



## **Request for Tender for Research Services**

*An evidence review of recidivism and policy responses*



# **Request for Tender for Research Services**

Applications for tenders must be returned by COB April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

## **Section 1. Background information and invitation to tender**

### **1.1 The Department of Justice and Equality**

The Department of Justice and Equality is a department of the Government of Ireland. Its mission is to work to make Ireland a safe, fair and inclusive place to live and work. The department has a wide range of responsibilities including state security, the protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime, maintaining and promoting fairness and equality, managing inward migration to the State, providing a Courts Service, updating our criminal and civil laws and various other regulatory services.

### **1.2 Background to the tender**

The Department of Justice and Equality invites tenders for research on recidivism, public policy responses, and their effectiveness.

Recidivism is a broad term that refers to relapse of criminal behaviour, which can include a range of outcomes including rearrests, reconviction, and reimprisonment. According to figures from the Central Statistics Office 45% of released prisoners reoffend within three years while for people on probation 38% reoffend within the three years. Against this backdrop, the initiation of an offender management strategy and subsequent programmes targeting offenders across different crime categories have come into being in Ireland (for example, the Joint Agency Response to Crime and the Community Care Scheme).

The Department is keen to scale up its work in tackling recidivism. In order to inform this the Department is interested in reviewing existing international research in order to (i) understanding the factors that drive recidivist and prolific offending behaviour (ii) gain knowledge of the different types of policy interventions that have been developed to tackle recidivism and prolific offending (iii) understand how effective these interventions have been and whether they are transferable to an Irish context.

### **1.3 Research aims**

The research is to review European research (within peer reviewed journals) and is intended to answer the three areas noted above and repeated here: (i) what factors that underpin recidivist and prolific offending behaviour (ii) what public policy interventions have been developed to tackle recidivism and prolific offending (iii) how effective were they and how transferable to an Irish context.

In relation to the questions noted above, we would like to have some further detailed considerations. For example, in relation to what factors that underpin recidivist and prolific offending behaviour:

- What does the literature identify as the key factors leading to recidivism and prolific offending behaviour?
- What are the key factors that lead offenders to desist from offending behaviour?
- Are there any differences between offenders and prolific offenders in relation to the above questions?

Secondly, what public policy interventions have been developed across Europe to tackle recidivism and prolific offending:

- What were the stated outcomes of these interventions?
- What was the 'theory of change' of these interventions – how did they envisage making an impact on offending behaviour?
- What was the design of the intervention?
- What agencies were involved and how did they work together?
- How was the intervention run – what were the governance arrangements; where there was more than one agency who took the lead and how did they work together?
- What have been the measures of success for these programmes? Did they establish Key Performance Indicators?
- What data/information sharing was required? Who managed it? Who shared information? What challenges did this pose and how, if at all, were they addressed?

How effective were they and how transferable to an Irish context:

- How successful were the interventions? Did they meet their objectives – what were the main factors that led interventions to fail or succeed?
- How robust were the evaluations of such interventions?
- What were the outcomes from evaluations – e.g. were the interventions expanded, adjusted, discontinued?
- How easily could those interventions that ran outside of Ireland be transferred here?

#### **1.4 Research outputs**

The tenderer will be required to undertake the following research tasks:

- Conduct an evidence assessment to review what the literature identifies as the key factors associated with recidivism
- Assess the recidivism programmes in place across Europe and identify if any of this is transferrable
- Conduct an assessment of the evaluations done to tackle recidivism
- Identify the KPIs used to measure performance and the role of each agency involved in these programmes including partnerships among agencies if any and benefits of such partnerships
- A report on the findings to be submitted to the Department of Justice and Equality
- A presentation on the final report to the Department of Justice and Equality

The tenderer will be required to outline the approach that is proposed to be taken in undertaking this work in the attached submission form. In doing so the following key questions must be addressed as part of the overall response:

- The methodology to be used to conduct the evidence review, including the strengths and limitations of the proposed approach
- What the key search terms will be
- What academic databases or other sources will be used to sample from
- The process for deciding which articles to include for the review and which to exclude
- The data recoding process (essentially, what are the key data points you will record for each study such as author, year of publication, what type of study, evaluation type and its strength)
- The process that will be used to assess the quality and methodological rigour of the articles
- How the findings within articles will be synthesised

The scope of the review should cover literature published from 1990 to 2019. The articles reviewed should be in English, within peer reviewed journals, and should focus on European nations. If other additional sources are to be used, then this should be clearly stated in the methodology, a rationale provided, along with a clearly stated approach as to how they will be dealt with.

