
Appendix 2:	Pricing Schedule
Appendix 3:	Tenderer's Statement
Appendix 4:	Declaration as to Personal Circumstances of Tenderer
Appendix 5:	Services Contract
Appendix 6:	Confidentiality Agreement

Part 1: Introduction

1.1 The National Council for Special Education (the "Contracting Authority") invites tenders ("Tenders") to this request for tenders ("RFT") from economic operators ("Tenderers") for the provision of the services as described in Appendix 1 to this RFT (the "Services").

1.2 In summary, the Services comprise: Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research.

1.3 *Not used*

This public procurement competition will be divided into] lots (each a "Lot") as described below. Each Lot will result in a separate contract.

[Insert description of Lots and any rules / instructions in relation to Lots]

1.4 This public procurement competition (the "Competition") will be conducted in accordance with the open procedure under the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (Statutory Instrument 284 of 2016) (the "Regulations"). Any contract that may result from this Competition (the "Services Contract") will be issued for a term of **12 months** ("the Term").

1.5

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to extend the Term for a period or periods of up to [12 months] with a maximum of 2 such extension or extensions on the same terms and conditions, subject to the Contracting Authority's obligations at law.

1.6 The Contracting Authority estimates that the expenditure on the Services to be covered by the proposed [Services Contract] – may amount to some [100,000.00 (excl. VAT) over the Term and any possible extensions. Tenderers must understand that this figure is an estimate only based on current and future expected usage.

1.7 Contracting Authority policy seeks to encourage participation on a fair and equal basis by Small and Medium Enterprises ("SME"s) in this Competition. SMEs that believe the scope of this Competition is beyond their technical or business capacity are encouraged, subject to paragraph 2.5, to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises. Through such relationships they can participate and contribute to the successful implementation of any Services Contract that may result from this Competition and therefore increase their social and economic benefits.

Larger enterprises are also encouraged, subject to paragraph 2.5, to consider the practical ways that SMEs can be included in their proposals to maximise the social and economic benefits of any Services Contracts that may result from this Competition.

Part 2: Instructions to Tenderers

2.1 IMPORTANT NOTICES

2.1.1 While every effort has been made to provide comprehensive and accurate information in all notices and documents prepared for the purposes of this Competition, the Contracting Authority does not accept any liability or provide any express or implied warranty in respect of any such information. Tenderers must form their own conclusions about the solution needed to meet the requirements set out in this RFT and may wish to consult their legal advisers.

2.1.2 The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced or any Tender.

This RFT does not constitute an offer or commitment to enter into a Services Contract.

No contractual rights in relation to the Contracting Authority will exist unless and until a formal written Services Contract has been executed by or on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

Any notification of preferred bidder status by the Contracting Authority shall not give rise to any enforceable rights by the Tenderer.

The Contracting Authority may cancel this Competition at any time prior to a formal written Services Contract being executed by or on behalf of the Contracting Authority.

The award of a Services Contract does not confer exclusivity on the successful Tenderer.

2.1.3 This RFT supersedes and replaces any and all previous documentation, communications and correspondence between the Contracting Authority and Tenderers, and Tenderers should place no reliance on such previous documentation and correspondence.

2.1.4 In this clause 2.1.4, "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"), 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 Contracting Authority 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 Tenderer in response to this RFT.

The Tenderer, as Data Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided by it in its Tender, is required to confirm in the statement required under paragraph 2.4 below that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Tenderer have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Tenderer, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the etenders.gov.ie website, for the purposes of the participation of the Tenderer in this Competition or that the Tenderer otherwise has a legal basis for

providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of its participation in this Competition.

2.1.5 The Contracting Authority would refer Tenderers in particular to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031 on the access of third country economic operators, goods and services to the Union's public procurement and concession markets and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union economic operators, goods and services to the public procurement and concession markets of third countries (International Procurement Instrument – IPI), and to their obligation to comply therewith.

In particular, tenderers and candidates should note in Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031, the obligations for a Contracting Authority in the context of a procurement procedure where the EU Commission has adopted an IPI measure.

2.1.6 Tenderers are referred to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Foreign Subsidies distorting the Internal Market, in addition to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1441, and their obligation to comply therewith. In particular, tenderers and candidates should note the requirements in Articles 28 and 29 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 relating to the prior notification or declaration of foreign financial contributions, where the estimated value of the public procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the applicable financial thresholds set out therein. In that regard, Tenderers and Candidates are referred to Appendix 3A of the RFT.

2.2 COMPLIANT TENDERS

2.2.1 If a Tenderer fails to comply in any respect with the requirements of this paragraph 2.2.1, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to reject the Tenderer's Tender as non-compliant or, without prejudice to this right and subject to its obligations at law, to take any other action it considers appropriate including but not limited to:

- seeking written clarification from the Tenderer;
- seeking further information from the Tenderer; or
- waiving a requirement, which in the Contracting Authority's view, is non-material or procedural.

Tenderers are required:

(a) To complete and submit with their Tender the electronic version of the European Single Procurement Document ("eESPD"). Tenderers may submit an eESPD which has already been used in a previous procurement procedure PROVIDED THAT they confirm that: (i) the information contained in it continues to be correct and (ii) that they satisfy the Selection Criteria for this Competition as set out at part 3.2 below;

(b). To submit all documentation which this RFT requires to be submitted with their Tender;

(c) To follow the format of this RFT and respond to each element in the order as set out in this RFT;

(d) To conform to and comply with all instructions and requirements set out in this RFT;

(e) To submit the statement required under paragraph 2.4 below; and

(f) Not to alter or edit this RFT in any way.

2.2.2 Without prejudice to the generality of paragraphs 2.2.1, failure to comply with paragraph 2.6.1, 2.6.2 or 2.6.3 below will render the Tender non-compliant and it will be rejected.

2.3 SERVICES CONTRACT

2.3.1 Tenderers should note the terms and conditions of the Services Contract at Appendix 5 to this RFT.

2.3.2 Tenderers are required to confirm their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Services Contract by signing the Tenderer's Statement at Appendix 3. Tenderers may not amend the Services Contract.

2.4 ACCEPTANCE OF RFT REQUIREMENTS

Each Tenderer is required to accept the provisions of this RFT. ALL TENDERERS MUST RETURN, with their Tender, a scanned signed copy of the Tenderer's Statement, as set out in Appendix 3, printed on the Tenderer's letterhead. The Contracting Authority must be able to read the scanned signature of the Tenderer. If possible, please sign documents using blue ink. If the Contracting Authority cannot read the scanned signature, Tenderers may be requested to re-submit. Tenderers may not amend the Tenderer's Statement.

2.5 CONSORTIA AND PRIME / SUBCONTRACTORS

Where a group of undertakings (in whatever form and regardless of the legal relationship between them) come together to submit a Tender in response to this RFT, the Contracting Authority will deal with all matters relating to this Competition through a single nominated entity authorised to represent all members of the group of undertakings. The Tenderer must provide details of all members of the group of undertakings and their role in the Tender and clearly set out the contact details including name, title, telephone number, postal address, facsimile number and e-mail address of the nominated entity authorised to represent the Tenderer and to whom all communications shall be directed and accepted until this Competition has been completed or terminated. Correspondence from any other person will NOT be accepted, acknowledged or responded to.

Prior to and as a condition of award of any Services Contract, the successful Tenderer shall be required to designate a single entity who will carry overall responsibility for the Services Contract (the "Prime Contractor"), irrespective of whether or not tasks are to be performed by a subcontractor or other consortium member (the "Subcontractor").

2.6 TENDER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2.6.1 Tenders must be submitted via the 'electronic tenderbox' available on www.etenders.gov.ie. Only Tenders submitted to the electronic tenderbox will be accepted. Tenders submitted by any other means (including but not limited to: by email, fax, post, hand delivery, etc.) will NOT be accepted.

Tenderers must ensure that they give themselves sufficient time to upload and submit all required tender documentation in their Tender before the Tender Deadline (as defined in paragraph 2.6.2). Tenderers should take into account the fact that upload speeds vary.

Tenderers must note that in the electronic tenderbox, there is a current file size limit of 250MB for each single file uploaded, with a maximum total limit of 2GB for all documentation (combined) in the Tender submitted.

In order to submit a Tender to the electronic tenderbox, Tenderers must ensure that they follow the necessary steps on the eTenders platform to ensure that their tender has been submitted properly, which includes ensuring that the "Submit" button has been clicked. in the event that Tenderers need to modify or change any aspect of their Tender before the Tender Deadline, the Tender in its entirety will need to be re-submitted. Tenderers should be aware that the "Submit" button will be disabled automatically at the Tender Deadline.

2.6.2 Tenders must be received not later than [12.00 pm] on 2nd December 2026 (the "Tender Deadline"). Tenders that are received late WILL NOT be considered in this Competition.

2.6.3 Tenders must be submitted in English.

2.6.4 Subject to paragraph 2.14 and 2.18, each Tenderer is limited to submitting one Tender in its own capacity and one Tender as part of a consortium/group of undertakings under this RFT .

2.6.5 All Tenders submitted in soft copy must be compiled such that they can be read immediately using PDF or Microsoft Word document. The Contracting Authority is not responsible for corruption in electronic documents. Tenderers must ensure electronic documents are not corrupt.

2.7 QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS

2.7.1 All queries relating to any aspect of this Competition or of this RFT must be directed to the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie. Queries will be accepted no later than 10am on 26th November unless otherwise published by the Contracting Authority. For the avoidance of doubt, Tenderers may not contact the Contracting Authority directly regarding any aspect of this Competition.

2.7.2 All responses to queries will be issued by the Contracting Authority via the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie. Where appropriate, queries may be amalgamated. Tenderers should note that the Contracting Authority will not respond to individual Tenderers privately.

2.7.3 The Contracting Authority reserves the right to issue or seek written clarifications.

2.7.4 The Contracting Authority reserves the right at any time before the Tender Deadline, to update or amend the information contained in this document and/or to extend the Tender Deadline. Participating Tenderers will be informed of any such amendment or extension through the eTenders website.

2.7.5 Tenderers should ensure that they register their interest in this Competition, by clicking on the "Accept" button on www.etenders.gov.ie, in order to receive all responses to queries and other updates in relation to this Competition.

2.8 TENDERING COSTS

2.8.1 All costs and expenses incurred by Tenderers relating to their participation in this Competition including, but not being limited to, site visits, field trials, demonstrations and/or presentations shall be borne by and are a matter for discharge by the Tenderers exclusively.

2.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

2.9.1 All documentation, data, statistics, drawings, information, patterns, samples or material disclosed or furnished by the Contracting Authority to Tenderers during the course of this Competition:

(a) are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this RFT only;

(b) may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of the Contracting Authority;

(c) shall be treated as confidential by the Tenderer and by any third parties (including subcontractors) engaged or consulted by the Tenderer; and

(d) must be returned immediately to the Contracting Authority upon cancellation or completion of this Competition if so requested by the Contracting Authority.

2.10 PRICING

2.10.1 All Tenderers must complete the Pricing Schedule at Appendix 2 to this RFT.

2.10.2 All prices quoted must be all-inclusive (i.e. including but not being limited to shipping, packaging, delivery, ancillary costs and all other costs/expenses), be expressed in Euro only and exclusive of VAT. The VAT rate(s) where applicable should be indicated separately.

2.10.3 Tenderers must confirm that all prices quoted in the Tender will remain valid for [12 months commencing from the Tender Deadline.

2.10.4 Any currency variations occurring over the term of the Services Contract shall be borne by the Tenderer.

2.10.5 Payments for Services provided pursuant to this RFT shall be subject to and made in accordance with the Services Contract at Appendix 5 to this RFT.

2.10.6 *Not Used*

Tenderers should note that prices may be increased or decreased only on the first anniversary of the Effective Date of the Services Contract (as defined in the Services Contract) and on subsequent anniversaries of the Effective Date thereafter, and then only by the percentage by which the [insert relevant price index] has increased or decreased in the edition of that index published by the [insert relevant authority] most recently prior to that anniversary.

2.11 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND LABOUR LAW

2.11.1 In the performance of any Services Contract awarded, the successful Tenderers and their Subcontractors (if any), shall be required to comply with all applicable obligations in the field of environmental, social and labour law that apply at the place where the services are provided, that have been established by EU law, national law, collective agreements or by international, environmental, social and labour law listed in Schedule 7 of the Regulations.

2.11.2 Tenderers shall be required to include an undertaking to comply fully with the provisions of Council Directive 2001/23/EC of 12 March 2001 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, business or parts of undertakings or business and as implemented in Irish law by Statutory Instrument No. 131 of 2003, the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003 and to indemnify the Contracting Authority for any claim arising or loss or costs incurred as a result of its failure or incapacity to fulfil its obligations under the said Directive and Statutory Instrument.

2.11.3 The Protection of Employees (Temporary Agency Work) Act 2012 (the "2012 Act") provides that an Agency Worker (as defined in the 2012 Act) is entitled to the same basic working and employment conditions as those which apply to employees recruited directly by the Hirer (as defined in the 2012 Act) to do the same or a similar job. Where the provision of the Services will involve the provision to the Contracting Authority of Agency Workers (within the meaning of the 2012 Act), Tenderers should ensure that they consider their obligations under the 2012 Act when pricing their Tender. The Contracting Authority shall have no liability for any increase in salaries that may be payable as a result of the application of the 2012 Act to the provision of the Services.

2.12 PUBLICITY

No publicity regarding this Competition or any Services Contract pursuant to this Competition is permitted unless and until the Contracting Authority has given its prior written consent to the relevant communication.

2.13 REGISTRABLE INTEREST

Any Registrable Interest involving any Tenderer or Subcontractor and the Contracting Authority, members of the Government, members of the Oireachtas, or employees and officers of the Contracting Authority and their relatives must be fully disclosed in the Tender or, in the event of this information only coming to the notice of the Tenderer or Subcontractor after the submission of a Tender, must be communicated to the Contracting Authority immediately upon such information becoming known to the Tenderer or Subcontractor.

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.ie. The Contracting Authority will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may in appropriate circumstances include eliminating a Tenderer from this Competition or terminating any Services Contract entered into by a Tenderer.

2.14 ANTI-COMPETITIVE CONDUCT

Tenderers' attention is drawn to the Competition Act 2002 (as amended, the "2002 Act"). The 2002 Act makes it a criminal offence for Tenderers to collude on prices or terms in a public procurement competition.

2.15 INDUSTRY TERMS USED IN THIS RFT

Where reference is made to a particular item, source, process, trademark, or type in this RFT then all such references are to be given the meaning generally understood in the relevant industry and operational environment.

2.16 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2.16.1 Tenderers should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014, information provided by them during this Competition may be liable to be disclosed.

2.16.2 Tenderers are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their Tender should not be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. If Tenderers consider that certain information is not to be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, Tenderers must, when providing such information, clearly identify the specific sections of their Tender containing such information and specify the reasons for its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. For the avoidance of doubt Tenderers may not assert confidentiality or commercial sensitivity over the entire Tender but must clearly identify the specific section containing such information. If Tenderers do not identify information as confidential or commercially sensitive, it is liable to be released in response to a request under the above legislation without further notice to or consultation with the Tenderer. The Contracting Authority will, where possible, consult with Tenderers about confidential or commercially sensitive information so identified before making its decision on a request received. The Contracting Authority accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released (irrespective of notification) or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such obligations.

2.17 TAX CLEARANCE

It will be a condition of any Services Contract pursuant to this Competition that the successful Tenderer(s) shall, for the term of such contract(s), comply with all applicable EU and domestic tax laws. Tenderers are referred to www.revenue.ie for further information. Prior to the award of any Services Contract arising out of this Competition the successful Tenderer shall be required to supply its Tax Clearance Access Number and Tax Reference Number to facilitate online verification of their tax status by the Contracting Authority. By supplying these numbers the successful Tenderer acknowledges and agrees that the Contracting Authority has the permission of the successful Tenderer to verify its tax cleared position online.

2.18 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest on the part of a Tenderer, Subcontractor or individual employee(s) or agent(s) of a Tenderer or Subcontractor(s) must be fully disclosed to the

Contracting Authority as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent. Tenderers are required to declare that the preparation of their Tender was carried out independently. In the event of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the Contracting Authority may invite Tenderers to propose means by which the conflict of interest might be removed and in circumstances where there are links between Tenderers, the Contracting Authority may seek further information to confirm the Tenders have been prepared independently. The Contracting Authority will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may in appropriate circumstances include eliminating a Tenderer from this Competition or any Mini-Competition or terminating any Framework Agreement or Services Contract entered into by a Tenderer.

2.19 WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS COMPETITION

Tenderers are required to notify the Contracting Authority immediately via the e-tenders website, if at any stage they decide to withdraw from this Competition.

2.20 SITE VISIT

2.20.1 *Not Used*

The Contracting Authority will facilitate Tenderers by permitting an inspection of the Contracting Authority's premises. A site visit to view the Contracting Authority's premises or facilities at [insert relevant addresses] shall be organised on [date] between the hours of [x and y]. Tenderers wishing to make an appointment to avail of this opportunity must confirm their attendance by contacting [name of person] at [insert email address] by [insert date and time]. Attendance at the Contracting Authority's premises will be subject to compliance with local security and health and safety arrangements.

2.20.2 *Not Used*

[Insert here details of any site visit required by the Contracting Authority to the Tenderer's premises].

2.21 INSURANCE

2.21.1 The successful Tenderer shall be required to hold for the term of the Services Contract the following insurances:

Type of Insurance	Indemnity Limit
Employer's Liability	[€12.7 million]
Public Liability	[€6.5 million]
Product Liability	
Professional Indemnity	[€1 million]

2.21.2 By signing the Tenderer's Statement at Appendix 3, Tenderers confirm that, if awarded a Services Contract under this Competition, (i) they will, from the Effective Date of the

Services Contract (as defined in the Services Contract), obtain and hold the types and levels of insurance as specified at paragraph 2.21.1, (ii) the territorial limits and jurisdiction of its insurance policies include Ireland and (iii) they are not aware of any exclusions, restrictions, conditions or warranties or, in the case of policies with an aggregate limit of indemnity, any outstanding claims, which could have a material adverse impact on the level of coverage specified above. A formal confirmation from the Tenderer's insurance company or broker to this effect will be requested from the successful Tenderer(s) prior to the award of (and shall be a condition of) any Services Contract.

2.21.3 The successful Tenderer will, during the term of the Services Contract, be required to:

(a) immediately advise the Contracting Authority of any material change to its insured status;

(b) produce proof of current premiums paid upon request;

(c) produce valid certificates of insurance upon request.

Part 3: Selection and Award Criteria

3.1 COMPLIANT TENDERS

3.1 Only those Tenderers who have:-

(a) Submitted compliant Tenders pursuant to paragraph 2.2 above, and

(b) Declared by way of eESPD that either:

(i) no mandatory grounds for exclusion of the Tenderer pursuant to Regulation 57 of the Regulations apply to them, or

(ii) in circumstances where any mandatory exclusion grounds apply to the Tenderer (and where the Tenderer is not precluded from doing so under Regulation 57(17) of the Regulations), that it can provide evidence to the effect that measures taken by it are sufficient to demonstrate its reliability despite the existence of any such relevant exclusion ground, and

(c) Declared by way of eESPD that they satisfy the selection criteria for this Competition as set out in part 3.2 below (the "Selection Criteria"),

will be evaluated in accordance with the Award Criteria at part 3.3 below.

However, please note that the Contracting Authority also reserves the right to exclude from evaluation a Tenderer to whom a discretionary ground for exclusion pursuant to Regulation 57 of the Regulations applies.

Tenderers should note that where a Tenderer is relying on the capacity of other entities (for example, Subcontractors) for the purposes of fulfilling any of the Selection Criteria in part 3.2 below it must ensure that each such entity:

(i) completes and submits a separate eESPD in respect of each such entity, and

(ii) when requested by the Contracting Authority, submit proof, to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority, that each such entity will place the necessary resources at the disposal of the Tenderer.

The Contracting Authority may decide to examine Tenders before verifying the absence of exclusion grounds in Regulation 57 of the Regulations (the "Exclusion Grounds") and the fulfilment of the Selection Criteria.

However, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this part 3.1, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask Tenderers at any moment during the Competition to submit any or all of the following for the purposes of verification of the status of the Tenderer (including the Prime Contractor and any Subcontractor):

(i) a Declaration in the form attached at Appendix 4;

(ii) evidence to the effect that measures taken by the entity concerned are sufficient to demonstrate its reliability despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground;

(iii) in the case of the Prime Contractor and any Subcontractor on whose capacity the Prime Contractor relies, all or any of the supporting documents specified at paragraph 3.2 below;

(iv) information concerning the Tenderer, and any proposed subcontractors, for the purposes of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same) including, but not limited to, in respect of natural persons, copies of identity documents and, in respect of legal persons, a certificate or extract from the commercial register or other competent authority of the country in which the legal person is established; and

(v) information concerning the origin of goods, if any, for the purposes of assessing compliance with Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

If a Tenderer does not, upon request by the Contracting Authority, provide evidence which is considered by the Contracting Authority as sufficient to demonstrate (i) its fulfilment of the Selection Criteria (or any one of them) in accordance with this RFT and (ii) the absence of Exclusion Grounds, or its reliability despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground and (iii) that it does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576) and (iv) that the origin of goods, if any, are not subject to the prohibitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same) then it shall be excluded from further participation in this Competition.

If a Tenderer does not, upon request by the Contracting Authority, provide evidence which is considered by the Contracting Authority as sufficient to demonstrate (i) the fulfilment by any Subcontractor on whose capacity the Prime Contractor relies of the Selection Criteria (or any one of them) in accordance with this RFT and (ii) the absence of Exclusion Grounds in respect of any Subcontractor, or the reliability of any Subcontractor despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground and (iii) that any proposed Subcontractor on whose capacity the Tenderer relies (where the value of that subcontract exceeds 10% of the value of the Services Contract) does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576) then, it shall be excluded from further participation in this Competition *unless* it replaces the Subcontractor with one which meets all relevant requirements of this RFT.

3.2 SELECTION CRITERIA

3.2 Tenderers will either pass OR fail each of the Selection Criteria in this part 3.2. A Tenderer who fails a selection criterion will be excluded from participating in this Competition.

3.2.A **Economic and Financial Standing**

Tenderers must declare by way of eESPD that they satisfy the financial and economic standing requirement(s) set out below and that they are able, upon request and without delay, to provide the supporting documentation specified below to the Contracting Authority in each case.

Evidence of financial standing to be provided with the tender application
A statement that none of the circumstances listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 45 of EU Directive 2004/18/EC apply to the tenderer(s)

Tenderers must provide the supporting documentation specified above without delay when requested by the Contracting Authority. However, where the Tenderer is unable, for a valid reason, to provide the specified documentation, the Tenderer must inform the Contracting Authority of the valid reason as to why the documentation cannot be supplied and, if the Contracting Authority considers the reason given to be valid, provide such other suitable alternative documentation to prove, to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority, their economic and financial capacity.

3.2.B **Technical and Professional Ability**

Tenderers must declare by way of eESPD that they satisfy the technical and professional requirement(s) set out below and that they are able, upon request and without delay, to provide the supporting documentation specified below to the Contracting Authority in each case.

As per requirements of the application form, please provide or demonstrate in your application:
. Completeness of proposals and tender documentation as required.
. Stated ability of the tenderer to meet all the requirements specified in this tender invitation.
. Evidence of technical capacity to undertake the project.
Tenderers must provide the supporting documentation specified above without
delay when requested by the Contracting Authority.

Tenderers must provide the supporting documentation specified above without delay when requested by the Contracting Authority.

3.3 AWARD CRITERIA

3.3.1 The Services Contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender(s) as identified in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Quality of proposals for providing the services outlined in this tender invitation (400 marks, minimum 200 marks to pass). Quality will be assessed on the basis of:

- Clarity and understanding of the research aims.
- Knowledge of the subject area.

- Outline and rationale for the proposed methodology.
- Appropriate ethical standards.

2. Expertise, skills and experience of assigned personnel in providing the type of services described in the tender document (350 marks, minimum 175 marks to pass) including:

- Extensive research, data analysis and report writing skills.
- Demonstrated experience of managing projects of this scale within expected timeframes and budgets.
- Demonstrated experience of special education research in schools.

3. Timescale and evidence of a planned approach to the management of the phases and tasks involved and the efficient completion of the project (100 marks, minimum 50 marks to pass)

4. Proposed cost/value for money (150 marks)
The maximum marks (150) for costs/value for money will be assigned to the tenderer with the lowest valid cost, that meets the minimum requirements. The marks assigned to all other proposals will be calculated pro rata in relation to this score.

The calculation will be made using the following formula:

$$\text{Cost score} = \frac{\text{Lowest tender rate}}{\text{Tendered rate under review}} \times \text{Maximum number of marks available}$$

Note
Criteria 1-3 will be scored separately to the criteria 4 cost. The cost marks will be added to the score for criteria 1-3 after the evaluation committee have scored all proposals. The tenderer with the highest marks will be identified as the preferred supplier.

3.3.2 Subject to paragraphs 2.1 (Important Notices) and 3.5 (Standstill Period) of this RFT, award of the Services Contract to the highest ranked Tenderer (as determined by paragraph 3.3.1) will be conditional upon:

(a) the Tenderer submitting the following evidence in respect of the Tenderer (including the Prime Contractor and any Subcontractors, as applicable in accordance with paragraph 3.1 above) to the extent not already provided, within seven (7) days of request by the Contracting Authority: (i) a Declaration in the form attached at Appendix 4; (ii) if applicable, evidence to the effect that measures taken by the entity concerned are sufficient to demonstrate its reliability despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground; (iii) all or any of the supporting documents specified at paragraph 3.2; and

(b) the evidence specified at paragraph 3.3.2(a) above demonstrating that each entity concerned meets the Selection Criteria and the compliance requirements specified at paragraph 3.1(b) and (c) above.

3.4 PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS

Tenderers may be required to make a presentation of the proposal contained in their Tender. The Contracting Authority will not be responsible for the cost of such presentations (in accordance with paragraph 2.8). Performance at presentations will NOT be evaluated.

3.5 STANDSTILL PERIOD

3.5.1 In circumstances where the European Communities (Public Authorities' Contracts) (Review Procedures) Regulations 2010 (Statutory Instrument 130 of 2010), as amended by the European Communities (Public Authorities' Contracts) (Review Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (Statutory Instrument 192 of 2015) and the European Communities (Public Authorities' Contracts (Review Procedures) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (Statutory Instrument 327 of 2017) apply, no contract can or will be executed or take effect until at least fourteen (14) calendar days after the day on which the Tenderers have been sent a notice informing them of the result of this Competition ("Standstill Period") if such notice is sent by electronic means. The Standstill Period shall be sixteen (16) calendar days if such notice is sent by other means. The preferred bidder will be notified of the decision of the Contracting Authority and of the expiry date of the Standstill Period.

3.5.2 Tenderers should note that the Contracting Authority may, when notifying Tenderers of the results of this Competition, include the scores obtained by the Tenderer concerned and the scores obtained by the preferred bidder in respect of each award criterion assessed by the Contracting Authority.

