



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

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

*Evaluation of Domestic Violence Intervention  
Programmes in Ireland*



## Request for Tender for Research Services

Applications for tenders must be returned to [research@justice.ie](mailto:research@justice.ie) by **17:00 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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

#### 1.1 The Department of Justice

The Department of Justice's ("the Department") mission is to make Ireland a safe, fair and inclusive place to live and work. It is responsible for the security of the State and our communities, oversight and reform of An Garda Síochána, access to justice and providing a Courts Service, management of immigration, updating our criminal and civil laws and a range of other regulatory services.

The Department's Statement of Strategy 2021 – 2023 can be found here: [gov.ie - Department of Justice Statement of Strategy 2021 – 2023 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/documents/2021-06-20-statement-of-strategy-2021-2023/)

#### 1.2 Background to the tender

The Department invites tenders for research to provide a review of domestic violence intervention programmes (DVIPs) in Ireland with the aim of identifying potential opportunities for the further development of similar programmes in Ireland. Establishing a knowledge and evidence base in this area to support domestic policy development is a research priority for the Department.

In April 1997, the Office of the Tánaiste published a report from the Task Force on Violence against Women. This report contained an overview of available relevant research for each element of responses to violence against women, including the criminal justice system, civil courts, health and social services, women's services, programmes for abusers, etc. The report also made recommendations for each area.

This included setting out core principles for running perpetrator programmes, as follows:

1. "Protocols regarding referrals should be developed;
2. Assessment procedures should be established;
3. Intervention programmes should be linked to the judicial process where possible;
4. There should be contact with the partner to verify the safety and well-being of the abused women and children;
5. There should be limited confidentiality to allow for the sharing of any information that can advance the safety and protection of women with the appropriate persons/agencies; and
6. Work with men should not be done in isolation, but in full collaboration with the statutory services and women's organisations."

*Source: Task Force Report*

It also include priority recommendations for the development of perpetrator programmes:

1. "The protection, safety and security of women and children should be the paramount consideration in developing programmes;
2. Intervention programmes for offenders should be adequately resourced and should be available in areas where support services for women and children (such as refuges) are already in place;



and

3. Funding intervention programmes should be based on local need and priorities; and adherence to the core principles set out above; funding for programmes should be provided by the Department of Justice from their Probation and Welfare service votes;
4. Contact with the judicial system should be used as a gateway to intervention programmes.
5. Existing intervention programmes with men should be subject to on-going monitoring, evaluation and review so that their effectiveness as a response to domestic violence can be gauged;
6. There should be a co-ordinated approach between treatment programmes, the courts, the Gardaí and agencies providing support for women.
7. Specialist training should be introduced for people to run intervention programmes.

*Source: Task Force Report*

The development of these Task Force recommendations Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes (DVIPs) formed part of the 2nd National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2016-2021). Since 2005 MOVE Ireland, the Men's Development Network and the North East Domestic Violence Intervention Programme funded through Department of Justice have been delivering DVIPs in Ireland. In 2016, the Department of Justice initiated a process to standardise the delivery of training. This initiatives objective was to ensure a consistent process of intervention by each of the agencies was attained and that standards and quality of facilitation across the organisation was also achieved.

This National training programme (Choices) has been in place since 2017. An advisory committee consisting of Department of Justice, Tusla, Probation and service delivery representatives meets on a quarterly basis. This meeting provides updates on programmes and serves as an opportunity for communication between the Department and the service agents.

Despite these developments, some challenges remain. As stated by MOVE Ireland in their strategic report 2020-2024, those challenges or priorities include: 1) increase the safety of women and children at risk of domestic abuse through on-going professional provision of DVIPs to best practice standards (including ensuring alignment with European standards), 2) ensure sustainability, consolidate and extend programme delivery, 3) develop pathways to MOVE programmes, 4) measure success: share expertise and knowledge, and 5) actively contribute towards the prevention of male violence against women and children. In what refers to priority number four, a strong emphasis is placed on the importance of demonstrating the impact of abuse, the reduction of abuse and the increase in women's and children safety.

Considering the level of development and the advanced stage of perpetrator programmes in Ireland, especially after the actions taken since the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-based Violence, it is important to take further action, particularly around evaluation of impact of these programmes. This is of immediate relevance to the rolling-out of the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-based Violence.

