

| Question # | Lot | Topic                                            | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | 1   | Peer researcher remuneration                     | The specification requires the successful provider to recruit and train a peer research team of at least 15 individuals and for peer researchers to undertake research activity including peer-led surveys and in-depth interviews. Could you please confirm whether the Authority expects these peer researchers to be remunerated for their time, for example as paid workers, sessional researchers or through an honorarium?                                                                                                                                                                           | We would expect peer researchers to be remunerated and this should be reflected in your tender and underpinned by your usual practice and policy for remuneration.                                                                 |
| 2          | 1   | Peer researcher remuneration                     | If remuneration is expected, please also confirm whether all associated costs are expected to be included within the Lot 1 contract price/budget envelope.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | All associated costs are expected to be included within the lot 1 contract price.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3          | 1   | Living Wage and status of peer researchers       | The draft contract contains a Living Wage requirement in relation to Supplier Personnel. Could you please confirm whether the Authority anticipates that the recruited peer researchers would be regarded as Supplier Personnel for the purposes of the contract and Living Wage provision, or whether another engagement model is envisaged? This will help bidders ensure that recruitment and remuneration arrangements are both compliant and appropriately costed.                                                                                                                                    | We ask the bidder to propose the model for recruiting peer researchers based on their experience and good practice on recruitment, remuneration, training and support.                                                             |
| 4          | 1   | Peer researcher expenses and associated costs    | Could you please confirm whether costs associated with the peer researcher team: including training, travel, subsistence, accessibility requirements, DBS/vetting where applicable, equipment/data costs and other reasonable expenses, are expected to be met by the supplier from within the Lot 1 contract value?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | These are expected to be included in the contract price.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5          | 1   | Research participant incentives                  | Does the Authority expect or permit reasonable incentives/honoraria for research participants, particularly children and young people and members of seldom-heard communities participating in interviews or other more intensive research activities? If so, should these costs also be included within the Lot 1 contract price?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | We ask the bidder to propose the model for recruiting peer researchers based on their experience and good practice on recruitment, remuneration, training and support. These costs should be included in the Lot 1 contract price. |
| 6          | 1   | £55,000 budget envelope                          | The Lot 1 specification describes a “suggested budget envelope of around £55,000.” Could you please confirm whether £55,000 excluding VAT represents: a maximum contract value which bidders must not exceed; or a maximum contract value which bidders must not exceed; or an indicative budget against which bidders may submit their proposed price?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | It represents an indicative budget.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7          | 1   | Pricing schedule                                 | The pricing workbook supplied appears to contain generic example tabs, including “EXAMPLE Services”, with placeholder text such as “XX month contract period” and “XXXX” funding envelope. Could you please confirm which pricing tab(s) Lot 1 bidders are expected to complete, and whether bidders should adapt the “EXAMPLE Services” tab for the Lot 1 requirement? We are conscious that the Instructions for Bidders state that the supplied pricing format should not be restructured, so would like to ensure we complete the intended section correctly.                                          | Apologies the incorrect template has been uploaded. Please refer back to the website to download the correct template.                                                                                                             |
| 8          | 1   | Initial term versus extension pricing            | Section 4.4 of the Statement of Requirements states: “Please only provide pricing for the initial term up to March 2027.” However, section 8.2.4 of the Instructions for Bidders states that price will be evaluated on the overall cost for the whole contract period, including any extensions. Could you please confirm whether Lot 1 bidders should price: only the initial period from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027; or the initial period plus the potential extension? If only the initial period should be priced, please confirm how pricing for any subsequent extension would be determined. | Lot 1 bidders should price only the initial period from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027. Any further extensions will be agreed with the successful provider.                                                                       |
| 9          | 1   | Geographic composition of the peer research team | the specification requires the peer research team to be representative of the seven West Midlands local authority areas. Could you please confirm whether the Authority expects at least one peer researcher to be recruited from each of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton, or whether representativeness will be assessed across the peer research team as a whole?                                                                                                                                                                                            | All 7 local authorities should be represented. The VRP can assist the successful provider with contacts and leads to assist with this upon contract award.                                                                         |
| 10         | ALL | Budget                                           | we noticed some inconsistencies between the notice and the ITT documents regarding the available budget.<br><br>Could you please let us know what the available budget ranges are for each lot as well as the total ceiling/range?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Please see table below for detailed Lot budget information. Please note all amounts are excluding VAT. The extensions are subject to confirmation of Home Office Funding and evaluation needs of the VRP.                          |

|                                                                            | Price for Initial budget up until 31 March 2026 (excluding VAT) | Possible extension                 | Total budget if all extensions are used |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Lot 1 – Violence Reduction Partnership Community Research                  | £55,000                                                         | 1 + 1 for up to £30,000 each year. | £115,000                                |
| Lot 2 - Violence Reduction Partnership Research and Evaluation Support     | £30,000                                                         | 1 + 1 for up to £30,000 each year. | £90,000                                 |
| Lot 3 - Violence Reduction Partnership Habitual Knife Carriers Evaluation. | £15,000                                                         | 1 year extension up to £30,000     | £45,000                                 |
|                                                                            | £100,000                                                        |                                    | £250,000                                |

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|----|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 | ALL | Clarification on submission day | Can you confirm the application submission day? Details regarding the precise data differ from the provided documentation in comparison the posting on your website. | Submission is 5pm on 28th August 2026 for all lots. The Form submission shows an extra hour until 6pm to mitigate against timezone issues. |
| 12 | ALL | Budget                          | Can you confirm the budgets for each Lot for this project? The documentation differs from the find-tender posting.                                                   | Please see answer to question 10                                                                                                           |