3.6 RETURN OF SIGNED CONTRACTS

3.6.1 The successful Tenderer must sign and return the Services Contract and the Confidentiality Agreement, both in duplicate, to the Contracting Authority no later than [14] calendar days from the date of expiry of the Standstill Period unless notified otherwise in writing by the Contracting Authority. A signed Services Contract returned by the successful Tenderer is not binding on the Contracting Authority until the Contracting Authority has signed the Services Contract in accordance with paragraph 2.1.2 above.

3.6.2 Where the signed Services Contract and the Confidentiality Agreement have not been received by the Contracting Authority within the period as specified at paragraph 3.6.1 then the Contracting Authority may proceed to award the Services Contract to the next highest-ranked Tenderer in accordance with paragraph 3.6.1 above.

Appendix 1: Requirements and Specifications

Tenderers must address each of the issues and requirements in this part of the RFT and submit a detailed description in each case which demonstrates how these issues and requirements will be dealt with / met and their approach to the proposed delivery of the Services. A mere affirmative statement by the Tenderer that it can/will do so or a reiteration of the tender requirements is NOT sufficient in this regard.

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council
for Special Education

Call for Tender – Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

Specification Outline

1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION (NCSE)

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) was created to improve the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs. The Council was first established as an independent statutory body in 2003. The NCSE's vision is for a world class inclusive education system for Ireland, where children/younger people and adults with special educational needs are supported in their education to enable them to reach their potential. More information about the NCSE may be viewed on our website www.ncse.ie and specifically in our Annual Reports.

One of the NCSE's statutory roles is to carry out research in special education. The aim of the NCSE research programme is to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of best practice in educational policy and provision for students with special educational needs.

Specifically, the NCSE research programme:

- Builds a robust evidence base through commissioning or conducting high-quality peer-reviewed research studies.
- Identifies lessons from the evidence to inform the development of NCSE policy advice to the Minister for Education and Youth and informs our wider policy and practice programmes.
- Contributes to the dissemination of information about national and international best practice in special and inclusive education to key stakeholders, including parents, teachers and others.
- Contributes to strengthening the research infrastructure around special and inclusive education.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH

The NCSE commissioned and published an international review of the literature of evidence of best practice models and outcomes in the education of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children in 2009 (NCSE Research Report No. 1).

Since the publication of the review, there have been significant developments in technologies, intervention services, education policy and research, and best practice in models and outcomes in the education and inclusion of children and young people who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing. There have also been key developments in the rights and policy landscape, such as the recognition of Irish Sign Language (ISL) through the ISL Act 2017, Ireland's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2018, the World Federation of the Deaf Position

Paper on Inclusive Education (2018), and the National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-30.

The NCSE wants to commission a review of the literature in this area to update the evidence available to the sector.

3. RESEARCH AIMS

The purpose of the research is to update the national and international evidence in deaf education, including educational approaches, technologies, supports and learning environments. Furthermore, the linguistic and cultural considerations for Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in terms of identity, belonging and language acquisition and development are aims of this research. The research should also consider barriers and facilitators within the education system affecting the educational experiences of Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people. Alongside a literature review, it is envisaged that the research will also include some qualitative fieldwork to seek views on experiences and perspectives of children and young people and those with lived experience. This will include data collection with participants on their current and/or past experiences in deaf education, with a view to presenting thematic findings and implications arising. While recent lived experience is a focus of the research, the experiences of Deaf and hard of hearing adults across generations should be included in the scope of the research.

This research adopts an inclusive scope encompassing Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people, recognising the diversity of hearing levels, communication methods, language experiences, identities and educational needs within this population.

The scope of the research is up to the end of post-primary and is not anticipated to include further education.

The timeline for the completion of the research, including the literature review and the qualitative component is to the end of 2027, with the submission of a first draft report. The finalisation of the report including review and approval processes for publication will take place in 2028.

The NCSE will establish a Research Advisory Group to provide advice throughout the project, with representation from a range of relevant stakeholders.

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research should include the following questions:

1. Examine the national and international literature on the education of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and young people across primary, post-primary and specialist settings, identifying current evidence on educational approaches, supports, technologies, and learning environments that are associated with meaningful learning, participation, identity, belonging, inclusion, transitions, and communications (including language acquisition and development).
2. Explore the educational experiences of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and young people and those with recent and past lived experience, including their experiences of learning, participation, identity, belonging, inclusion, transitions, and communications across educational settings.

3. Investigate the barriers and enablers that families and education professionals identify as influencing the educational experiences of Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people.

5. RESEARCH TASKS

The research should include but is not limited to the following tasks:

- Develop and agree a clear research methodology and project plan to undertake the literature review and qualitative research tasks.
- Briefly locate education for Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in the context of the Irish education system.
- Scope and define key terms to be used as working definitions for the literature review (to be agreed with the NCSE).
- Establish clear parameters for conducting the literature search with a rationale for such parameters to be agreed with the NCSE. The successful tenderer is not obliged to employ the strict protocols of a systematic review, however, parameters must at a minimum include
    a. A transparent and comprehensive search strategy
    b. Inclusion and exclusion criteria to be applied
    c. A clear time period for the review
    d. A rating scheme indicating the strength of the evidence included in the report.
- Using the agreed working definitions and parameters for the search, provide a review that answers the 3 research questions above. Synthesise the evidence from the research into broad thematic areas.
- Determine key learnings identified from the evidence from the literature review.
- Obtain ethical approval through an appropriate research ethics process.
- Design research instruments to capture the views of Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people and those with recent and past lived experience on learning, participation, identity, belonging, inclusion, transitions, and communications experiences in a range educational settings.
- Design research instruments to capture views of families and/or education professionals on the learning, participation, and inclusion of Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in a range of educational settings.
- Develop research protocols ensuring methods are accessible and inclusive of diverse communication needs.
- Data analysis and synthesis of findings from the literature review and qualitative research, identifying the key issues and implications arising.

6. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS

The key deliverables and outputs include:

1. A project plan (details above).
2. An interim detailed progress report with information on methodology, progress on the research conducted to date and remaining research schedule, including the literature review and qualitative research, in July 2027.
3. A final report should:

- Locate education for Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in the context of the Irish education system.
- Include a comprehensive and accessible literature review of publishable, peer review standard.
- Include a brief, executive summary of the literature review and qualitative research highlighting key findings and implications.
- Present the overall findings from the literature review, highlighting the developments and emerging issues since the 2009 report from national and international sources.
- Thematically present the views and experiences of children and young people and those with recent and past lived experience arising from the qualitative research component, on the educational experiences, participation and inclusion of Deaf and hard of hearing children and young people in Ireland.
- Provide an accessible final report on the findings that addresses each of the research tasks above. The report should be succinct, and if technical language must be used, clearly explain what it means in plain English.

4. Provide an accessible summary report in relevant formats suitable for Deaf and hard of hearing children, young people and adults.

7. EXPECTED TIMELINE AND BUDGETS

The estimated budget for this study is approximately €100,000 ex Vat, with first payment at contract signing in 2026, interim payments in 2027 and final payment in 2028.

It is envisaged that the evaluation will commence in December 2026, and a draft report will be submitted in December 2027. The draft report will be subject to the NCSE review and approval process.

Progress/interim reports will be expected, and these will be scheduled based on a formal work plan to be agreed with the successful tenderer. To ensure a smooth flow of communication, fortnightly meetings will take place between the successful tenderer and the NCSE Research Officer.

Appendix 2: Pricing Schedule

As per the application form, please provide:

A. Overall Costs

Please indicate the fixed overall price cost of the contract, excluding VAT. Please indicate VAT separately.

B. Itemised Costs (a) Please indicate clearly the costs per day for the Principal Investigator and each member of the research team including VAT and non VAT price:

Principal Investigator:

No of days:

Cost per day:

Research team members:

Name

No of days:

Cost per day: (Please note whether or not per diem costs for personnel incorporate any overhead or administrative costs).

(b) Please provide an itemised breakdown for overhead and administration costs and any expenses involved: (Please note that any expenses involved must be indicated and agreed in advance)

Appendix 3: Tenderers' Statement

[Tenderers shall complete and return the following form of Tenderers' Statement printed on the Tenderers' headed notepaper and signed by the Tenderer.]

TENDERERS' STATEMENT

TO: The National Council for Special Education (the "Contracting Authority")

RE: Request for Tenders for the Supply of Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

Having examined your Request for Tenders (the "RFT") including the Instructions to Tenderers, the Selection and Award Criteria, the Requirements and Specifications, and the Terms and Conditions of the Services Contract, we hereby declare the following:

1. We understand the nature and extent of the Services required to be delivered as described in Requirements and Specifications at Appendix 1 to the RFT.
2. We accept all of the Terms and Conditions of the RFT, the Services Contract and the Confidentiality Agreement and agree if awarded a Services Contract to execute the Services Contract at Appendix 5 to the RFT and the Confidentiality Agreement at Appendix 6 to the RFT.
3. We accept all the Selection and Award Criteria as set out in Part 3 of the RFT.
4. We agree to provide the Contracting Authority with the Services in accordance with the RFT and our Tender.
5. We agree that, if awarded any Services Contract, we shall, in the performance of such contract, comply with all applicable obligations in the field of environmental, social and labour law.
6. We confirm that we have complied with all requirements as set out at Part 2 of the RFT.
7. We confirm that all prices quoted in our Tender will remain valid for the period of time commencing from the Tender Deadline, as specified at paragraph 2.10.3 of the RFT.
8. We shall, if awarded any Services Contract under the RFT, have in place on the Effective Date of the Services Contract all insurances (if any) as required by paragraph 2.21.1 of the RFT.
9. We confirm that all Data Subjects whose Personal Data is provided in our Tender have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by us, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the etenders.gov.ie website, for the purposes of our participation in this Competition or that we otherwise have a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of our participation in this Competition and that we will provide evidence of such consent and / or legal basis to the Contracting Authority upon request.

10. We do not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

11. The origin of goods connected to our Tender, if any, are not subject to the prohibitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

12. The subcontractor(s) on whose capacity we rely as part of our Tender (where the value of that subcontract exceeds 10% of the value of the Services Contract) does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

SIGNED **Company**

(Authorised Signatory)

Print name **Address**

Date

Appendix 3A: Foreign Subsidies Regulation

Tenderers are referred to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Foreign Subsidies distorting the Internal Market, in addition to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1441, and their obligation to comply therewith. In particular, tenders and candidates should note the requirements under Articles 28 and 29 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 relating to the prior notification or declaration of a foreign financial contribution, where the estimated value of the public procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the applicable financial thresholds set out therein.

Where the estimated value of the public procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial threshold set out at Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, economic operators are required to comply in full with their obligations under both that Regulation and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1441. In that regard, economic operators are required to complete the relevant form of declaration or notification that apply to their particular circumstances.

Appendix 3A: Schedule A – Declaration of no foreign financial contributions

[To be completed by notifying parties where the value of the procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial thresholds in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and where the notifying party has **not** been in receipt of any foreign financial contributions]

TO: The National Council for Special Education (the "Contracting Authority")

RE: Request for Tenders for the Supply of Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

We hereby declare that none of the notifying parties has been in receipt of any foreign financial contributions within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

SIGNED **Notifying Party**

(Authorised Signatory)

Print name **Address**

Date

Appendix 3A: Schedule B – Declaration that any foreign financial contributions are non-notifiable having regard to the de minimis threshold

[To be completed by notifying parties where the value of the procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial thresholds in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and where the notifying party has been in receipt of foreign financial contributions that do not exceed *de minimis* aid as defined in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 (i.e. €200,000) per third country over any consecutive three period]

Form FS-PP relating to the notification of financial contributions in the context of public procurement procedures pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2560

1. Description of the public procurement (Section 1 of Form FS-PP)

2. Information about notifying parties (Section 2 of Form FS-PP)

3. Declaration (Section 7 of Form FS-PP)

None of the notifying parties have received foreign financial contributions notifiable under Chapter 4 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560

4. Attestation (Section 8 of Form FS-PP)

The notifying party(ies) confirm(s) that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information given in this declaration is true, correct, and complete, that true and complete copies of documents required by this Form FS-PP have been supplied, that all estimates are identified as such and are their best estimates of the underlying facts, and that all the opinions expressed are sincere.

The notifying party(ies) confirm that they aware of the provisions of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 concerning fines and periodic penalty payments.

Date:

[Signatory 1]	**[Signatory 2]**
Name:	Name:
Organisation:	Organisation:
Position:	Position:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Email:	Email:
Signed:	Signed:

Appendix 3A: Schedule C – Declaration of non-notifiable foreign financial contributions (valued between €200,000 and €999,000 in the last three years preceding the declaration)

[To be completed by notifying parties where the value of the procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial thresholds in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and where the notifying party has been in receipt of foreign financial contributions which are valued between €200,000 and €999,000 in the last three (3) years preceding the declaration. Notifying parties are required to complete Table 2 below and they may aggregate the foreign financial contributions without indicating their values.]

Form FS-PP relating to the notification of financial contributions in the context of public procurement procedures pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2560

1. Description of the public procurement (Section 1 of Form FS-PP)

2. Information about notifying parties (Section 2 of Form FS-PP)

3. Declaration (Section 7 of Form FS-PP)

None of the notifying parties have received foreign financial contributions notifiable under Chapter 4 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560

4. Attestation (Section 8 of Form FS-PP)

The notifying party(ies) confirm(s) that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information given in this declaration is true, correct, and complete, that true and complete copies of documents required by this Form FS-PP have been supplied, that all estimates are identified as such and are their best estimates of the underlying facts, and that all the opinions expressed are sincere.

The notifying party(ies) confirm that they aware of the provisions of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 concerning fines and periodic penalty payments.

