

Annexe A: Research Procurement Process

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This annex gives details of research contracts valued between £10k and £30k (excluding VAT) in the five financial years from 2017/18. The information here is limited to research carried out in support of the policy team's work and so it does not include, for example, our perceptions audits which sit within our communications remit. We did not commission any research during 2021/22 or any work valued over £30k excluding VAT during the five-year period in question.

Name of piece of commissioned research (contracts between £10k and £30k ex. VAT)	Circulation list notified of our research proposal or ItQ ¹ Number of bids received in response	Additional notes
2017/18		
Simon Christmas - Sexual behaviours between health and care practitioners: where does the boundary lie?	ItQ sent to list of approximately 80 Bids received - 5	
2018/19		
Research Works - The role of patients and service users in ensuring the safety of care received	ItQ sent to list of approximately 80 Bids received - 10	

¹ As outlined in the covering paper, in the case of academic research, before finalising a full Invitation to quote, we often send a generic email to our academic network giving broad details of our research proposal prior to finalising and circulating the full ItQ to those interested. Further details are at Paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the covering paper.

Dr Paul Sanderson - Consensual disposal: Insights from the decision-making literature	Research proposal sent to list of over 100 Bids received - 1	Since we had circulated widely the research proposal (and therefore sought bids from over three possible suppliers), this was not classified as an exemption. The one bid we received met our criteria for the research.
Research Department of Medical Education UCL Medical School - Developing a methodology to assess the consistency of fitness to practise outcomes	Research proposal sent to list of over 100 Bids received - 8	
Professor Rosalind Searle, University of Glasgow - Sexual misconduct in health and social care: Understanding types of abuse and perpetrators' moral mindsets	Not applicable – see additional note	We sought an exemption because the research built on an earlier analysis of fitness to practise data by Professor Searle. Since Professor Searle already had knowledge of the data that would be further analysed, it was agreed that the work could not reasonably or efficiently be conducted by anybody else. This approach minimised the sharing of sensitive data.
2019/20		
Community Research - The patient and public perspective on future fitness to practise processes	ItQ sent to list of approximately 80 Bids received - 9	
Cardiff University, Research and Innovation Services - A review of research into health and care professional regulation	ItQ sent to list of over 100 Bids received – 9 (including from international academics)	
2020/21		
Simon Christmas Ltd - Patient, carer, public and professional perspectives on the principle of	ItQ sent to list of 6 Bids received - 3	As an exception, in 2020/21, we contacted a small number of agencies in advance of finalising the Invitation to quote in order to check how they were operating during a period of Covid restrictions. We then

<p>consistency in health and care professional regulation</p>		<p>sent the Invitation to a targeted selection of agencies, which included two with whom we had not worked previously, a researcher based in Wales and an agency in Scotland.</p>
<p>Lesley Cuthbert - Advice on biases in fitness to practise decision-making in accepted outcome versus panel models</p>	<p>See additional note</p>	<p>This was not a piece of research but it has been included here to cover the complete range of work commissioned by the policy team. This work required someone with a demonstrably thorough understanding of the regulators' fitness to practise processes, as well as the psychological issues at play in decision making within such processes, and of the underlying psychological concepts, with a particular focus on unconscious bias. We knew of an appropriate provider who would be able to deliver the report within a timescale that was dictated by the expected publication of the Government's consultation on regulatory reform and therefore sought an exemption.</p>
<p>Deborah Bowman - Ethics in extraordinary times: practitioner experiences during the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Research proposal sent to list of over 100 3 bids received</p>	
<p>2021/22 – As outlined at Paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 in the covering paper, no research was commissioned in this financial year.</p>		