#### **1.5 Timeframe**

The Department is eager that the tenderer will be ready to start as soon as possible and asks that tenderers specify how soon they would be in a position to commence the work. Duration of the tender will be no more than six months after the awarding of the tender.

## **Section 2. Instructions to Tenderers**

### **2.1 Format of tenders**

Tenderers should complete and submit the application form. Tenders submitted in formats other than the application form will not be considered.

### **2.2 Compliant tenders**

To better ensure compliance with the tendering process, tenderers should read this document in full including Section 5 'Terms and conditions'. If a tenderer fails to comply in any respect with the requirements of this paragraph, the Department reserves the right to reject the tender as non-compliant or, without prejudice to this right and subject to its obligations at law, to take any other action it considers appropriate including but not limited to:

- Seeking written clarification from the tenderer;
- Seeking further information from the tenderer; or
- Waiving a requirement, which in the Department's view, is non-material or procedural.

Tenderers are required:

1. To submit all documentation which this Request for Tender (RFT) requires to be submitted with their tender;
2. To conform to and comply with all instructions and requirements set out in this RFT;
3. To submit the statement required under Appendix 1;
4. Not to alter or edit this RFT in any way.

### **2.3 Submission of tenders and closing date for application**

Completed application forms must be sent by email to [research@justice.ie](mailto:research@justice.ie) with subject line "Recidivism and Prolific Offender Programmes".

Completed application forms must be received no later than COB April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 (the 'tender deadline'). Application forms received after the tender deadline will NOT be considered.

### **Section 3. Queries and clarifications**

All queries related to any aspect of this RFT must be directed to [research@justice.ie](mailto:research@justice.ie). The Department reserves the right to issue or seek written clarifications. The Department reserves the right at any time before the tender deadline to update, cancel or amend the information contained in this document and / or to extend the tender deadline. Participating tenderers will be informed of any such clarification, amendment or extension by email on.

### **Section 4. Evaluation of tenders and award of contract**

#### **4.1 Criteria for award of contract**

The contract will be awarded out of a total of 100 marks on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender as identified in accordance with the following criteria:

- Methodology and approach (20 marks);
- Experience in relation to recidivism and prolific offender programmes and a track record of preparing reports in such areas (20 marks)
- Experience and suitability of tenderer(s) undertaking the contracts (20 marks);
- Cost (20 marks);
- Business and corporate expertise (10 marks);
- Capacity to complete the tender within the timeframe (10 marks);

Award of the contract to the highest ranked tenderer (as determined by the above paragraph) will be conditional upon the tenderer submitting the following evidence in respect of the tenderer (including any subcontractor as applicable) to the extent not already provided, within seven days of request by the Department (i) a Declaration in the form attached at Appendix I and all or any of the supporting documents specified in the section on 'Format of tender'.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced of any tender. This RFT does not constitute an offer or commitment to enter into a contract. No contractual rights in relation to the Department will exist unless and until a formal written contract has been executed by or on behalf of the Department.

The tenderer will be required, if necessary, to outline and agree the approach which it proposes to take to the research with the members of the Department's Research Advisory Group/Chief Information Office.

#### **4.3 Payment conditions**

- i. All prices quoted must be all-inclusive of all expenses anticipated inclusive of VAT. The VAT rate(s) where applicable should be indicated separately.
- ii. Tenderers must confirm that all prices quoted in the tender will remain valid for three months following the tender deadline.
- iii. Payment for the delivery and implementation work will be on foot of appropriate invoices. Invoicing arrangements will be agreed with the successful contractor, following the award of contract.
- iv. The provisions of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997, as amended or revised, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2002 shall apply to all payments. Incorrect invoices will be returned for correction with consequential effects on the due date of payment.

#### **4.4 Taxation requirements**

It will be a condition of any contract pursuant to this RFT that the successful tenderer shall, for the term of such contract, comply with all applicable EU and domestic tax laws. Tenders are referred to [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) for further information. Prior to the award of any contract arising out of this RFT, the successful tenderer shall be required to supply its Tax Clearance Access Number and Tax Reference Number to facilitate online verification of their tax status by the Department. By supplying these numbers, the successful tenderer acknowledges and agrees that the Department has the permission of the successful tenderer to verify its tax cleared position online.