Date:

[Signatory 1]	**[Signatory 2]**
Name:	Name:
Organisation:	Organisation:
Position:	Position:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Email:	Email:
Signed:	Signed:

Table 2

For reporting of foreign financial contributions which are of a value between €200,000 and €999,000 in the last three (3) years preceding the declaration

Third Country	**Brief Description of the financial contributions**
Country A	
Country B	
Country C	
Country D	

Appendix 3A: Schedule D – Declaration of non-notifiable foreign financial contributions (valued between €1,000,000 and €3,999,000 in the last three years preceding the declaration)

[To be completed by notifying parties where the value of the procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial thresholds in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and where the notifying party has been in receipt of foreign financial contributions which are valued between €1,000,000 and €3,999,000 in the last three (3) years preceding the declaration. Notifying parties are required to complete the table below. They must list all foreign financial contributions received, to include all non-notifiable foreign contributions received in the last three (3) years preceding the declaration.]

Form FS-PP relating to the notification of financial contributions in the context of public procurement procedures pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2022/2560

1. Description of the public procurement (Section 1 of Form FS-PP)

2. Information about notifying parties (Section 2 of Form FS-PP)

3. Declaration (Section 7 of Form FS-PP)

None of the notifying parties have received foreign financial contributions notifiable under Chapter 4 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

4. Attestation (Section 8 of Form FS-PP)

The notifying party(ies) confirm(s) that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information given in this declaration is true, correct, and complete, that true and complete copies of documents required by this Form FS-PP have been supplied, that all estimates are identified as such and are their best estimates of the underlying facts, and that all the opinions expressed are sincere.

The notifying party(ies) confirm that they aware of the provisions of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 concerning fines and periodic penalty payments.

Date:

[Signatory 1]

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Signed:

[Signatory 2]

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Signed:

Table

For reporting of foreign financial contributions which are of a value between €1,000,000 and €3,999,000 in the last three (3) years preceding the declaration, to include all non-notifiable foreign contributions.

Third Country	**Type of Financial Contribution (FC)**	**Brief Description of the purpose of the FC and the granting entity**	**Estimated value of the FC**
Country A			
Country B			
Country C			
Country D			

Appendix 3A: Schedule E – Notification of Foreign Financial Contributions

[To be completed by notifying parties where the value of the procurement procedure is equal to or greater than the financial thresholds in Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and where the notifying party has been in receipt of aggregated foreign financial contributions in the three (3) years prior to notification, valued equal to or greater than €4M per third country].

1. Description of the public procurement (Section 1 of Form FS-PP)

2. Information about notifying parties (Section 2 of Form FS-PP)

3. Foreign Financial Contributions – (Section 3 of Form FS-PP)

3.1 For the purposes of this section 3.1, the notifying party(ies) should report foreign financial contributions falling into the scope of Article 5(1), points (a), (b), (c) and (e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, which are amongst the most likely to distort the internal market.

3.1.1. In order to allow the Commission to determine whether a foreign financial contribution has been granted to an undertaking that was ailing within the meaning of Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, notifying parties should indicate whether any of the following conditions were met at any point of time in the three years prior to the notification.

3.1.1.1. Is the notifying party a limited liability company, where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses?

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.1.2. Is the notifying party a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company, and where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses?

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.1.3. Is the notifying party subject to collective insolvency proceedings or does it fulfil the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors?

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.1.4. In the case the notifying party in question is not an SME:

3.1.1.4.1. has the notifying party's book debt to equity ratio been greater than 7,5 for the past two years

and

3.1.1.4.2. has the notifying party's EBITDA interest coverage ratio been below 1,0 for the past two years?

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.1.5. If the reply to any of the questions in sections 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.1.4 was 'yes' in relation to any of the notifying parties, please indicate whether during the period in which the undertaking in question was ailing, it received any foreign financial contributions that may have contributed to restore its long-term viability (including any temporary liquidity assistance designed to support that restoration of viability) or to keep that party afloat for the short time needed to work out a restructuring or liquidation plan.

Notifying party(ies) ☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.1.6. If the reply to any of the questions in sections 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.1.4 was 'yes' in relation to any of the notifying parties, indicate if there is a restructuring plan capable of leading to the long-term viability of that party and if this restructuring plan includes a significant own contribution by the notifying party and provide details of that plan.

3.1.1.7. If the reply to any of the questions in points 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.1.4 was 'yes', please substantiate the answer, including references in the answer to the supporting evidence or documents that are to be provided in annexes (such documents may include, but are not limited to, the notifying party's latest profit and loss account statements with balance sheets, or court decision opening collective insolvency proceedings on the company or documents providing evidence that the criteria for being placed under insolvency proceedings at the request of creditors under national company law are met, etc.).

3.1.2. Has the notifying party been in receipt of a foreign financial contribution in the form of an unlimited guarantee for the debts or liabilities of the undertaking, namely without any limitation as to the amount or the duration of such guarantee (Article 5(1)(b)) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.3 Has the notifying party been in receipt of an export financing measure that is not in line with the OECD Arrangement on officially supported export credits (Article 5(1)(c)) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

☐ yes ☐ no

3.1.4. Has the notifying party been in receipt of a foreign financial contribution enabling an undertaking to submit an unduly advantageous tender on the basis of which the undertaking could be awarded the relevant contract (Article 5(1)(e)) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

☐ yes ☐ no

3.2. For each foreign financial contribution equal to or in excess of EUR 1 million granted to the notifying parties in the three years prior to the notification that may fall into any of the categories of Article 5(1), points (a) to (c) and (e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, the notifying party must provide the following information and provide supporting documents:

3.2.1. Form of the financial contribution (e.g. loan, tax exemption, capital injection, fiscal incentive, contributions in kind, etc.).

3.2.2. Third country granting the financial contribution. Specify also the granting public authority or entity.

3.2.3. Amount of each financial contribution.

3.2.4. Purpose and economic rationale for granting the financial contribution to the party

3.2.5. Whether there are any conditions attached to the financial contributions as well as its use.

3.2.6. Describe the main elements and characteristics of those financial contributions (e.g. interest rates and duration in the case of a loan).

3.2.7. Explain whether the financial contribution confers a benefit within the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 to the undertaking to which the foreign financial contribution has been granted. Please explain why, with reference to the supporting documents provided under Section 6 (below).

3.2.8. Explain whether the financial contribution is limited in law or in fact, within the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560, to certain undertakings or industries. Please explain why, with reference to the supporting documents provided under Section 6 (below).

3.2.9. Explain if the financial contribution is granted only for operating costs exclusively linked with the public procurement at stake.

3.3 Having regard to foreign financial contributions not falling within the categories set out in Section 3.1 above, notifying parties are required to provide an overview of the foreign financial contributions equal to or in excess of EUR 1 million granted to the notifying parties in the three years prior to the notification that do not fall into any of the categories of Article 5(1), points (a) to (e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560. In that regard, notifying parties are required to complete Table 1 below. Notifying parties should follow the instructions provided at Section 8 (Annex II) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1441.

Table 1

Information to be included in Table 1 below by notifying parties.

(i) Group the different financial contributions per third country and per type, such as direct grant, loan/financing instrument/repayable advances, tax advantage, guarantee, risk capital instrument, equity intervention, debt write-off, contributions provided for the non-economic activities of an undertaking (see recital 16 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560), or other.

(ii) Include only those countries where the estimated aggregate amount of all financial contributions per country granted in the three years prior to the notification (calculated according to point (iv) below is EUR 4 million or more.

(iii) For each type of financial contribution, provide a brief description of the purpose of the financial contributions and the granting entities.

(iv) Quantify the estimated aggregate amount of financial contributions granted by each third country in the three years prior to the notification in the form of ranges, as specified in the notes to the Table below. For the calculation of this amount, the following considerations are relevant:

(a) Take into account foreign financial contributions falling into the categories of Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 and on which information has been provided under Sections 3.1 and 3.2 (above) and;

(b) do not take into account foreign financial contributions excluded according to points (v) and (vi) below

(v) Notifying Parties do not need to include (in the Table below) a description of the following foreign financial contributions:

(a) Deferrals of payment of taxes and/or of social security contributions, tax amnesties and tax holidays as well as normal depreciation and loss-carry forward rules that are of general application. If these measures are limited, for example, to certain sectors, regions or (types of) undertakings, they have to be included.

(b) Application of tax reliefs for avoidance of double taxation in line with the provisions of bilateral or multilateral agreements for avoidance of double taxation as well as unilateral tax reliefs for avoidance of double taxation applied under national tax legislation to the extent they follow the same logic as the provisions of bilateral or multilateral agreements.

(c) Provision/purchase of goods/services (except financial services) at market terms in the ordinary course of business, for example the provision/purchase of goods or services carried out following a competitive, transparent and non-discriminatory tender procedure.

(d) Foreign financial contributions below the individual amount of EUR 1 million.

(vi) The foreign financial contributions that may be relevant for the assessment of each public procurement may depend on a number of factors such as the sectors or activities involved, the type of financial contributions or other specificities of the case. In light of these specificities, the Commission may request additional information where it considers such information necessary for its assessment.

Third Country	Type of Financial Contribution (FC)*	Brief Description of the purpose of the FC and the granting entity**	Total Estimated value of the FC granted***
Country A			
Country B			
Country C			
Country D			

Note: please provide a separate table for each of the notifying parties. Third countries and, where possible, types of contributions, should be ordered by total amount of foreign financial contribution, from the highest to the lowest.

* Identify the financial contributions grouping them by type: such as direct grant, loan/financing instrument/repayable advances, tax advantage, guarantee, risk capital instrument, equity intervention, debt write-off, contributions provided for the non-economic activities of an undertaking (see recital 16 of Regulation 2022/2560), or other. (

** General description of the purpose of the financial contributions included in each type and of the granting entity(ies). For instance, 'tax exemption for the production of product A and R & D activities', 'several loans with State-owned banks for purpose X', 'several financing measures with State investment agencies to cover operating expenses/for R & D activities', 'public capital injection in Company X'.

*** Use the following ranges: 'EUR 45-100 million', 'EUR > 100-500 million', 'EUR > 500-1 000 million', 'more than EUR 1 000 million'

4. Justification for absence of unduly advantageous tender – (Section 4 of Form FS-PP)

4.1 For any of the foreign financial contributions enabling an undertaking to submit an unduly advantageous tender on the basis of which the undertaking could be awarded the relevant contract (Article 5(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560), are there any elements which can be adduced to demonstrate that the tender is not unduly advantageous directly or indirectly due to the financial contribution(s) received, including the elements referred to in Article 69(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU.

In that regard, notifying parties should detail any elements that in their view may demonstrate that their tender is not unduly advantageous.

4.2 The elements may in particular refer to:

4.2.1. The economics of the manufacturing process, of the services provided or of the construction method;

4.2.2. The technical solutions chosen or any exceptionally favourable conditions available to the tenderer for the supply of the products or services or for the execution of the work;

4.2.3. The originality of the work, supplies or services proposed by the tenderer;

4.2.4. Compliance with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law;

4.2.5. Compliance with obligations regarding subcontracting.

5. Possible Positive Effects - (Section 5 of Form FS-PP)

5.1 If applicable, notifying parties should list and substantiate any possible positive effects on the development of the relevant subsidised economic activity on the internal market. Notifying parties should also list and substantiate any other positive effects of the foreign subsidies, such as broader positive effects in relation to the relevant policy objectives, in particular those of the Union, and specify when and where those effects have or are expected to take place. Notifying parties should provide a description of each of those positive effects.

6. Supporting Documentation – (Section 6 of Form FS-PP)

Notifying parties are required to provide the following for each notifying party:

6.1. Copies of all the supporting official documents relating to the financial contributions that may fall into any of the categories of Article 5(1), points (a) to (c) and (e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 pursuant to Section 3.1.

6.2. Copies of the following documents prepared by or for or received by any member of the board of management, the board of directors or the supervisory board:

Analyses, reports, studies surveys, presentations and any comparable documents discussing the purpose, use and economic rationale of the foreign financial contributions that may fall into any of the categories of Article 5(1), points (a) to (c) and (e) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560.

Provide the same documents prepared by or for or received by the entity granting the foreign financial contribution to the extent that they are in your possession or that they are publicly available.

6.3. An indication of the internet address, if any, at which the most recent annual accounts or reports of the notifying party(ies) are available, or if no such internet address exists, copies of the most recent annual accounts and reports.

6.4. Where the notifying party(ies) provide(s) justifications of the absence of an undue advantage of the tender by filling in Section 4 of this form, they also need to provide documentation for the period covering the three years preceding the notification, substantiating the adduced elements. Such documentation may include, inter alia, as relevant: (a) tax declarations for the period under review, including copies of company tax returns and VAT returns, (b) business plans and market research underlying the decision to participate in the public procurement procedure.

7. Attestation (Section 8 of Form FS-PP)

The notifying party(ies) confirm(s) that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information given in this declaration is true, correct, and complete, that true and complete copies of documents required by this Form FS-PP have been supplied, that all estimates are identified as such and are their best estimates of the underlying facts, and that all the opinions expressed are sincere.

The notifying party(ies) confirm that they aware of the provisions of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 concerning fines and periodic penalty payments.

Date:

[Signatory 1]	**[Signatory 2]**
Name:	Name:
Organisation:	Organisation:
Position:	Position:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Email:	Email:
Signed:	Signed:

Appendix 4: Declaration as to Personal Circumstances of Tenderer

Re: Request for Tenders for the Provision of Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

NAME: [Click here and insert name]

ADDRESS: [Click here and insert address]

I, [Click here and insert name of Declarant], of [Click here and insert name of entity] do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am a [insert role of Declarant] of [Click here and insert name of entity] and am authorized by [Click here and insert name of entity] to make this declaration which relates to a tender ("the Tender") submitted by [Click here and insert name of entity] in response to an RFT dated titled [insert description of competition] published by [insert name of contracting authority] ("the Contracting Authority").

2. Neither [Click here and insert name of entity] nor any person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of [Click here and insert name of entity] nor any person who has powers of representation, decision or control in [Click here and insert name of entity] has:

    a. ever been the subject of a conviction for participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA.
    b. ever been the subject of a conviction for corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA as well as corruption as defined in the national law of the Contracting Authority or the law of the state in [Click here and insert name of entity] is established.
    c. ever been the subject of a conviction for fraud within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests.
    d. ever been the subject of a conviction for terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA respectively, or for inciting or aiding or abetting or attempting to commit an offence, as referred to in Article 4 of that Framework Decision.
    e. ever been the subject of a conviction for money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.
    f. ever been the subject of a conviction for child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

3. [Click here and insert name of entity]:

    a. is not in breach and has not breached its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions.

    b. has carried out the preparation of the Tender independently.

4. [Click here and insert name of entity]:

    a. has, in the performance of all public contracts, complied with applicable obligations in the field of environmental social and labour law that apply at the place where the works are carried out or the services provided, that have been established by EU law, national law, collective agreements or by international, environmental, social and labour law listed in Schedule 7 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (Statutory Instrument 284 of 2016).
    b. is not bankrupt or the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings, its assets are not being administered by a liquidator or by the court, it is not in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are not suspended nor is it in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under national laws and regulations.
    c. is not guilty of grave professional misconduct.
    d. has not entered into agreements with other economic operators aimed at distorting competition.
    e. is not aware of any conflict of interest due to its participation in the Competition;
    f. has not had any prior involvement in the preparation of the Competition;
    g. has not shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity, or a prior concession contract, which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions.
    h. is not guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of the Selection Criteria for this Competition and did not withhold such information and did not fail or is not able to submit supporting documents in respect of this Competition as required under Regulation 59 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (Statutory Instrument 284 of 2016) .
    i. has not undertaken to unduly influence the decision-making process of the Contracting Authority in respect of the Competition, or obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in respect of the Competition; or negligently provided misleading information that may have a material influence on decisions concerning exclusion, selection or award.

5. [Click here and insert name of entity] does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same);

6. The origin of goods connected to the Tender, if any, are not subject to the prohibitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same);

7. Any subcontractor, supplier or other entity on whose capacity [Click here and insert name of entity] relies as part of the Tender does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

I understand and acknowledge that the provision of inaccurate or misleading information in this declaration may lead to my business/firm/company/partnership being excluded from participation in this or future tenders, and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1938. This declaration is made for the benefit of the Contracting Authority.

_____

Signature of Declarant

Declared before me by _____ who is personally known to me

(or who is identified to me by _____who is personally known to me) or*

at _____ this _____ day of _____ 20__

_____

(signed)
Practising Solicitor/Commissioner for Oaths

Please include such other form of identification used to identify the Declarant as permitted by the Statutory Declarations Act, 1938 (as amended)

Appendix 5: Services Contract

The National Council for Special Education

and

[Insert successful Tenderer's full legal name]

AGREEMENT

Relating to the provision of Services pursuant to

Request for Tenders for the provision of Research Study on the Education and Educational Experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Young People: Literature Review and Qualitative Research

THIS AGREEMENT IS MADE ON THE [DATE E.G. 2ND] DAY OF [MONTH] 20[YEAR] BETWEEN:

The National Council for Special Education, of [address] ("the Client");

and

[Contractor's full legal name], of [address] ("the Contractor")

(each a "Party" and together "the Parties").

WHEREAS:

A. By Request for Tender entitled "Insert title of RFT" advertised in the supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union, OJEU Notice Number _____of _____dated insert date of RFT ("the RFT") the Contracting Authority invited tenders from economic operators ("Tenderers") for the provision of the services described in Appendix 1 to the RFT (the "Services"). References to the RFT shall include any clarifications issued by the Contracting Authority via the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie between [insert date] and [insert date] (the "RFT Clarifications"). The RFT (including the RFT Clarifications) is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

B. The Contractor submitted a response to the RFT dated [insert date of Tender] ("the Submission"). References to the Submission shall include any clarifications issued by the Contractor in writing to the Contracting Authority between [insert date] and [insert date] (the "Submission Clarifications"). The Submission (including the Submission Clarifications) is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Agreement consists of the following documents, and in the case of conflict of wording, in the following order of priority:

   i. This Agreement and Schedules A to E attached hereto;

   ii. The RFT;

   iii. The Submission.

2. The Contractor agrees to provide the Services described in Schedule B ("the Services") to the Client in accordance with this Agreement ("Agreement"). Schedule B details the nature, quality, time of delivery, key personnel and functional specifications of the Services in accordance with the RFT and the Submission ("the Specification").

3. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Client agrees to pay to the Contractor the charges as stipulated in Schedule C ("the Charges"). The Charges are exclusive of VAT which shall be due at the rate applicable on the date of the VAT invoice.

4. For the purposes of this Agreement, the Client's Contact is [name of contact person] of [address of contact person]; the Contractor's Contact is [Contractor contact name] of [Contractor contact address].

5. This Agreement shall take effect on the date of this Agreement ("the Effective Date") and shall expire on [Insert date], unless it is otherwise terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement or otherwise lawfully terminated or otherwise lawfully extended as agreed between the Parties ("the Term").

   Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:

   The Client reserves the right to extend the Term for a period or periods of up to [Insert Number] months with a maximum of [Insert Number] such extensions permitted subject to its obligations at law

6. Unless otherwise specified herein, a defined term used in this Agreement shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the RFT.

7. Headings are included for ease of reference only and shall not affect the construction of this Agreement.

8. Unless the context requires otherwise, words in the singular may include the plural and vice versa.

9. References to any statute, enactment, order, regulation or other legislative instrument shall be construed as a reference to the statute, enactment, order, regulation or instrument as amended, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

10. In the event that any ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises in relation to this Agreement, this Agreement shall be construed as if drafted jointly by the Parties and no presumption or burden of proof shall arise favouring or disfavouring any Party by virtue of the authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Client _____ (being a duly authorised officer)	SIGNED for and on behalf of the Contractor _____
Witness	Witness

Schedule A: Terms and Conditions

1. CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATIONS

A. The Contractor undertakes to act with due care, skill and diligence in the provision of the Services and generally in the carrying out of its obligations under this Agreement and in the appointment, monitoring and retention of its agents and Subcontractors. The Contractor shall require its agents and Subcontractors to exercise due care, skill and diligence in the provision of the Services and generally in the carrying out of obligations allocated by the Contractor to its agents and Subcontractors under this Agreement.

B. In consideration of the payment of the Charges and subject to clause 3 the Contractor shall:

1. provide the Services in accordance with the Specification, the RFT, the Client's directions and the terms of this Agreement;

2. comply with and implement any policies, guidelines and/or any project governance protocols issued by the Client from time to time and notified to the Contractor in writing;

3. comply with all local security and health and safety arrangements as notified to it by the Client; and

4. provide the Services in accordance with good industry practice and comply with all applicable laws including but not limited to all obligations in the field of environmental, social and labour law that apply at the place where the Services are provided, that have been established by EU law, national law, collective agreements and by international, environmental, social and labour law listed in Schedule 7 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (Statutory Instrument 284 of 2016) (the "Regulations") . The Contractor shall be responsible for compliance with all statutory requirements of an employer and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing shall be solely responsible in law for the employment, remuneration, taxes, immigration and work permits of all personnel retained for the purposes of complying with this Agreement.

C. The Contractor is deemed to be the prime contractor under this Agreement and the Contractor assumes full responsibility for the discharge of all obligations under this Agreement and shall assume all the duties, responsibilities and obligations associated with the position of prime contractor. The Contractor as prime contractor under the Submission hereby assumes liability for its Subcontractors and shall ensure that its Subcontractors shall comply in all respects with the relevant terms of this Agreement, including but not limited to clause 1B(4) above, to the extent that it or they are retained by the Contractor. Subject to clause 14, the Contractor shall notify the Client as soon as possible of any changes to the name, contact details and legal representatives of its Subcontractors.

D. Without prejudice to clause 1C, where the Client becomes aware that any of the exclusion grounds set out in Regulation 57 of the Regulations apply to any Subcontractor, the Client reserves the right to require the Contractor to immediately replace such Subcontractor and the Contractor shall comply with such requirement. The Contractor shall include in every sub-contract a right for the Contractor to terminate the sub-contract where any of the

exclusion grounds apply to the Subcontractor and a requirement that the Subcontractor, in turn, includes a provision having the same effect in any sub-contract which it awards.

E. During this Agreement the Contractor shall be an independent contractor and not the employee of the Client. Neither Party shall have any authority to bind or commit the other. Nothing herein shall be deemed or construed to create a joint venture, partnership, and/or fiduciary or other relationship between the Parties for any purpose. The officers, employees or agents of the Contractor are not and shall not hold themselves out to be (and shall not be held out by the Contractor as being) servants or agents of the Client for any purposes whatsoever.

F. The Client acknowledges that the Contractor may from time to time be dependent on the Client to facilitate the Contractor in the carrying out of its duties under this Agreement. The Client agrees to use its reasonable endeavours to so facilitate the Contractor within the timescales and in the manner agreed by it in writing in accordance with clause 10.

G. The Contractor agrees that any information relating to this Agreement and / or the performance of this Agreement may be passed by the Client to the Office of Government Procurement ("OGP") and that the OGP may use this information in the analysis and reporting of spend data including the preparation and publishing of reports.

H. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable obligations arising pursuant to the European Communities (Protection of Employees' Rights on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 131 of 2003) and Council Directive 2001/23/EC (together the "TUPE Regulations") and failure to so comply shall constitute a serious breach of this Agreement. The Contractor shall indemnify, save harmless and keep the Client indemnified from and against any claim arising or loss or costs incurred as a result of its failure or incapacity to fulfil its obligation under the said TUPE Regulations.

I. In the case of public procurement procedures which are subject to an IPI measure within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031, the Contractor shall comply with the following obligations:

i. not to subcontract more than 50% of the total value of the contract to economic operators originating in a third country which is subject to an IPI measure;
ii. for contracts whose subject matter covers the supply of goods, to ensure for the duration of the contract that goods or services supplied or provided in the execution of the contract and originating in the third country which is subject to the IPI measure represent no more than 50% of the total value of the contract, irrespective of whether such goods or services are supplied or provided directly by the successful tenderer or by a subcontractor;
iii. to provide to the Client, upon request, adequate evidence corresponding to point (i) or (ii) above;
iv. to pay a proportionate charge, in the event of non-observance of the obligations referred to at point (i) or (ii) above, of between 10% and 30% of the total value of the contract.

2. KEY PERSONNEL

The Contractor undertakes and acknowledges that it is responsible for ensuring that all key personnel as specified in the Submission ("Key Personnel"), assigned by it to provide the Services shall be

available for the Term of this Agreement. The Contractor acknowledges that the Key Personnel are essential to the proper provision of the Services to the Client. In the event that any of the Key Personnel assigned by the Contractor to provide the Services under this Agreement becomes unable to provide the Services for whatever reason then, the Contractor acknowledges and undertakes that it shall immediately notify the Client in writing of the inability of any Key Personnel and replace that person with a person of equivalent experience and expertise ("Replacement Personnel"). The Contractor shall provide to the Client such details as the Client may reasonably require in writing regarding any Replacement Personnel. The Client shall have absolute discretion as to the suitability of any proposed Replacement Personnel.

3. PAYMENT

A. Subject to the provisions of this clause 3 the Client shall pay and discharge the Charges (plus any applicable VAT), in the manner specified at Schedule C. Invoicing arrangements shall be on such terms as may be agreed between the Parties.

B. Discharge of the Charges is subject to:

1. Compliance by the Contractor with the provisions of this Agreement including but not limited to any milestones, compliance schedules and/or operational protocols in place pursuant to clause 10A from time to time;

2. The furnishing by the Contractor of a valid invoice and such supporting documentation as may be required by the Client from time to time. Any Contractor pre-printed terms and conditions are hereby disallowed;

3. Invoices being submitted to the Client's Contact (as set out in this Agreement or such other alternative contact as may be agreed between the Parties). All and any queries relating to the invoice and/or the Services for any billing period (including whether or not Services have been accepted, rejected, satisfactorily re-performed or as the case may be) must be raised by the Client's Contact within 14 calendar days of receipt of invoice. In circumstances where no queries are raised within the said 14 day period the invoice shall be deemed accepted. Upon resolution of any queries on the invoice to the satisfaction of the Client or upon such deemed acceptance the invoice shall be payable by the Client. Payment is subject to any rights reserved by the Client under any other provision of this Agreement; and

4. The Client being in possession of the Contractor's current Tax Clearance Certificate. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable EU and domestic taxation law and requirements.

C. The European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2012 shall apply to all payments. Incorrect invoices will be returned for correction with consequential effects on the due date of payment.

D. Wherever under this Agreement any sum of money is recoverable from or payable by the Contractor (including any sum which the Contractor is liable to pay to the Client in respect of any breach of this Agreement), the Parties may agree to deduct that sum from any sum then due, or which at any later time may become due to the Contractor under the Agreement or under any other agreement or contract with the Client. Any overpayment by either Party, whether of the Charges or of VAT or otherwise, shall be a sum of money

recoverable by the Party who made the overpayment from the Party in receipt of the overpayment.

E. The Charges shall include any and all costs or expenses incurred by the Contractor, its employees, servants and agents in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

F. The Charges shall be discharged as provided for in this clause subject to the retention by the Client in accordance with section 523 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 of any Professional Services Withholding Tax payable to the Contractor. Any and all taxes applicable to the provision of the Services will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor and the Contractor so acknowledges and confirms.

4. WARRANTIES, REPRESENTATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS

A. The Contractor acknowledges, warrants, represents and undertakes that:

1. it has the authority and right under law to enter into, and to carry out its obligations and responsibilities under this Agreement and to provide the Services hereunder;

2. it is entering into this Agreement with a full understanding of its material terms and risks and is capable of assuming those risks;

3. it is entering into this Agreement with a full understanding of its obligations with regard to taxation, employment, social and environmental protection and is capable of assuming and fulfilling those obligations;

4. it has acquainted itself with and shall comply with all legal requirements or such other laws, recommendations, guidance or practices as may affect the provision of the Services as they apply to the Contractor;

5. it has taken all and any action necessary to ensure that it has the power to execute and enter into this Agreement;

6. the status of the Contractor, as declared in the "Declaration as to Personal Circumstances of Tenderer" dated [insert date] , which confirms that none of the excluding circumstances listed in Regulation 57 of the Regulations apply to the Contractor, remains unchanged;

7. it owns, has obtained or is able to obtain, valid licences for all Intellectual Property Rights (as defined in clause 6 below) that are necessary for the performance of its obligations under this Agreement and for the Client to obtain the benefit of the Services for its business purposes;

8. *Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:*

   it has inspected the Client's premises, lands and facilities before submitting its Submission and has made appropriate enquiries so as to be satisfied in relation to all matters connected with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement;

9. it retains and shall maintain for the Term insurances for the nature and amount specified in the RFT. The Contractor undertakes to advise the Client forthwith of any material change to its insured status, to produce proof of current premiums paid upon written request and where required produce valid certificates of insurance for

inspection. The Contractor shall carry out all directions of the Client with regard to compliance with this clause 4A.9; and

10. the Client shall be under no obligation to purchase any minimum number or value of Services.

B. The Contractor undertakes to notify the Client forthwith of any material change to the status of the Contractor with regard to the warranties, acknowledgements, representations and undertakings as set out at clause 4A and to comply with all reasonable directions of the Client with regard thereto which may include termination of this Agreement.

5. REMEDIES

Prior to publication please ensure to insert amounts/figures where applicable. When finished, delete these instructions.

A. The Contractor shall be liable for and shall indemnify the Client for and in respect of all and any losses, claims, demands, damages or expenses which the Client may suffer due to and arising directly as a result of the negligence, act or omission, breach of contract, breach of duty, insolvency, recklessness, bad faith, wilful default or fraud of the Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors or agents or any of them or as a result of the Contractor's failure to exercise skill, care and diligence as outlined in clause 1. The terms of this clause 5A shall survive termination of this Agreement for any reason.

B. Save in respect of fraud (including fraudulent misrepresentation), personal injury or death or in respect of the Contractor's indemnity under clause 6(G), neither Party will be liable for any indirect losses (including loss of profit, loss of revenue, loss of goodwill, indirectly arising damages, costs and expenses) of any kind whatsoever and howsoever arising even if such Party has been advised of their possibility.

C. Should the Client find itself obliged to order elsewhere in consequence of the failure of the Contractor to deliver Services, the Client shall be entitled to recover from the Contractor any excess prices which may be paid by the Client.

D. Except as otherwise expressly provided by this Agreement, all remedies available to either Party for breach of this Agreement are cumulative and may be exercised concurrently or separately, and the exercise of any one remedy shall not be deemed an election of such remedy to the exclusion of other remedies.

E. *Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:*

Save in respect of fraud, personal injury or death or in respect of the Contractor's indemnity under clause 6(G) (for which no limit applies), the limit of the Contractor's aggregate liability to the Client under this Agreement whatsoever and howsoever arising shall not under any circumstances exceed [insert amount – eg: [number] per cent of the Charges paid or projected to be paid (whichever is higher) under this Agreement] regardless of the number of claims.

F. If for any reason the Client is dissatisfied with the performance of the Contractor, a sum may be withheld from any payment otherwise due calculated as follows:

[Insert] ("the Retention Amount") which Retention Amount shall not at any given time exceed [number] per cent of the Charges. In such event the Client shall identify the

particular Services with which it is dissatisfied together with the reasons for such dissatisfaction. Payment of the Retention Amount will be made upon replacement and/or remedy of the said Services as identified by the Client or resolution of outstanding queries. The Client shall hold the Retention Amount on behalf of the Contractor but without any obligation to invest. The terms of this clause 5F shall be without prejudice to and not be in substitution for any remedy of the Client under this Agreement.

G. *You must select one or the other of either G or H. Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:* Time of delivery shall be of the essence and if the Contractor fails to deliver the Services within the time period promised or specified in the Specification, the Client may by notice in writing to the Contractor's Contact release itself from any obligation to accept and pay for the Services and / or terminate this Agreement in either case without prejudice to any other rights and remedies of the Client.

H. *You must select one or the other of either G or H. Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:*

Without prejudice to any general right to damages under this Agreement where the Contractor does not provide the Services within delivery dates or lead times in accordance with this Agreement, the Client may, at his discretion, deduct [insert amount] per week/day, or part thereof, for each week/day of late delivery as liquidated damages up to a maximum amount of [insert amount] (the "Liquidated Damages Threshold").

Where the Liquidated Damages Threshold is met or exceeded (being that delivery continues not to be performed after the Liquidated Damages Threshold is met), the Client shall be entitled to:

1. claim any remedy available to it (whether under this Agreement or otherwise) for loss or damage incurred or suffered by it after the end of the Liquidated Damages Period; and
2. without prejudice to sub-clause (1), the Client shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement with immediate effect by giving notice in writing to the Contractor

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A. Intellectual Property Rights ("IPR") means all patents and patent rights, trademarks and trademark rights, trade names and trade name rights, service marks and service mark rights, service names and service name rights, brand names, copyrights and copyright rights, trade dress, business and product names, logos, slogans, trade secrets, industrial models, utility models, design models, designs, rights in confidential information, know-how, rights in the nature of unfair competition rights and rights to sue for passing off, and all pending applications for and registrations of patents, trademarks, service marks, and copyrights together with all connected and similar or analogous rights in any country or jurisdiction for the full term thereof.

B. Pre-existing IPR means all IPR existing prior to the date of this Agreement and all IPR in any materials, acquired or developed by or for Contractor or Client independently of this Agreement, and any IPR in Contractor's standard hardware and software products or modifications or updates to such products.

C. All IPR title and interest in all reports, data manuals and/or other materials (other than software) (including without limitation all and any audio or audio visual recordings, transcripts, books, papers, records, notes, illustrations, photographs, diagrams) produced for the purposes of this Agreement (collectively "the Materials") (or any part or parts thereof) shall vest in the Client and the Contractor so acknowledges and confirms. For the avoidance of doubt the Contractor hereby assigns all Intellectual Property Rights, title and interest in the Materials (including by way of present assignment of future copyright) to the extent that any such Intellectual Property Rights title or interest may be deemed by law to reside in it in the Materials to the Client absolutely.

D. The Client grants to the Contractor a royalty-free non-exclusive licence to use the Client's Pre-existing IPR for the Term to the extent necessary to enable the Contractor to fulfil its obligations under this Agreement. Save as expressly set out in this clause 6 all Pre-Existing IPR shall remain the sole property of the party who owned, acquired or developed such intellectual property.

E. The Contractor shall waive or procure a waiver of any moral rights subsisting in copyright produced under or in performance of this Agreement.

F. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit or be deemed to prohibit the Contractor from providing services similar to the Services to any party other than the Parties hereto. In no event shall the Contractor be precluded from independently developing for itself, or for others, materials which are competitive with, or similar to, the Services and to use its general knowledge, skills and experience, and any ideas, concepts, know-how, formats, templates, methodologies and techniques that are acquired or used in the course of providing the Services.

G. The Contractor shall ensure that all and any necessary consents and/or licences for any software, instrument, modality or methodology are obtained and in place before use for the purposes of this Agreement (to include but not be limited to ensuring that the Client shall be vested with all necessary rights so as to enable the Client to enjoy the benefit of the Services for its business purposes). The Contractor hereby indemnifies the Client and shall keep and hold the Client harmless from and in respect of all and any losses (whether direct, indirect or consequential) liability, damages, claims, costs or expenses which arise by reason of any breach of third party Intellectual Property Rights in so far as any such rights are used for the purposes of this Agreement.

At the request of the Client for and in respect of any such breach, the Contractor shall at its expense and option:

(i) procure the necessary rights for the Client to continue use;

(ii) replace the relevant deliverable with a non-infringing equivalent;

(iii) replace the relevant deliverable to make it non-infringing while giving equivalent performance; or

(iv) if the Contractor cannot obtain the remedies in (i), (ii) or (iii) above, it may direct the return of the deliverable and refund to the Client Charges paid for such deliverable less a reasonable amount for the Client's use of the deliverable up to the time of return, provided such reasonable amount is due to the owner of the said deliverable, TOGETHER with all losses (whether direct, indirect or consequential) thereby accruing to the Client as a result of the breach.

H. Upon the termination of this Agreement for whatever reason, the Contractor shall immediately deliver up to the Client all the Materials prepared up to the date of termination. The provisions of this clause 6 will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

A. Each of the Parties to this Agreement agrees to hold confidential all information, documentation and other material received, provided or obtained arising from their participation in this Agreement ("Confidential Information") and shall not disclose same to any third party except to:-

1. its professional advisers subject to the provisions of this clause 7; or
2. as may be required by law; or
3. as may be necessary to give effect to the terms of this Agreement subject to the provisions of this clause 7; or
4. in the case of the Client by request of any person or body or authority whose request the Client or persons associated with the Client (including but not limited to the Legislature and/or the Executive and/or the Civil Service) considers it necessary or appropriate to so comply.

B. The Contractor undertakes to comply with all reasonable directions of the Client with regard to the use and application of all and any of its Confidential Information and shall comply with the confidentiality agreement as exhibited at Appendix 6 to the RFT ("the Confidentiality Agreement").

The obligations in this clause 7 will not apply to any Confidential Information:

1. in the receiving Party's possession (with full right to disclose) before receiving it from the other Party; or
2. which is or becomes public knowledge other than by breach of this clause; or
3. is independently developed by the disclosing Party without access to or use of the Confidential Information; or
4. is lawfully received by the disclosing Party from a third party (with full right to disclose).

C. The Contractor acknowledges that the security of the State and its information is of paramount importance to the Client. Accordingly the Contractor confirms that it will, if requested by the Client, from time to time, submit full personal details (including those of Subcontractors) who are assigned to provide the Services (or any part thereof) under this Agreement. The Contractor further acknowledges that checks may be carried out in relation

to all such personnel by police authorities and the Contractor shall comply with all reasonable directions of the Client arising therefrom.

D. In circumstances where the Client is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 or the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014, then in the event of the Client receiving a request for information related to this Agreement, the Client shall consult with the Contractor in respect of the request. The Contractor shall identify any information that is not to be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, and shall state the reasons for this sensitivity. The Client will consult the Contractor about this confidential or commercially sensitive information before making a decision on any request received under the above legislation. The Contracting Authority accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released (irrespective of notification) or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such obligations.

E. The terms of this clause 7 shall survive expiry, completion or termination for whatever reason of this Agreement.

8. FORCE MAJEURE

A. A 'Force Majeure Event' means an event or circumstance or combination of events and/or circumstances not within the reasonable control of the Affected Party (as defined in clause 8B below) which has the effect of delaying or preventing that Party from complying with its obligations under this Agreement including but not limited to acts of God, war, out-break of disease, insurrection, riot, civil disturbance, rebellion, acts of terrorism, government regulations, embargoes, explosions, fires, floods, tempests, or failures of supply of electrical power, or public telecommunications equipment or lines, excluding industrial action of whatever nature or cause (strikes, lockouts and similar) occurring at the Contractor (or Subcontractor or agent) places of business.

B. In the event of any failure, interruption or delay in the performance of either Party's obligations (or of any of them) resulting from any Force Majeure Event, that Party ("the Affected Party") shall promptly notify the other Party in writing specifying:

1. the nature of the Force Majeure Event;
2. the anticipated delay in the performance of obligations;
3. the action proposed to minimise the impact of the Force Majeure Event;

and the Affected Party shall not be liable or have any responsibility of any kind for any loss or damage thereby incurred or suffered by the other Party, provided always that the Affected Party shall use all reasonable efforts to minimise the effects of the same and shall resume the performance of its obligations as soon as reasonably possible after the removal of the cause.

C. If the Force Majeure Event continues for [insert number]calendar days either Party may terminate at 14 days notice.

D. In circumstances where the Contractor is the Affected Party, the Client shall be relieved from any obligation to make payments under this Agreement save to the extent that

payments are properly due and payable for obligations actually fulfilled by the Contractor in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

9. TERMINATION

A. This Agreement may be terminated by the Client, without liability for compensation or damages, by serving [insert period of time months] written notice to the Contractor. This Agreement may be terminated by the Contractor, without liability for compensation or damages, by serving [insert period of time months] written notice to the Client.

B. Either Party shall have the right (in addition to its rights under clause 9(a) and any other rights which it has at law) to terminate this Agreement immediately and without liability for compensation or damages on the happening of any of the following:

1. if the other Party commits any serious breach or a series of breaches of any provision of this Agreement and fails to remedy such breach(es) (if the breach(es) are capable of remedy) within 30 days after receipt of a request in writing from the other Party;

2. if the other Party becomes insolvent, becomes bankrupt, enters into examinership, is wound up, commences winding up, has a receiving order made against it, makes any arrangement with its creditors generally or takes or suffers any similar action as a result of debt, or an event having an equivalent effect;

3. in circumstances where the Client becomes aware of any conflict of interest on the part of the Contractor which cannot, in the opinion of the Client, be removed by other means; and

4. in circumstances where the Client becomes aware of any registrable interest on the part of the Contractor.