The Department of Justice has embarked on a broad review of the governance, implementation and outcomes of the delivery of DVIPs in Ireland. This review will consider local need, current provider capacity, future capacity required to meet that need, value for money, factors impacting both need and capacity that are to be reflected in local arrangements (pathways and protocols) and quality improvements. The output in the form of a revised service model across the proposed provider landscape could lead to significant incremental change in the current service.



Within this context, Debbonaire's (2004) evaluation of perpetrator programmes in Ireland<sup>1</sup> is an important starting point for further evaluations. It includes significant aspects such as a thorough description of the men that attended DVIPs, an assessment of different types of violence according to both the men in treatment and their partners, and other aspects such as the reasons men gave for their violence, and changes in the men according to the (ex- partners). Even if the number of participants included in this evaluation was relatively small, it included very relevant recommendations.

Recently the Department of Justice commissioned a rapid evidence review of domestic violence intervention programmes in other jurisdictions to inform the potential development of similar programmes in Ireland<sup>2</sup>. This research was based on academic literature and best practices, with a focus on evaluating effectiveness and victim safety. The research investigated and provided evidence on (a) the impact/efficacy of DVIPs, (b) the international development of DVIPs and main best practices in this area (in terms of programme delivery and outcome measure and optimisation), (c) the potential of interventions introduced in other jurisdictions to be adopted in Ireland to contribute to improvements of DVIP practice, and (d) possibilities of the introduction of specific interventions in Ireland. It is envisaged that this work will assist in the framing of practice and evaluation in the sector. This paper would be shared with the successful tenderer.

The aim of the broader review is to assess and critique the governance, implementation and outcomes of the programme in relation to the set objective within the 2nd National Strategy to "Hold perpetrators to account in order to create a safer Ireland". The aims of the current piece of the overall project, i.e. *Evaluation of DVIPs in Ireland* are outlined below.

### 1.3 Aim of DVIP Evaluation

The overall aims of this piece of work are:

- First, it is necessary to assess and map the structure and quality of perpetrator programmes at a national level. This action will clarify the level of programme compliance with the unified model of work and detect some best practices and areas for improvement.
- Second, it is essential to establish a consistent and standardised evaluation system that would help identify the main outcomes achieved by programmes and those outcomes that would need further actions to be achieved.

The specific objectives of this research are to:

- Explore how DVIP practice has been developed in Ireland and how best practice in this area has been achieved, measured and programme outcomes optimised.
  - To date, what are the main means by which DVIPs in Ireland are evaluated?
  - What are the main difficulties in the measurement of the efficacy of DVIPs in Ireland?
  - What data on processes and outcomes is being collected/analysed by programmes in Ireland?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Evaluation.pdf/Files/Evaluation.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/RFT-DVIP\\_Rapid\\_Evidence\\_Review.pdf/Files/RFT-DVIP\\_Rapid\\_Evidence\\_Review.pdf](https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/RFT-DVIP_Rapid_Evidence_Review.pdf/Files/RFT-DVIP_Rapid_Evidence_Review.pdf)



- By what standard is this evidence a reflection of good practice?
- Review the DVIPs processes in programme delivery against the existing objectives
  - Review the effectiveness of governance structures and practice implementation using stakeholder feedback and available data.
- Explore the impact of programme participation on perpetrators of domestic abuse, their (ex-partners and families).
  - What works best and for whom?
  - What impact has the structure or form of group programmes, i.e. modular / one-to-one / group work / experiential / fixed or rolling programmes, had on programme outcomes?
  - What differences have been found in programme participation between court-mandated programmes and programmes to which participants self-refer or are referred informally by other stakeholders, e.g. social services, G.P.s etc.?
- Identify actions that could be adopted to drive the improvement and development of DVIP practice in Ireland. This should include an exploration on the possibility of an expansion (or not) of programme delivery.
  - What are the areas of good practice that could be shared or expanded upon?
  - What are the key areas of knowledge and skills that staff working with perpetrators and families should be trained in?
  - What is the potential impact on costs of adopting different approaches or programme expansion?
- Explore the feasibility (including facilitators and inhibitors) of the introduction of specific interventions, including those identified in recently commissioned Department of Justice desk research in Ireland (interagency working, good practice and otherwise).
  - How feasible are interventions and approaches applied in other jurisdictions to the Irish context?
  - How might these interventions be applied? This should include an elaboration on facilitators and inhibitors to improvements.
  - If introduced in Ireland, how would the effectiveness of these interventions in the Irish context best be measured?
- Explore issues in relation to quality-assurance and oversight of intervention delivery and make recommendations in that regard.

