



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Framework Background

NFCC Emergency Response Vehicle
Framework

DS478-24

Contents

Introduction and Framework Overview	2
Open Framework	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Rebates	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Procurement Process for the Framework	5
Conflicts of Interest	5
Procurement Strategy	5
Pre-Tender Process	5
Tender Process	5
Evaluation of Tender Submissions	6
Due Diligence	7
Framework Award	7
Framework Management	8
Appendix A – Access to Open Framework	11
Appendix B – Other Available Frameworks	13

Framework Overview

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) as the Commercial Category Lead for the Fleet category, on behalf of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), developed an Open Framework for Emergency Response Vehicles.

Our Category Sponsor for the Fleet Category, Steve Helps – Chief Fire Officer for Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, supported the procurement process and will continue to support the Framework.

The Framework was developed in consultation and collaboration with the NFCC Transport Officers Group (NFCC TOG), the NFCC, UK Fire and Rescue Services and suppliers.

The table provides the key information for the Framework:

Category	Description
Reference	DS478-24
Framework Name	NFCC Emergency Response Vehicles
Framework Duration	8 years
Start Date	01/04/2026
End Date	31/03/2034
Award period	All Call-Off Contracts must commence and be awarded during the term of the Framework but may conclude after its expiry.
Framework value	£900,000,000 excluding VAT (c£1.08b including VAT).
Maximum contract length	There is no maximum contract length
Scope of Framework	Buy Pumping Appliances, Aerial Appliances, Special Vehicles and Vehicle Disposal
Buying options	Further Competition only
Rebate	The rebate applied will be 0.1% to each Call-Off Contract. The rebate will be fixed for the duration of the Framework.
Can be used by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Fire and Rescue Services • Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation • The Home Office • Suppliers or Organisations who are the acting agent and responsible for/manage vehicle procurement on behalf of any named organisation • All Police Forces within the United Kingdom, Scotland and Northern Ireland • NHS Bodies • Police Forces of British Overseas Territories, British Sovereign Base Areas and British Crown Dependencies • Lease/Finance Providers procuring vehicles which are utilised by any named organisation • UK Airports that are wholly or partially owned by Local Authorities and/or Councils <p>The full list of Contracting Authorities who can use the Framework is provided in Appendix A.</p>

Commercial in Confidence

Framework Notices	FTS Tender Notice FTS Contract Award Notice FTS Contract Details Notice
Contact details	procurement@dsfire.gov.uk

Framework Scope

The Framework permits Contracting Authorities to buy the following goods and/or services:

- New Emergency Response Vehicles including Command & Control vehicles
- Driver Training Vehicles either operational or non-operational
- Supply and/or fit of equipment for vehicles purchased via the Framework
- Conversion/Refurbishment of existing vehicles
- After sales support
- End of Life Sale/Disposal
- Demountable pods

The above goods and/or services you can buy through the Framework under the relevant lot:

Lot	Lot name	Lot description
1	Pumping Appliances	All Pumping Appliances with gross vehicle weight of more than 3t
2	Aerial Appliances	All Aerial Appliances within the scope of EN 14043, 14044 and 1777
3a	Small Special Vehicles	All Special Vehicles with gross vehicle weight of 3.5t or below
3b	Medium Special Vehicles	All Special Vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 3.5t and <7.5t
3c	Large Special Vehicles	All Special Vehicles with gross vehicle weight of more than 7.5t
4	Vehicle Disposal	Disposal of any Emergency Response Vehicles

Contracting Authorities can only procure vehicles or vehicle disposal services via a further competition, which can be carried out individually or collaboratively.

The Framework does not permit Contracting Authorities to buy the following goods and/or services:

- Chassis only
- Hire or lease of vehicles
- Plant
- Agricultural
- Marine
- Aircraft
- Motorbike

Procurement Process for the Framework

Conflicts of Interest

A Conflicts of Interest assessment was prepared as part of the procurement process and confirmed within the Tender Notice.

Procurement Strategy

All UK FRSs were invited to complete a Consultation Questionnaire and provide a five-year pipeline and 40 responses were received.

The Supplier Consultation was published via the In-Tend e-tendering portal and Contracts Finder website in the form of a [PIN notice](#) (in accordance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015).

The information gathered from this FRS consultation process, together with the Supplier Consultation was used to develop the procurement strategy.

A procurement strategy was developed and approved by NFCC TOG and the Project Team for this new Emergency Response Vehicles Framework in July 2025. The strategy was developed through significant engagement and consultation with both FRSs and the suppliers.

Pre-Tender Process

A [pipeline notice](#) was issued to the market on Tuesday 13th May 2025 to provide early visibility to suppliers that may have an interest in the framework.

A [preliminary market engagement notice](#) was advertised on Find a Tender website to invite suppliers to review the consultation summary and attend an open discussion to obtain further information to inform the procurement strategy. 10 suppliers accessed the consultation summary and attended an open meeting to discuss the consultation exercises.

A [planned procurement notice](#) was issued to the market on Monday 14th July 2025 to provide further information to suppliers that may have an interest in submitting a tender response to the framework.

A second [preliminary market engagement notice](#) was advertised on Find a Tender website to invite suppliers to review the Framework and Call-Off documents.

A PME log for the framework has been developed and kept for recording keeping purposes.

Crown Commercial Services (CCS) and Bluelight Commercial (BLC) were also engaged with to align our requirements, work together and we have kept both parties informed of our progress. A list of available other frameworks and a table of scope is included within [Appendix B](#).

Tender Process

An open procedure was used for the Framework procurement.

The opportunity was advertised via the following:

- a) A Tender Notice advertised on the Find a Tender;
- b) A Contract Award Notice advertised on the Find a Tender website;
- c) An advert within the In-Tend e-tendering portal;
- d) A direct message to suppliers who had been part of the previous supplier engagement activities.

Evaluation of Tender Submissions

The evaluation of the tender submissions was split into two stages:

- Stage 1 – Conditions of Participation – Pass/Fail (applicable to all lots)
- Stage 2 – Framework Assessment Question (award criteria) – mix of Pass/Fail and Scored Questions

There were 9 representatives from 5 FRSs involved in the assessment.

The selection and award criteria used for the award of the Framework are as follows:

Stage 1 - Condition of Participation	
Assessment	Assessment Criteria
Preliminary questions	Pass/Fail
Part 1 – confirmation of core supplier information	Pass/Fail
Part 2 – additional exclusion information	Pass/Fail
Part 3 – conditions of participation including:	Pass/Fail
<u>Financial capacity</u> Financial checks Guarantor Insurance	
<u>Legal capacity</u> GDPR	
<u>Technical capacity</u> Relevant experience and contract examples Experience of sub-contractor management Organisational standards Health and safety Business Continuity Security Modern slavery (if applicable)	
Confirmations	Pass/Fail

Stage 2 – Framework Assessment Questions for Lot 1 – 3c	
Award Criteria	Weightings
Technical Merit and Quality – Question 1 to 4	Pass / Fail
Technical Merit and Quality	10%
Customer Support	25%
Delivery	25%
Social Value	15%
Social Value – Question 14 only	Pass / Fail
Organisation	15%
Price	10%

Stage 2 – Framework Assessment Questions for Lot 4 only	
Award Criteria	Weightings
Awarded a place on another lot	Pass / Fail
Disposal – for lot 4 only	100%
Disposal – Question 20 only	Pass / Fail

Due Diligence

As part of the procurement process, final due diligence checks were performed on each supplier.

Framework Award

Upon completion of the assessment, DSFRS wrote an Award Recommendation Report, which was reviewed by the Project Team and approved by Melanie Walsh - DSFRS Head of Fleet & Procurement, Luke Malton - DSFRS Corporate Procurement Manager and NFCC Fleet Commercial Category Lead and Glynn Richardson - West Yorkshire FRS Head of Transport & Logistics and NFCC Transport Officers Group (TOG) Chair.

Once approval was provided, all Suppliers were informed of the results in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023. An 8 working day mandatory standstill period followed the intention to award notification, after which the Framework was formally awarded.

Framework Management

The ongoing management and support for the Framework is outlined as follows:

Category	Task Description	Task Owner	Task Frequency
Framework Administration and Document Management	Create and maintain further competition templates	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Create and maintain vehicle procurement pipeline	NFCC Fleet Category Lead	Quarterly
	Create and maintain framework guidance documentation	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Review and updated framework vehicle specifications	Framework Management Team	As required
	Action framework variations	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Marketing of the framework	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Go live and regularly during life of the framework
	Record lessons learnt for future procurement	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
Framework Customer	Sign post customers to online framework information	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Provide high level support and guidance on the framework	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Attend NFCC TOG meetings to discuss framework and any updates	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet) and NFCC Fleet Category Lead	Quarterly
	Communicate framework updates and issues to framework users	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
Framework Supplier	Track and review financial stability	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annual meetings and monitoring alerts through credit report
	Ensure required insurance is in place and renewed	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually (upon insurance expiry)
	Monitor progress against Carbon Reduction Plan and publish on the website	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually – standard agenda items at Framework Management meetings

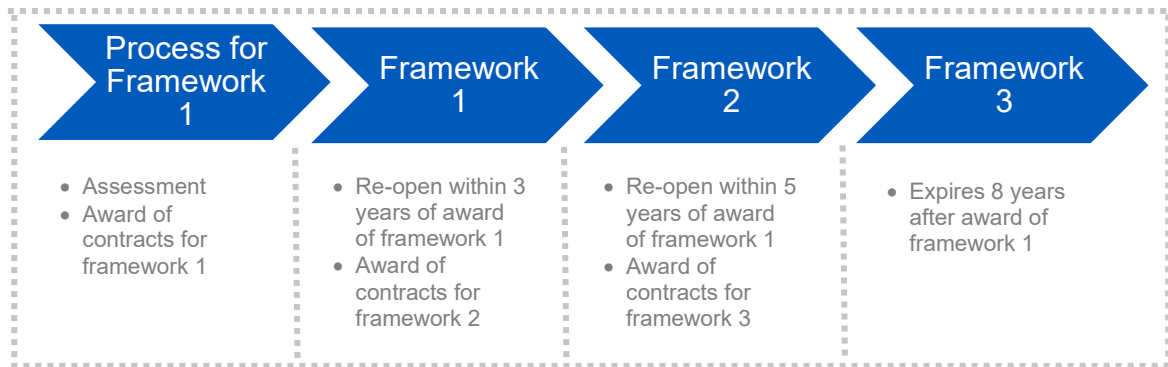
Commercial in Confidence

	Monitor progress against Waste Reduction and Management Plan	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually – standard agenda items at Framework Management meetings
	Monitor progress against Social Value Action Plan	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually – standard agenda items at Framework Management meetings
	Monitor market competition via KPI reports	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	As required
	Monitor production capacity	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually – standard agenda items at Framework Management meetings
	Create and maintain vehicle procurement pipeline	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Quarterly
	Review management information	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually
NFCC Procurement Hub	Report to and updated NFCC Procurement Hub	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Annually
Rebates	Request KPI to establish rebate value and invoice for rebate	DSFRS Category Lead (Fleet)	Six monthly

Any changes to the framework will be communicated via the NFCC TOG group and changes to Further Competition changes will be confirmed by the [Change Log](#) on the BLC website.