C. The Client shall have the right, in addition to any other rights which it has at law, to terminate this Agreement immediately and without liability for compensation or damages in circumstances where the Client becomes aware:

i) that any of the exclusion grounds set out in Regulation 57 of the Regulations apply to the Contractor;

ii) that the Contractor (on its own or resulting from its sub-contractors, suppliers or entities on which it relies) comes within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

D. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any antecedent and accrued rights, obligations or liabilities of either Party, nor shall it affect any provision of this Agreement which is expressly or by implication intended to come into or continue in force on or after such termination.

E. If requested by the Client, the Contractor shall promptly furnish such anonymised information relating to the terms and conditions of the employment of all persons providing the Services as may be required by the Client ("Employment Information"). The Contractor agrees that the Client may release the Employment Information to third parties for the purposes of any procurement competition for the provision of the Services upon expiry of the Term or earlier termination of this Agreement for whatever cause.

10. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

A. The Client's Contact and the Contractor's Contact shall liaise on a regular basis to address any issues arising which may impact on the performance of this Agreement and to agree milestones, compliance schedules and operational protocols as required by the Client from time to time. If requested in writing by the Client the Contractor shall meet formally with the Client to report on progress and shall comply with all written directions of the Client.

B. The Contractor agrees to:

1. liaise with and keep the Client's Contact fully informed of any matter which might affect the observance and performance of the Contractor's obligations under this Agreement;
2. maintain such records and comply with such reporting arrangements and protocols as required by the Client from time to time;
3. comply with all reasonable directions of the Client; and
4. comply with the service levels and performance indicators set out in Schedule D.

C. The Client or its authorised representative may inspect the Contractor's premises, lands and facilities (or such part or parts thereof relating solely to this Agreement) with due access to relevant personnel and records upon reasonable notice in writing to ensure compliance with the terms of this Agreement. The Contractor shall comply with all reasonable directions of the Client thereby arising. The cost of inspection shall be borne by the Client.

11. DISPUTES

A. In the event of any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement (the "Dispute"), the Parties shall first seek settlement of the Dispute as set out below.

B. The Dispute shall be referred as soon as practicable to [insert Contractor contact] within the Contractor and to [insert Client contact] within the Client respectively.

C. If the Dispute has not been resolved within fifteen (15) Business Days (or such longer period as may be agreed in writing by the Parties) of being referred to the nominated representatives, then either Party may refer the Dispute to an independent mediator, the identity of whom shall be agreed in advance by the Parties.

D. If the Parties are unable to agree on a mediator or if the mediator agreed upon is unable or unwilling to act, either Party may within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the proposal to appoint a mediator or within twenty-one (21) days of notice to either Party that the mediator is unable to act, apply to the Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Irish Branch to appoint a mediator.

E. Any submissions made to and discussions involving the mediator, of whatever nature, shall be treated in strict confidence and without prejudice to the rights and/or liabilities of the Parties in any legal proceedings and, for the avoidance of doubt, are agreed to be without prejudice and legally privileged. The Parties shall make written submissions to the mediator within ten (10) Business Days of his/her appointment.

F. The Parties shall share equally the cost of the mediator. The costs of all experts and any other third parties who, at the request of any Party, shall have been instructed in the mediation, shall be for the sole account of, and shall be discharged by that Party.

G. For the avoidance of doubt, the obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall not cease, or be suspended or delayed by the reference of a dispute to mediation. The Contractor shall comply fully with the requirements of the Agreement at all times.

12. GOVERNING LAW, CHOICE OF JURISDICTION AND EXECUTION

A. This Agreement shall in all aspects be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland and the Parties hereby agree that the courts of Ireland have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement.

B. This Agreement shall be executed in duplicate and each copy of the Agreement shall be signed by all the Parties hereto. Each of the Parties to this Agreement confirms that this Agreement is executed by their duly authorised officers.

13. NOTICES

A. Any notice or other written communication to be given under this Agreement shall either be delivered personally or sent by registered post or email. The Parties will from time to time agree primary and alternative contact persons and details for the purposes of this clause 13.

B. All notices shall be deemed to have been served as follows:

1. if personally delivered, at the time of delivery;
2. if posted by registered post, at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing the same was delivered into the custody of the postal authorities (and not returned undelivered); and
3. if communicated by email, on the next calendar day following transmission.

14. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACT

A. Subject to a Party's obligations at law, any assignment to a third party or other transfer of a Party's rights or obligations under this Agreement (the "Assignment") requires the prior written consent of the other Party. Prior to any such Assignment, the assignee will be obliged to sign an undertaking to comply with all obligations under this Agreement. Any attempted Assignment not complied with in the manner prescribed herein shall be null and void.

B. Subject to a Party's obligations at law, any sub-contract of a Party's rights or obligations under this Agreement requires the prior written consent of the other Party, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any attempted subcontract not complied with in the

manner prescribed herein shall be null and void. For the purposes of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same), the Client may require information from the Contractor in relation to the status of the proposed subcontractor(s) including, but not limited to, in respect of natural persons, copies of identity documents and, in respect of legal persons, a certificate or extract from the commercial register or other competent authority of the country in which the person is established.

15. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties, and any and all other previous agreements, arrangements and understandings (whether written or oral) between the Parties with regard to the subject matter of this Agreement (save where fraudulently made) are hereby excluded.

16. SEVERABILITY

If any term or provision herein is found to be illegal or unenforceable for any reason, then such term or provision shall be deemed severed and all other terms and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

17. WAIVER

No failure or delay by either Party to exercise any right, power or remedy shall operate as a waiver of it, nor shall any partial exercise preclude further exercise of same or some other right, power or remedy.

18. NON-EXCLUSIVITY

Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the Client from purchasing services (or Services) from a third party at any time during the currency of the Agreement.

19. MEDIA

No media releases, public announcements or public disclosures relating to this Agreement or its subject matter, including but not limited to promotional or marketing material, shall be made by the Contractor without the prior written consent of the Client.

20. CONFLICTS, REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND CORRUPT GIFTS

A. The Contractor confirms that it has carried out a conflicts of interest check and is satisfied that neither it nor any Subcontractor nor agent as the case may be has any conflicts in relation to the Services and its obligations undertaken under this Agreement. The Contractor hereby undertakes to notify the Client immediately should any conflict or potential conflict of interest come to its attention during the currency of this Agreement and to comply with the Client's directions in respect thereof. In the event of such notification, the Client shall have the right (in addition to any other rights which it has at law) to terminate this Agreement immediately and without liability for compensation or damages.

B. Any registrable interest involving the Contractor (and any Subcontractor or agent as the case may be) and the Client, the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker), or any member of the Government, or any member of the Oireachtas, or their relatives must be fully disclosed to the Client immediately upon such information becoming known to the Contractor

(Subcontractor or agent as the case may be) and the Contractor shall comply with the Client's directions in respect thereof, to the satisfaction of the Client. In the event of such disclosure, the Client shall have the right (in addition to any other rights which it has at law) to terminate this Agreement immediately and without liability for compensation or damages. The terms "registrable interest" and "relative" shall be interpreted as per section 2 of the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 (as amended) a copy of which is available on request.

C. The Contractor shall not offer or agree to give any public servant or civil servant any gift or consideration or commission of any kind as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do or for having done or forborne to do any action in relation to the obtaining or execution of this or any other public contract. Any breach of this clause 20C or the commission of any offence by the Contractor, any Subcontractor, agent or employee under the Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 shall entitle the Client to terminate this Agreement immediately and without liability for compensation or damages and to recover the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation, including but not limited to recovery from the Contractor of the amount or value of any such gift, consideration or commission.

21. ACCESS TO PREMISES

A. Any of the Client's premises made available from time to time to the Contractor by the Client in connection with this Agreement, shall be made available to the Contractor on a non-exclusive licence basis and shall be used by the Contractor solely for the purpose of performing its obligations under this Agreement. The Contractor shall have use of such premises as licensee and shall vacate the same on completion, termination or abandonment of this Agreement.

B. The Contractor shall upon reasonable notice by the Client allow the Client access to its premises (including the premises of any Subcontractor or agent) where the Services are being performed for the Client under this Agreement.

22. EQUIPMENT

A. The Contractor shall provide all equipment and materials necessary for the provision of the Services ("Equipment").

B. All Equipment brought onto the Client's premises shall be at the Contractor's own risk and the Client shall have no liability for any loss of, caused by or damage to any Equipment. The Contractor shall provide for the haulage or carriage thereof to the Client's premises and the removal of Equipment when no longer required at its sole cost. Unless otherwise agreed, Equipment brought onto the premises will remain the property of the Contractor.

C. The Contractor shall maintain and store all items of Equipment within the Client's premises in a safe, serviceable and clean condition.

D. The Contractor shall, at the Client's written request, at its own expense and as soon as reasonably practicable:

i. remove from the Client's premises any Equipment which in the reasonable opinion of the Client is either hazardous, noxious or not in accordance with this Agreement; and

ii. replace such item with a suitable substitute item of Equipment.

E. On completion of the Services the Contractor shall remove the Equipment used by the Contractor to provide the Services and shall leave the Client's premises in a clean, safe and tidy condition. The Contractor is solely responsible for making good any damage to the Client's premises or any objects contained thereon, other than fair wear and tear, which is caused by the Contractor or any of its employees or Subcontractors.

23. NON SOLICITATION

A. For the Term and for a period of 12 months thereafter (and save in respect of publicly advertised posts) neither the Client nor the Contractor shall employ or offer employment to any of the other Party's employees without that other Party's prior written consent.

24. CHANGE CONTROL PROCEDURE

A. At any time during the Term of this Agreement, either Party may propose a change or changes to any part or parts of this Agreement.

B. The change control procedures set out in this Schedule will apply to all changes irrespective of whether the Contractor or the Client proposes the change.

C. A change control notice ("Change Control Notice") shall be prepared for all change requests. The Change Control Notice will provide an outline description of the change requested, the rationale for the change, the effect that the change will have on the Services (where known) and an estimate of the effort and cost required to prepare an impact assessment ("Impact Assessment").

D. All Change Control Notices proposing changes to this Agreement must be submitted for review to the other Party's Contact.

E. The Parties must indicate their acceptance or rejection of the change control request and/or Impact Assessment within a reasonable timeframe of its completion and Tender Submission for review, subject to a maximum of twenty (20) calendar days or such other period agreed between the Parties.

F. On approval of an Impact Assessment, this Agreement and/or the Schedules should be updated and revised as appropriate and in writing.

G. In the event that either Party rejects the Impact Assessment, the change(s) shall not take place and the Parties shall continue to perform their obligations under this Agreement.

H. The Contractor and the Client will agree a reasonable charge in advance for investigating each proposed variation and preparing each estimate, whether or not the variation is implemented. If the Client's request for any variation is subsequently withdrawn but results in a delay in the performance of the Services then the Contractor will not be liable for such delay and will be entitled to an extension of time equal to not less than the period of the delay.

25. DATA PROTECTION AND SECURITY

A. In this Agreement the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:
"Data" means all Confidential Information, whether in oral or written (including electronic) form, created by or in any way originating with the Client (including but not limited to his employees, agents, independent contractors and/or Sub-contractors) and all information that is the output of any computer processing, or other electronic manipulation of any information that was created by or in any way originating with the Client provided under this Agreement and includes any Personal Data;

"Data Controller" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"Data Processor" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"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"), 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.

"Data Subject" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"Data Subject Access Request" means a request made by a Data Subject in accordance with rights granted under the Data Protection Laws to access his or her Personal Data;

"Personal Data" has the meaning given under Data Protection Laws;

"Processing" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

B. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Laws.

C. The Parties acknowledge that for the purposes of the Data Protection Laws, the Client is the Data Controller and the Contractor is the Data Processor in respect of Data which is Personal Data. Schedule E sets out the scope, nature and purpose of Processing by the Contractor, the duration of the Processing and the types of Personal Data and categories of Data Subject.

D. Without prejudice to the generality of clause 25B, the Contractor shall, in relation to any Personal Data processed in connection with the performance by the Contractor of its obligations under this Agreement:-

(1) process that Personal Data only on the written instructions of the Client;

(2) ensure that it has in place appropriate technical and organisational measures, reviewed and approved by the Client, to protect against unauthorised or unlawful processing of Personal Data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, Personal Data, appropriate to the harm that might result from the unauthorised or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage and the nature of the data to be protected, having regard to the state of technological development and the cost of implementing any measures (those measures may include, where appropriate, pseudonymising and encrypting Personal Data, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of its systems and services, ensuring that availability of and access to Personal Data can be restored in a timely manner after an incident, and regularly assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the technical and organisational measures adopted by it);

(3) ensure that all personnel who have access to and/or process Personal Data are obliged to keep the Personal Data confidential;

(4) not transfer any Personal Data outside of the European Economic Area unless the prior written consent of the Client has been obtained and the following conditions are fulfilled;

i. appropriate safeguards are in place in relation to the transfer, to ensure that Personal Data is adequately protected in accordance with Chapter V of Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation);

ii. the data subject has enforceable rights and effective legal remedies;

iii. The Contractor complies with its obligations under the Data Protection Laws by providing an adequate level of protection to any Personal Data that is transferred; and

iv. The Contractor complies with reasonable instructions notified to it in advance by the Client with respect to the processing of the Personal Data;

E. The Contractor shall promptly notify the Client if it receives a Data Subject Access Request to have access to any Personal Data or any other complaint, correspondence, notice, request any order of the Court or request of any regulatory or government body relating to the Client's obligations under the Data Protection Laws and provide full co-operation and assistance to the Client in relation to any such complaint, order or request (including, without limitation, by allowing Data Subjects to have access to their data).