#### **4.4 Subcontractors**

Tenderers should note that where a tenderer is relying on the capacity of other persons or entities (for example subcontractors) for the purposes of fulfilling any of the award criteria set out below, it must ensure that each such person or entity, when requested by the Department, will submit proof, to the satisfaction of the Department, that it will place the necessary expertise at the disposal of the tenderer.

If a tenderer does not, upon request by the Department, provide evidence which is considered by the Department as sufficient to demonstrate the fulfilment by any subcontractor on whose capacity the tenderer relies of the award criteria (or any one of them) in accordance with this RFT, it shall be excluded from further participation in this tender process unless it replaces the subcontractor with one which meets all relevant requirements of this RFT. Any such replacement cannot affect the price submitted.

## **Section 5. Terms and conditions**

### **5.1 Liability and warranty for tender information**

While every effort has been made to provide comprehensive and accurate information in this request for tender, the Department does not accept any liability or provide any express or implied warranty in respect of any such information. Tenderers must form their own conclusions about the solution needed to meet the requirements set out in this RFT and may wish to consult their legal advisers as appropriate.

### **5.2 Data protection**

With effect from 25 May 2018, a new Europe wide data protection regime has come into place under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR significantly increases the obligations and responsibilities for organisations and businesses on how they collect, use and protect personal data. All data will be processed in accordance with GDPR and relevant data protection law. Applicants are required to comply with the requirements of data protection legislation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

### **5.3 Tendering costs**

All costs and expenses incurred by tenderers relating to their participation in this RFT shall be borne by the tenderers exclusively.

### **5.4 Confidentiality**

All documentation, data, statistics and information furnished by the Department to tenderers during the course of this RFT:

- i. are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this RFT only;
- ii. may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of the Department;
- iii. shall be treated as confidential by the tenderer and by any third parties (including subcontractors) engaged or consulted by the tenderer; and
- iv. must be returned immediately to the Department upon cancellation or completion of this RFT if so requested by the Department.

### **5.5 Publicity**

No publicity regarding this RFT or any contract pursuant to this RFT is permitted unless and until the Department has given its prior consent to the relevant communication.

### **5.6 Ownership**

Ownership of any reports or material produced relating to any contract awarded as a result of this RFT rests with the Department.

### **5.7 Copyright and publication**

Copyright of any reports or material produced shall rest with and be assigned to the Department. The Department shall have the right to publish, or not as the case may be, and to disseminate the report in both its original and in a modified form, without further reference to the tenderer. The tenderer will not be entitled to further payment if this occurs. The tenderer





and the individual researchers will be entitled to be credited with the work that they have done on this project in any publication.

#### **5.8 Registrable interest**

Any registrable interest involving any tenderer or subcontractor and [members of the Better Balance for Better Business Review Group](#), the Department, members of the Government, members of the Oireachtas, or employees and officers of the Department and their relatives must be fully disclosed in the tender or, in the event of this information only coming to the notice of the tenderer or subcontractor after the submission of a tender, must be communicated to the Department immediately upon such information becoming known to the tenderer or subcontractor.

The terms 'registrable interest' and 'relative' shall be interpreted as per section 2 of the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001, copies of which are available at [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie). The Department will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may in appropriate circumstances include eliminating a tenderer from this RFT or terminating any contract entered into by a tenderer.

#### **5.9 Anti-competitive conduct**

Tenderers' attention is drawn to the Competition Act 2002 (as amended, the '2002 Act'). The 2002 Act makes it a criminal offence for tenderers to collude on prices or terms in a public procurement competition.

#### **5.10 Freedom of information**

Tenderers should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, information provided by them during this RFT may be liable to be disclosed.

Tenderers are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their tender should not be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. If tenderers consider that certain information is not to be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, tenderers must, when providing such information, clearly identify the specific sections of their tender containing such information and specify the reasons for its confidentiality and commercial sensitivity.

#### **5.11 Conflicts of interest**

Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest on the part of a tenderer, subcontractor or individual employee or agent of a tenderer or subcontractor must be fully disclosed to the Department as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent. In the event of any actual or potential conflict of interest, the Department may invite tenderers to propose means by which the conflict of interest might be removed. The Department will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may in appropriate circumstances include eliminating a tenderer from this tender process or terminating any contract entered into by a tenderer.

#### **5.12 Withdrawal from the RFT process**



Tenderers are required to notify the Department immediately by email to [research@justice.ie](mailto:research@justice.ie) if they decide to withdraw from the RFT process.

### **5.13 Insurance**

The successful tenderer shall be required to hold for the term of the contract the appropriate level of insurance cover in order to carry out work associated with this project.