Open Framework Procedure

Under the Procurement 2023, an Open Framework is defined as a scheme of successive frameworks on substantially the same terms and is compliant with the Act. For the NFCC Emergency Response Vehicle Framework, the following framework process will be followed:



Appendix A – Access to Open Framework

The Open Framework will be available to the following Contracting Authorities:

- All Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) within the United Kingdom (including those in Crown Dependencies) <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Fire-and-Rescue-Services>

South Western Region Avon Cornwall Devon & Somerset Dorset & Wiltshire Gloucestershire Guernsey Jersey Isles of Scilly	South Eastern Region Buckinghamshire East Sussex Hampshire & Isle of Wight Kent Oxfordshire Royal Berkshire Surrey West Sussex	Eastern Region Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Essex Hertfordshire Norfolk Suffolk
North Eastern Region County Durham and Darlington (Durham) Cleveland Northumberland Tyne and Wear	Yorkshire & Humberside Region Humberside North Yorkshire South Yorkshire West Yorkshire	North Western Region Cheshire Cumbria Isle of Man Lancashire Greater Manchester Merseyside
East Midlands Derbyshire Leicestershire Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire Northamptonshire	West Midlands Hereford and Worcester Shropshire Staffordshire Warwickshire West Midlands	Wales Mid and West Wales North Wales South Wales
Scotland Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	London London Fire Brigade	Northern Ireland Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

The FRS's listed above may merge during the life of the Open Framework with another FRS or Public Body, for example, Devon & Somerset used to be two FRS's but merged in 2007. In this instance, the new formed Public Body shall still have access to the Open Framework.

- The Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-fire-risk-management-organisation>
- The Home Office <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

Commercial in Confidence

- Suppliers or Organisations who are the acting agent and responsible for/manage vehicle procurement on behalf of any of the above named organisations will also have access to the Open Framework.

- All Police Forces within the United Kingdom, Scotland and Northern Ireland

<http://www.police.uk/>

<http://www.psnl.police.uk/>

<http://www.scottish.police.uk/>

- NHS Bodies England including Acute Trusts, Ambulance Trusts, Primary Care trusts, Care Trusts, NHS Hospital Trusts, Foundation Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities, Mental Health Trusts, Special Health Authorities, Community Health Councils, Local Health Boards, NHS Trusts, including Ambulance Trusts. (There is also a drill down to NHS Doctors making them 'easily identifiable')

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/OrganisationsthatworkwithDH/Armslengthbodies/Categorisationofarmslengthbodies/index.htm>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-provider-directory/>

- Police Forces of British Overseas Territories, British Sovereign Base Areas and British Crown Dependencies including:
 - Gibraltar information at: <https://www.police.gi>
 - Cyprus information at: <https://www.sbaadministration.org/>
 - Channel Islands information at: <https://jersey.police.uk> & <https://guernsey.police.uk>
 - Isle of Man information at: <https://www.iompolice.im>
 - NHS Wales <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/ourservices/directory>
 - Northern Ireland Public Sector Bodies and Local Authorities <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/az2.htm>
 - Highways Agency <http://highways.gov.uk>
 - UK Border Force <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-border-agency>
 - MOD Police <http://www.mod.police.uk/>
 - Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities [Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities \(association-ifca.org.uk\)](http://www.association-ifca.org.uk)
 - Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime in London – MOPAC [Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime \(MOPAC\) | London City Hall](http://www.mopac.org.uk)
 - City of London Police [Home | City of London Police](http://www.cityoflondon.police.uk)
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority [Home - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)
 - British Transport Police [Home | British Transport Police \(btp.police.uk\)](http://www.btp.police.uk)
 - Civil Nuclear Constabulary [Civil Nuclear Constabulary - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- Lease/Finance Providers procuring vehicles which are utilised by any of the above organisations will also have access to the Open Framework.
- UK Airports that are wholly or partially owned by Local Authorities and/or Councils. The following list shows all airports:

[List of UK airports and seaports with red channels or red point phones - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/344442/List_of_UK_airports_and_seaports_with_red_channels_or_red_point_phones_-_GOV.UK)

Appendix B – Other Available Frameworks

The following table shows the available frameworks identified for vehicles:

CCS	BLC
RM6244 Purchase of Standard and Specialist Vehicles	BLC-FLEET-0001 Purchase of Cars and Commercial Vehicles JPS648 Vehicle Conversions BLC-FLEET-0017 Provision of Auction and Disposal of End-of-Life Vehicles and Items

* The table above was updated on 2nd September 2025.