F. The Contractor shall without undue delay report in writing to the Client any data compromise involving Personal Data, or any circumstances that could have resulted in unauthorised access to or disclosure of Personal Data.

G. The Contractor shall assist the Client in ensuring compliance with its obligations under the Data Protection Laws with respect to security, impact assessments and consultations with supervisory authorities and regulators.

H. The Contractor shall at the written direction of the Client, amend, delete or return Personal Data and copies thereof to the Client on termination of this Agreement unless the Contractor is required by the laws of any member of the European Union or by the laws of the European Union applicable to the Contractor to store the Personal Data.

I. The Contractor shall permit the Client, the Office of the Data Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland, and/ or their nominee to conduct audits and or inspections of the Contractor's facilities, and to have access to all data protection, confidentiality and security procedures, data equipment, mechanisms, documentation, databases, archives, data storage devices, electronic communications and storage systems used by the Contractor in any way for the provision of the Services. The Contractor shall comply with all reasonable directions of the Client arising out of any such inspection, audit or review.

J. The Contractor shall fully comply with, and implement policies which are communicated or notified to the Contractor by the Client from time to time.

K. The Contractor shall maintain complete and accurate records and information to demonstrate its compliance with this clause 25 and allow for inspections and contribute to any audits by the Client or the Client's designated auditor.

L. The Contractor shall:-

(1) take all reasonable precautions to preserve the integrity of any Personal Data which it processes and to prevent any corruption or loss of such Personal Data;

(2) ensure that a back-up copy of any and all such Personal Data is made [insert frequency] and this copy is recorded on media from which the data can be reloaded if there is any corruption or loss of the data; and

(3) in such an event and if attributable to any default by the Contractor or any Sub-contractor, promptly restore the Personal Data at its own expense or, at the Client's option, reimburse the Client for any reasonable expenses it incurs in having the Personal Data restored by a third party.

M. (IF YOU ARE NOT CONSENTING TO A THIRD PARTY PROCESSOR – DELETE IF NOT IN USE)

The Client does not consent to the Contractor appointing any third party processor of Personal Data under this agreement

(OR IF USING A THIRD PARTY PROCESSOR – DELETE IF NOT IN USE)

the Client consents to the Contractor appointing [insert third-party processor] as a third-party processor of Personal Data under this Agreement. The Contractor confirms that it has entered or (as the case may be) will enter into a written agreement incorporating terms which are substantially similar to those set out in this clause 25 as between the Client and the Contractor, the Contractor shall remain fully liable for all acts or omissions of any third-party processor appointed by it pursuant to this clause 25.

N. Save for clauses 25B, 25C, 25D(4) and 25E, all the obligations on the Contractor in this clause 25 relating to the processing of Personal Data shall apply to the processing of all Data.

O. The provisions of this clause 25 shall survive termination and or expiry of this Agreement for any reason.

26. ADDITIONAL CONDITION(S)

[*Delete and replace with "Not Used" if not applicable:*
This is a free text area to allow the Client to include any additional conditions to the Contract, for example a price review clause. Such additional conditions can be set out here by the Client]

Schedule B: Services: The Specification

[Insert when completing contract]

Schedule C: Charges

[Insert when completing contract]

Schedule D: Service Levels

[Insert at RFT stage, if applicable, or when completing contract]

Schedule E: Data Protection

[complete when completing the contract]

Processing, Personal Data and Data Subjects

1. Processing by the Contractor

    1.1 Subject matter of processing

    1.2 Nature of processing

    1.3 Purpose of processing

    1.4 Duration of the processing

2. Types of personal data

3. Categories of data subject

Appendix 6: Confidentiality Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the [date] day of [month] 20 [year] BETWEEN:

The [insert name of Contracting Authority], of [insert address] (hereinafter "the Contracting Authority") of the one part;
and

[Contractor's legal name: to be completed on signing.], of [address: to be completed on signing.] (hereinafter called "the Contractor") of the other part.

WHEREAS

A. By Request for Tenders dated [insert date] entitled [insert title] (the "RFT") the Contracting Authority invited tenders ("Tenders") for the provision of the Goods/Services described in Appendix 1 to the RFT (the "Goods" "Services") ("the Competition"). The Contractor submitted a response to the RFT dated the [insert date of Tender].

The Contractor has been identified as the preferred bidder in the Competition.

B. For the purposes of the Competition and any subsequent contract awarded thereunder (if any) ("the Contract"), certain confidential information as defined at clause 2 of this Agreement, will be furnished to the Contractor. The Confidential Information is confidential to the Contracting Authority.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED in consideration of the sum of €2.00 (the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by the Contractor) as follows:

1. The Contractor acknowledges that Confidential Information may be provided to them by the Contracting Authority and that each item of Confidential Information shall be governed by the terms of this Agreement.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement "Confidential Information" means:

   2.1 unless specified in writing to the contrary by the Contracting Authority all and any information (whether in documentary form, oral, electronic, audio-visual, audio-recorded or otherwise including any copy or copies thereof and whether scientific, commercial, financial, technical, operational or otherwise) relating to the Contracting Authority, the supply of Goods/Services under the Contract and all and any information supplied or made available to the Contractor (to include employees, agents, Subcontractors and other suppliers) for the purposes of the Contract(s) including personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Laws; and

   2.2 any and all information which has been derived or obtained from information described in sub-paragraph 2.1.

3. For the purposes of this Agreement "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"), 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

4. Save as may be required by law, the Contractor agrees in respect of the Confidential Information:

4.1 to treat such Confidential Information as confidential and to take all necessary steps to ensure that such confidentiality is maintained;

4.2 not, without the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority, to communicate or disclose any part of such Confidential Information to any person except:

I to those employees, agents, Subcontractors and other suppliers on a need to know basis; and/or

ii to the Contractor's auditors, professional advisers and any other persons or bodies having a legal right or duty to have access to or knowledge of the Confidential Information in connection with the business of the Contractor

PROVIDED ALWAYS that the Contractor shall ensure that all such persons and bodies are made aware, prior to disclosure, of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information and that they owe a duty of confidence to the Contracting Authority; and shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that such persons and bodies comply with the provisions of this Agreement.

5. The obligations in this Agreement will not apply to any Confidential Information:

i in the Contractor's possession (with full right to disclose) before receiving it from the Contracting Authority; or

ii which is or becomes public knowledge other than by breach of this clause; or

iii is independently developed by the Contractor without access to or use of the Confidential Information; or

iv is lawfully received from a third party (with full right to disclose).

6. The Contractor undertakes:

6.1 to comply with all directions of the Contracting Authority with regard to the use and application of all and any Confidential Information or data (including personal data as defined in the Data Protection Laws);

6.2 to comply with all directions as to local security arrangements deemed reasonably necessary by the Contracting Authority including, if required, completion of documentation under the Official Secrets Act 1963 and comply with any vetting requirements of the Contracting Authority including by police authorities;

6.3 upon termination of the Competition (or the Contract) for whatever reason to furnish to the Contracting Authority all Confidential Information or at the written direction of the Contracting Authority to destroy in a secure manner all (or such part or parts thereof as may be identified by the Contracting Authority) Confidential Information in its possession and shall erase any Confidential Information held by the Contractor in electronic form. The Contractor will upon request furnish a certificate to that effect should the Contracting Authority so request in writing. For the avoidance of doubt "document" includes documents stored on a computer storage medium and data in digital form whether legible or not.

7. The Contractor shall not obtain any proprietary interest or any other interest whatsoever in the Confidential Information furnished to them by the Contracting Authority and the Contractor so acknowledges and confirms.

8. The Contractor shall, in the performance of the Contract, access only such hardware, software, infrastructure, or any part of the databases, data or ICT system(s) of the Contracting Authority as may be necessary for the purposes of the Competition (and obligations thereunder or arising therefrom) and only as directed by the Contracting Authority and in the manner agreed in writing between the Parties.

9. The Contractor agrees that this Agreement will continue in force notwithstanding any court order relating to the Competition or termination of the Contract (if awarded) for any reason.

10. The Contractor agrees that this Agreement shall in all aspects be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland and the Contractor hereby further agrees that the courts of Ireland have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement.

11. A. In this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

"Data Controller" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"Data Processor" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"Data Subject" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

"Data Subject Access Request" means a request made by a Data Subject in accordance with rights granted under the Data Protection Laws to access his or her Personal Data;

"Personal Data" has the meaning given under Data Protection Laws;

"Processing" has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws;

B. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Laws.

C. The Parties acknowledge that for the purposes of the Data Protection Laws, the Contracting Authority is the Data Controller and the Contractor is the Data Processor in respect of Confidential Information which is Personal Data. Schedule A sets out the scope, nature and purpose of Processing by the Contractor, the duration of the Processing and the types of Personal Data and categories of Data Subject.

D. Without prejudice to the generality of clause 11(B), the Contractor shall, in relation to any Confidential Information which is Personal Data:-

(1) process that Personal Data only on the written instructions of the Contracting Authority;

(2) ensure that it has in place appropriate technical and organisational measures, reviewed and approved by the Contracting Authority, to protect against unauthorised or unlawful processing of Personal Data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, Personal Data, appropriate to the harm that might result from the unauthorised or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage and the nature of the data to be protected, having regard to the state of technological development and the cost of implementing any measures (those measures may include, where appropriate, pseudonymising and encrypting Personal Data, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of its systems and services, ensuring that availability of and access to Personal Data can be restored in a timely manner after an incident, and regularly assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the technical and organisational measures adopted by it);

(3) ensure that all personnel who have access to and/or process Personal Data are obliged to keep the Personal Data confidential;

(4) not transfer any Personal Data outside of the European Economic Area unless the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority has been obtained and the following conditions are fulfilled;

i. appropriate safeguards are in place in relation to the transfer, to ensure that Personal Data is adequately protected in accordance with Chapter V of Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation);
ii. the data subject has enforceable rights and effective legal remedies;
iii. The Contractor complies with its obligations under the Data Protection Laws by providing an adequate level of protection to any Personal Data that is transferred; and
iv. The Contractor complies with reasonable instructions notified to it in advance by the Contracting Authority with respect to the processing of the Personal Data;

E. The Contractor shall promptly notify the Contracting Authority if it receives a Data Subject Access Request to have access to any Personal Data or any other complaint, correspondence, notice, request any order of the Court or request of any regulatory or government body relating to the Contracting Authority's obligations under the Data Protection Laws and provide full co-operation and assistance to the Contracting Authority in relation to any such complaint, order or request (including, without limitation, by allowing Data Subjects to have access to their data).

F. The Contractor shall without undue delay report in writing to the Contacting Authority any data compromise involving Personal Data, or any circumstances that could have resulted in unauthorised access to or disclosure of Personal Data.

G. The Contractor shall assist the Contracting Authority in ensuring compliance with its obligations under the Data Protection Laws with respect to security, impact assessments and consultations with supervisory authorities and regulators.

H. The Contractor shall at the written direction of the Contracting Authority, amend, delete or return Personal Data and copies thereof to the Contracting Authority on termination of this Agreement unless the Contractor is required by the laws of any member of the European Union or by the laws of the European Union applicable to the Contractor to store the Personal Data.

I. The Contractor shall permit the Contracting Authority, the Office of the Data Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland, and / or their nominee to conduct audits and or inspections of the Contractor's facilities, and to have access to all data protection, confidentiality and security procedures, data equipment, mechanisms, documentation, databases, archives, data storage devices, electronic communications and storage systems used by the Contractor in any way for the provision of the services. The Contractor shall comply with all reasonable directions of the Contracting Authority arising out of any such inspection, audit or review.

J. The Contractor shall fully comply with, and implement policies which are communicated or notified to the Contractor by the Contracting Authority from time to time.

K. The Contractor shall maintain complete and accurate records and information to demonstrate its compliance with this clause 11 and allow for inspections and contribute to any audits by the Contacting Authority or the Contracting Authority's designated auditor.

L. The Contractor shall:-

1. take all reasonable precautions to preserve the integrity of any Personal Data which it processes and to prevent any corruption or loss of such Personal Data;
2. ensure that a back-up copy of any and all such Personal Data is made [insert frequency] and this copy is recorded on media from which the data can be reloaded if there is any corruption or loss of the data; and
3. in such an event and if attributable to any default by the Contractor or any Sub-contractor, promptly restore the Personal Data at its own expense or, at the Contracting Authority's option, reimburse the Contracting Authority for any reasonable expenses it incurs in having the Personal Data restored by a third party.

(IF YOU ARE NOT CONSENTING TO A THIRD PARTY PROCESSOR - DELETE IF NOT IN USE)

M. The Contracting Authority does not consent to the Contractor appointing any third party processor of Personal Data under this agreement.

(OR IF USING A THIRD PARTY PROCESSOR - DELETE IF NOT IN USE)

The Contracting Authority consents to the Contractor appointing [insert third-party processor] as a third-party processor of Personal Data under this Agreement. The Contractor confirms that it has entered or (as the case may be) will enter into a written agreement incorporating terms which are substantially similar to those set out in this clause 11 as between the Contracting Authority and the Contractor. The Contractor shall remain

fully liable for all acts or omissions of any third-party processor appointed by it pursuant to this clause 11.

N. Save for clauses 11B, 11C, 11D(4) and 11E, all the obligations on the Contractor in this clause 11 relating to the processing of Personal Data shall apply to the processing of all Confidential Information.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Contracting Authority _____ (being a duly authorised officer)	SIGNED for and on behalf of the Contractor _____
Witness	Witness

Schedule A to the Confidentiality Agreement: Data Protection

[complete when completing the confidentiality agreement]

Processing, Personal Data and Data Subjects

1. Processing by the Contractor

   1.1 Subject matter of processing

   1.2 Nature of processing

   1.3 Purpose of processing

   1.4 Duration of the processing

2. Types of personal data

3. Categories of data subject

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