

Provision of Energy Consultancy, Design and Development Services

Fire Sector Engagement Questionnaire for the Procurement of a National Energy Consultancy Contract

Explanatory Note

Following publication of the Government's Net Zero Strategy in October 2021, public sector organisations have been undertaking extensive analysis of their estates' carbon footprint for the purpose of drawing up plans to enable them to meet the following two (2) key objectives:

- a. Decarbonising public sector buildings; and
- b. Creating a net zero public estate with the view of achieving the Government's net zero target by 2050.

Currently, the public sector is working to a target of delivering a 78% reduction in carbon emissions by 2035 and, in some cases, Fire and Rescue Services are aspiring to achieve carbon neutrality by as early as 2030. A key part of this journey will be the delivery of various decarbonisation and green energy projects, for which significant capital investment will be required coupled with additional resourcing pressures.

In September 2020, the Government launched the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for the purpose of providing public sector bodies with access to grant funding for the delivery of heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures. The PSDS funding process is managed by Salix Finance and it is delivered in phases, with each phase most likely allowing for a different scope and set of criteria.

PSDS funding applications are time-stamped and assessed on a first come first serve basis, therefore having sufficient resources with the appropriate level of expertise to put an application in early on will be a key element of success. All PSDS-funded projects must be completed within twelve (12) months.

Concerns have been raised across the Bluelight sector (including Fire) relating to the incredibly low success rates in securing PSDS funding and the challenges and limitations that the current process is presenting. Fire and Rescue Services who have been successful in their grant funding applications have reported that this was the result of dedicated teams and significant volume of work within a short period of time.

In light of the above, the FM & Construction Task and Finish Group would like to assess the level of need and appetite across the Fire Sector for the commissioning of a national contract for the provision of an energy specialist who will be responsible for assisting Fire and Rescue Services in achieving a broad set of deliverables as described below:

- Carbon footprint and energy performance data analysis on a 'whole building' approach basis ("Energy Audits");
- Identification of potential improvement areas and development of decarbonisation and energy efficiency plans;
- Consultancy support for the production of specifications, feasibility studies and development of funding applications related to the PSDS or any other funding process; and
- Consultancy support for the delivery of decarbonisation, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation projects.

With the above in mind, we would kindly request that you take the time and respond to the questions below by providing us with as much detail as possible by **17:00 Tuesday 14th June**

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2022. Please submit your completed questionnaire to the FM & Construction National Strategic Task and Finish Group by emailing fmconstruction.tfg@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

A number of procurement routes have already been identified and discussions both with Public Buying Organisations and individual suppliers are ongoing. Should it be determined that there is scope and appetite to put in place a national contract, the procurement process will be completed in August 2022 in anticipation of the PSDS Phase 4 funding later in 2022.

We would like to take this opportunity and thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

Q.1 Are you currently in the process of undertaking OR do you intend to undertake environmental impact analysis on your estate (including measuring your estate’s carbon footprint) in the next 6 to 12 months?		
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<u>FRS Supporting Statement:</u>
Q.2 Are you currently in the process of developing OR do you intend to develop decarbonisation and energy efficiency plans in the next 6 to 12 months?		
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<u>FRS Supporting Statement:</u>
Q.3 Are you considering or planning to submit a funding application for Phase 4 of the PSDS process or for any future Phases?		
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<u>FRS Supporting Statement:</u>
Q.4 Do you feel that you have a good understanding of the PSDS funding process?		
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	<u>FRS Supporting Statement:</u>

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Q.5	Are you comfortable with the volume and expertise of your in-house resources?	
FRS Response	Yes / No / Partially <i>delete as appropriate</i>)	FRS Supporting Statement:
Q.6	Would you benefit from the provision of an energy specialist to upskill your staff and support your Service, generally in your journey to carbon neutrality and / or specifically in the design and delivery of specific projects?	
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>delete as appropriate</i>)	FRS Supporting Statement:
Q.7	Would you use a framework if one existed for the specialist services referenced above?	
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>delete as appropriate</i>)	FRS Supporting Statement:
Q.8	Is there anything else you would like further support on that has not been already mentioned?	
FRS Response	Yes / No / Do not know <i>delete as appropriate</i>)	FRS Supporting Statement: