Tender Clarification No. 4

Clifden Railway Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge – Consultancy Services (Stage A Preliminary Design and Stage B Statutory Consent Preparation)

Galway City Council – Tender reference: 9396140 – **27 November 2026**

The following clarifications are issued to all tenderers. Queries are reproduced as received, anonymised. Where a clarification conflicts with the tender documents, the clarification prevails. This Clarification should be read with Addendum No. 1 and Tender Clarification Nos. 1, 2 and 3. All other terms of the tender documents remain unchanged.

No.	Query received	Galway City Council response
1	SAQ Criterion 3.4c states that the minimum standard is satisfactory experience in providing technical services on projects of a similar scale, nature and complexity. It then requires Engineering reference projects to have reached substantial construction completion. We request that this requirement be reconsidered. The Principal Service under this commission extends only through Preliminary Design and Statutory Consent, with Detailed Design and Construction expressly excluded from the appointment. Requiring reference projects to have subsequently reached construction completion therefore introduces an experience threshold relating to project stages outside the scope of the services being procured. This may exclude directly relevant experience on comparable projects which have successfully reached Statutory Consent but have not yet reached construction for reasons unrelated to the performance or capability of the engineering consultant. We respectfully request the Contracting Authority amend Criterion 3.4c to accept Engineering projects which have reached submittal of Statutory Consent within the past seven years, irrespective of whether they have subsequently progressed to construction.	The requirement is unchanged. Under SAQ 3.4(c), an Engineering reference project must have reached substantial completion within the past seven years. A project that has reached submission of statutory consent but has not been constructed does not qualify as an Engineering reference project. Galway City Council requires construction experience because the Preliminary Design must be capable of being constructed. As set out in Tender Clarification No. 2 (item 4), a project of that kind may instead be submitted as an EIAR reference project, where the tenderer prepared the EIAR and it was submitted for statutory consent within the past seven years. The minimum of three projects in each group continues to apply.
2	Please confirm that, for the purposes of SAQ Criterion 3.4c, a Grade 1 listed infrastructure structure in the UK is acceptable as equivalent to a Protected Structure.	Confirmed. A statutorily listed infrastructure structure in the United Kingdom (for example a Grade I listed structure in England or Wales, or the equivalent listing in Scotland or Northern Ireland) is accepted as equivalent to a Protected Structure, NIAH-listed structure or National Monument for the purposes of SAQ 3.4(c). All other requirements of the criterion, including the minimum construction value and the type of structure, continue to apply.
3	Under SAQ Criterion 3.4a, Lead Consultant/Project Manager Role, please confirm that a road bridge project of comparable scale and complexity is accepted as equivalent to an active travel project for the purposes of satisfying the relevant EIAR/NIS and statutory consent experience requirement.	Confirmed. For the purposes of SAQ 3.4(a), a road bridge project of comparable scale and complexity is accepted as equivalent to an active travel project, provided that an EIAR and/or NIS was prepared and submitted for statutory consent.

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4	You have provided an Appendix A for Self Declaration re Regulation 57 within the Tender documents. However you indicate in SAQ Part 1 that it is an ESPD that is required from each Team Member. Please clarify, and if it is an ESPD that is required, can you please provide one.	An ESPD is required, as this competition is above the EU thresholds. **The self-declaration at Appendix A was included in error and should be disregarded; it is not required**. An ESPD must be completed and submitted by the Applicant, by each member of the Applicant where it is a consortium, joint venture or partnership, and by each entity relied upon to meet the qualification criteria, including specialist sub-consultants. Each must complete Parts II, III, IVα and V of the ESPD. It is not required from every individual team member. **An ESPD request file is uploaded to eTenders with this Clarification.** The Declaration in Part 2 of SAQ Part 1 must still be completed and signed in addition to the ESPD.
5	Can the Contracting Authority please provide all documents, including those in draft format, from the previous phases of the project beyond those provided in the information pack to date? Example documents requested are the project risk register and stakeholder consultation register, as well as any initial baseline studies completed in addition to those included in the provided options report.	Galway City Council has made available through eTenders the documents it considers necessary for tenderers to prepare their tenders, including the AECOM Structures Options Report and its appendices and, with Tender Clarification No. 3, the 2000 site investigation report, the 2021 topographic survey and the Arup Condition Assessment Report. Galway City Council's internal working documents, including draft documents, the project risk register and the stakeholder register, are not being provided. Tenderers are required to identify the key project risks and stakeholder issues for themselves and to set out their approach in their submission, as described in the quality criteria. The outputs of the separately commissioned ecological survey programme will be provided to the appointed Consultant as they become available. Tenderers should state any assumptions made in preparing their tender.