### Approach

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 response to the research:

- What relevant experience do the tendering organisation have in evaluating similar programmes, work in the justice sector etc.? (*See section 4.1 below*)
- Full details of the methodology to be used, including the strengths and limitations of the proposed approach
- The process that will be used to assess the quality and methodological rigour of the approach taken



- How the findings will be synthesised and presented

Any additional methodological approaches should also be accompanied by an appropriately detailed description to allow for an assessment to be made of its strength.

#### **1.4 Research outputs**

The target audience for this research include: Minister for Justice, the Department's Criminal Justice Policy Division, Practitioners in the field, and the research community. The final report should provide an evaluation on actions and interventions present or potentially most likely to be successful in the development of programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence. Importantly, this evaluation should be tailored to the specifics of current issues being faced in Ireland. Findings from this research will be used in combination with the broader review of DVIPs in Ireland (also being funded by the Department) to inform any legislative changes/policy decisions/actions in this area.

The research outputs should include:

- An interim presentation to relevant stakeholders in the Department of Justice regarding the application of the approach to the research topic and any challenges experienced. This can be presented as a slide pack.
- A draft report highlighting key findings.
- A final report on the findings to be submitted to the Department of Justice for the Minister's attention
- A presentation on the final report to the Department of Justice

#### **1.5 Timeframe**

The Department is eager that the tenderer will be ready to start by end July 2022 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 five months after the awarding of the tender.

The estimated budget for this study is €25,000 (excluding VAT).

## **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 "Evaluation of DVIPs in Ireland".

Completed application forms must be received no later than 17:00 on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (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.

## **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:

- Proven and demonstrable track record, project description and demonstrated understanding of the work involved in conducting the research (35)
- Feasibility of the approach suggested to the research (20)
- Ability to deliver key outputs on time (10)
- Cost – broken down to show description of costs, justification for proposed costs and best use of resources (35).

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 as Appendix 1 at "TENDERER'S STATEMENT" and (ii) all or any of the supporting documents specified in the section 2.1 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/Research and Data Analytics Unit.

### **4.2 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.

#### **4.3 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 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.





**Feasibility of proposed project:**

Include a brief project summary. Please include aims and objectives, methodology, background and significance of the research question/problem.

**Proposed Cost and Value for Money:**

Demonstrate appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money (full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources).

**Conflict of Interest Declaration:**

Outline any conflicts of interest.



**Timelines:**

Outline the timeframes for commencement and completion of the project.

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**Ethics Statement:**

Applicants are required to submit a written statement that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal.

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By signing the tenderer's statement, tenderers confirm that, if awarded a contractor under this RFT, (i) they will, from the effective date of the contract (as defined in the contract), obtain and hold the types and levels of insurance specified above (ii) the territorial limits and jurisdiction of tis insurance policies include the Republic of Ireland and (iii) they are not aware of any exclusions, restrictions, conditions or warranties or, in the case of policies with an aggregate limit of indemnity, any outstanding claims, which could have a material adverse impact on the level of coverage specified above. A formal confirmation from the tenderer's insurance company or broker to this effect may be requested from the successful tenderer prior to the award of any contract.

**TENDERER'S STATEMENT**

Tenderers shall complete and return the following form of Tenderer's Statement signed by the Tenderer.



## Tenderer's Statement

Having examined your Request for Tender (RFT) including the instructions to tenderers, the selection and award criteria, the requirements and specifications, I hereby agree and declare the following:

- i. I understand the nature and extent of the research required to be delivered as described in the RFT;
- ii. I accept all of the terms and conditions of the RFT;
- iii. I accept all the award criteria as set out in the RFT;
- iv. I agree to provide the Department of Justice with the research requested in the RFT;
- v. I agree that, if awarded a contract, I shall, in the performance of such contract, comply with all applicable obligations in the field of environmental, social and labour law.
- vi. I confirm that I have complied with all requirements as set out in the RFT.
- vii. I confirm that all prices quoted in my tender will remain valid for the period of time commencing from the tender deadline.
- viii. I shall, if awarded any contract under the RFT, have in place on the effective date of the contract all insurances (if any) as required by the RFT.
- ix. I confirm that all data subjects whose personal data is provided in my tender have consented to the processing of such personal data by me, and by the Department of Justice and by the evaluation team for this tender or that I otherwise have a legal basis for providing such personal data to the Department of Justice for the purposes of my participation in this tender and that I will provide evidence of such consent and / or legal basis to the Department of Justice upon request.

SIGNED

Print name

Address

Date

**Signature of Lead Researcher:**