

ESF RE-TENDERING EXERCISE FOR LONDON

ITT REFERENCE No	QUESTION	RESPONSE
L015	Can you please clarify whether all beneficiaries must be resident of either Hillingdon or Hounslow? Or can they be from anywhere within the West London District, given that delivery must be from premises within Hillingdon/Hounslow.	Section 10 of the Local Specification for Hillingsdon and Hounslow states: <i>'10. Eligibility Unemployed and economically inactive people living in the District.'</i>
L011 & L015	Can you confirm what you mean by South and West London? I've sent this opportunity to all FE Colleges in both regions (as per the LSC geographic definitions) but the geographic parameters set out in the actual documents bear no relation to the LSC definitions. Can you tell me why the difference and why other parts of South or West London appear to be excluded. And if other areas in the south and west will be targeted next if this is the case. Its also a shame about the lack of notice of this opportunity.	The Local Specifications contained within the Invitation to Tender clearly explains that DWP are seeking to contract for this ESF provision at the specified locations within the Jobcentre Plus District of South London, and the Jobcentre Plus District of West London The geographical definitions of Jobcentre Plus Districts bear no relation to LSC geographical definitions - why would they? This is a re-tendering exercise - the exercise covering other locations DWP required for ESF provision has now been completed. There will be an additional re-tendering exercise displayed on the DWP website on Monday for the North East of England DWP are not required to provide advance notice of tendering exercises - we display all such exercises on the DWP website, and the onus is on prospective tenderers to keep a regular check on the website
L011 & L015	Your guidance says that ' All costs should be input exclusive of VAT ', but as a college we are generally unable to recover VAT. Please	Regardless of whether the contractor will charge VAT when claiming the contract fees, <u>we do require costs to be shown exclusive of VAT on the price</u>

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	clarify how we should show that the project cost will include VAT paid where applicable.	<u>proposal.</u>
LO11 & LO15	Does DWP have a list of attendees of the DWP PQQ event in London for the original bidding round? The event was held on 15 th October.	We have attached a list of those organisations who were due to attend the London ESF Briefing – see attached
LO15	The indicative breakdown of starts that providers are asked to aim to achieve is 42% unemployed and 34% inactive – ie a total of 76% (Page 5 of the Local Spec). As no beneficiaries are intended to be in work, are we to assume that this is the minimum percentage? If not, what is the status of the remaining 24% intended to be?	We have now clarified the position with the District. They require the Eligibility Requirement at section 10 be the over-riding factor - so all participants need to be either unemployed or inactive. The indicative breakdown of starts is a guideline only
LO15	In the application form (Part 7 a) you ask us to set out the performance offer for starts and job outcomes for each intervention within the specification. It's not clear from the information provided how you define an intervention. Am I right in assuming that as there is only 1 contract, there is only 1 intervention? Or are the 'elements' in the contract (page 6 – Local Spec) considered to be different interventions	The Local Specification states: 'Please set out your performance offer for Starts and Job Outcomes (for each intervention within the specification if there are several).' The elements required by the spec are: <u>Element 1 - Pre-Employment Skills</u> <u>Element 2 - ESOL Provision and Specific Support for Refugees</u> We would be looking for a performance offer for each element
LO11 & LO15	Are these projects VAT Exempt?	No
LO11 & LO15	The Financial Guidance asks bidders to exclude VAT from their costs – does this mean VAT will be paid on top of the indicative Contract Value by DWP? Or are we supposed	We need all costs within the pricing proposal to exclude VAT. When issued, contracts will show the VAT-exclusive costs. Where VAT is applicable to contract costs, DWP will pay VAT.

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	to consider VAT as our cost and build it into our project costs?	
LO11 & LO15	Can I ask for confirmation that the DWP are acting as co-financer for this programme, and that the provider is not required to make a financial contribution?	DWP are acting as a Co-Financer, and are using DWP contract costs against these ESF contracts. Providers are not required to contribute
LO11 & LO15	Am I right that you are looking for one prime contractor for each region for all activities? This is not something we would be interested in tendering for directly, but feel our online support services and unique system to access entry-level job opportunities could be a valuable addition to the success of such a prime contractor. Is there any way we can circulate something to bidders, or will you be posting a list of people who pass the EoI phase?	DWP are seeking to award one contract for the Jobcentre Plus District of South London, and one contract for the Jobcentre Plus District of West London The Expression of Interest process is purely and simply for DWP to gauge the level of interest in the tendering exercise - it is not a process that organisations 'pass'. Because we have not asked prospective bidders if we can share their information, DWP will not be publishing a list of organisations who have expressed interest and we are unable to provide contact details to a third party.