

General Clarifications

Please confirm how the responses (for example case studies) will be evaluated and scored, and whether these narrative type responses are weighted

The questions are not scored, and there are no weightings. The supplier questions are evaluated solely on whether you can demonstrate your competence and capability to undertake the works required under each category.

Please confirm the closing date for clarification questions and the latest date that answered questions will be provided to bidders to allow time for these to be properly considered prior to the submission deadline of 18 April

There is no set date for clarification questions to be submitted, and all questions received in good time will be responded to before the deadline. Please note that the DPS will remain open for applications to join continuously after the initial deadline, so in the event that we have been unable to satisfactorily answer your questions you can hold off on applying until you are satisfied, or submit anyway. In this latter case, we will seek to resolve any issues in applications to get applicants on to the system.

Please clarify the word or page limit for responses to questions 8 (Health and Safety) and 9 (Equal Opportunity and Diversity) for all the relevant sub questions, including policies

There are no limits on those questions, however please try to respond as concisely as possible and only give information relevant to the question.

Please confirm how the optional questions will be scored (for example Women in Construction, Staff skills), and whether bidders not responding will be less likely to be included on the DPS

The questions are not scored; your responses are used to assess your organisation's competence and capability to undertake the works that are covered by the DPS. For the optional questions, there is no strict pass/fail criteria; however, individual contracting authorities may use that information to assist them when carrying out call-offs, for example using numbers of staff as a guide to whether a company has the capacity to deliver a large job.

Please clarify whether the sub-contracting question must be answered for any bidder proposing to use subcontractors or is it optional for all?

Question 13 (Sub-contracting & Supply Chain Management) must be answered where you have indicated that you intend to use subcontractors, as it covers your approach to supply chain management, including prompt payment.

Details of specific contractors are not required unless your organisation is relying on their capacity / capability in order to pass the mandatory selection criteria (e.g. accreditations), in which case you should complete question 2.3 accordingly.

Can you please confirm whether the same project can be used for both the references in section 18 and the case studies in section 19? Thank you.

Yes, you can use the same project as both a case study and a reference.

Can you please confirm whether there is a certain time period within which the required case studies for Q19.1 must have been carried out?

There is no fixed time period. However, we are looking for an overview of your organisation and for you to demonstrate that you are capable of carrying out the tasks required, so the more recent your

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case studies the better a reflection of your current capability they are likely to be. If all three case studies were from a long time ago, we may have to ask further questions before accepting your application.

Please could you advise as to whether it would be acceptable to provide 1 - 2 case studies in further detail as we feel the 3 page limit to be quite restrictive in addressing the elements you would like covered in the question?

Our methods for managing health & safety, cost planning and management, monitoring of service delivery, liaising with stakeholders, handover and training, etc are largely very similar across the contracts of this nature we have delivered but would be grateful for more scope to detail such arrangements.

Please provide three case studies where possible, and keep each within the limit.

For this application, we are looking for an overview of your organisation and for you to demonstrate that you are capable of carrying out the tasks required under the relevant category. You do not need to cover every bullet point in detail for each case study, as long as the overall picture across all the case studies is sufficient to show your competence and capability.

Can you please advise if there will be multiple rounds available to submit an application for this DPS?

The DPS will remain open for new applications on a continuous basis throughout its term, so you can submit your application whenever is convenient for you.

We are required to submit 3 case studies as part of our submission, if we opted for all lots are this 3 case studies for the all lots bidding for or 3 case studies for each lot applied for?

Please provide three case studies in total.

For this application, we are looking for an overview of your organisation and for you to demonstrate that you are capable of carrying out the tasks required under the relevant category or categories. Where applying for multiple categories, as long as the overall picture across all the case studies is sufficient to show your competence and capability that will be acceptable.

Accreditations

We are currently working towards gaining PAS2030/2035 accreditation. Could you please advise if we would be precluded in applying now, and if that is the case, is there scope to join the DPS when we gain our accreditation?

You must have the accreditations in place to be admitted to the DPS; however, it will remain open for new applications on a continuous basis throughout its term, so you can submit your application as soon as you have gained your accreditation.

Please could you advise whether holding e.g. MCS MIS3005 supersedes the requirement for holding PAS 2030? We have previously applied for PAS 2030 but been informed we do not require it as we hold MCS MIS3005 which covers its' requirements and more.

This DPS will be used initially to deliver schemes funded by the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 grant. We have been advised by BEIS that all installers operating under the scheme must be certified to PAS 2030:2019, and so that is a requirement to be accepted to the DPS currently.

Health & Safety Questions

With regard to the exemption questions 7.1 to 7.3, please advise which of the questions thereafter are we exempt from answering?

It appears that a chunk of the questions has dropped off; after the section on exemptions should be a section for non-exempt companies to complete on their basic H&S competence, and this is the main bit you would be exempt from answering.

If we can provide one of the 3 items listed within Section 7 'Health and Safety Policy and Capability (Exemptions) are we then exempt from answering Section 8.1 to 8.4?

Yes, as long as the exemption provided covers the relevant CDM role(s). For example, a certificate must specifically state that the organisation has been assessed and approved for principal designer in order to count as an exemption to Q8.4.

Question 7.1 asks 'Within the last twelve months, you have successfully completed a prequalification application undertaken as an assessment provider able to demonstrate that its information gathering process is equivalent to that of PAS 91.'

- Can you please confirm whether this should read 'EVALUATED BY an assessment provider' as opposed to 'UNDERTAKEN AS an assessment provider?'

That line should read "undertaken BY an assessment provider".

Can you please confirm whether answering no to questions 7.1 to 7.3 will preclude bidders from being admitted onto the DPS?

Questions 7.1 to 7.3 (C4-Q1 to C4-Q11 on PAS 91) cover exemptions to completing the detailed health & safety questions, and are either/or options; you only need to demonstrate that one of the three applies in order to cover the basic health & safety requirement.

In the event that none of the exemptions applies, (i.e. you tick 'no' for all three) we would have to ask some further questions to assess your health & safety capability.

Can you confirm whether e.g. Constructionline membership would satisfy this requirement?

A construction health and safety certificate issued by any organisation that is registered member ofSSIP will satisfy the criteria for question 7.2.
