

APPENDIX B – SPECIFICATION FOR -  
DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATORS  
RESEARCH  
C21881



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Following the previous round of research funding, the Home Office is seeking to award up to a total of £1.5 million to support a number of short-term research projects into domestic abuse perpetrators to inform future policy making and develop the evidence base more broadly.
- 1.2. The primary aim of this fund is to develop our understanding of the perpetrators of domestic abuse, and to strengthen the evidence base for 'what works' in addressing their behaviour.
- 1.3. We are looking for bids from organisations who have expertise in this area. We welcome bids for joint projects from multiple organisations, however the proposed ways of working must be set out in the application and agreement must be received from all parties before the application is submitted.
- 1.4. Bids should cover a 4-month period of delivery between December 2021 and 31 March 2022. Should you wish to conduct a larger project that goes beyond 31 March 2022, then we will consider bids that offer match-funding to continue to the project in the next financial year. The match-funding can be a financial or an 'in kind' contribution of resources.
- 1.5. We will only consider investment new activity not currently provided for through service provision funded by another national or local commissioning body e.g. PCC, CCG, local authority. Funding will be paid in arrears in two instalments, end of February 2022 and the end of March 2022. We will require monitoring and progress reports against project KPIs before funding is released.
- 1.6. We expect the research to be completed by 31 March 2022, however the final report may be submitted up to 30 April 2022. A presentation will be scheduled once the report has been reviewed by the Home Office.

## 2. REQUIREMENT

- 2.1. Bidders must submit a pricing pro-forma, detailing how much they are bidding for and include a funding toolkit setting out how this will be spent in this financial year. In answering the bid evaluation questions bidders will need to demonstrate the intended outcomes of the project.



2.2. Once the research is complete, Bidders must be prepared to deliver a presentation on the research findings, alongside a research report.

### **3. BACKGROUND TO REQUIREMENT/OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENT**

3.1. Domestic abuse is a devastating crime that shatters the lives of victims and their families. For the year ending March 2020, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that 2.3 million adults (1.6 million women and 757,000 men) aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year<sup>1</sup>. Much of this abuse does not come to the attention of the police, with only 17% of partner abuse victims reporting their experience to the police in the year to March 2018. Despite the significant prevalence of these crimes, little is known about perpetrators of domestic abuse.

3.2. Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a government priority. VAWG consists of the most abhorrent of abuses; rape and sexual assault, domestic abuse, 'honour'-based violence such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation, stalking and harassment – and other crimes. What they have in common is that they disproportionately – but not exclusively – affect women and girls. These crimes can have lasting and severe impacts to the physical and mental health of all victims, their families, communities and the economy.

3.3. Later this year we will publish a new Domestic Abuse Strategy. Producing a strategy dedicated to tackling domestic abuse is in recognition of its pervasiveness and the devastating harm it is having on millions of lives. This be developed to complement the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy that was published in July, sharing the same evidence base and governance mechanisms.

3.4. Not only will we continue to ensure that effective criminal justice sanctions are taken against perpetrators, but we will also support sustainable behaviour change and robust disruption to reduce reoffending and stop perpetrators from moving from one victim to the next. We have continued to work hard to ensure that we are able to bring more perpetrators to justice and support victims through the criminal justice system, including through our landmark Domestic Abuse Act and a programme of non-legislative action to transform the response to this appalling crime.

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, [Domestic abuse prevalence and trends](#), England and Wales: year ending March 2020

#### **4. THE PERPETRATOR RESEARCH FUND**

4.1. For the year 2021/2022 we have a £25 million perpetrator fund, more than doubling the resources for tackling domestic abuse perpetrators

4.2. As part of this, we are allocating £1.5 million specifically for research to support effective commissioning and delivery of services and interventions. The primary aim of this fund is to develop our understanding of the perpetrators of domestic abuse, and to strengthen the evidence base for 'what works' in addressing their behaviour. Specifically, we would like to invite research proposals which will build our knowledge around the following areas.

#### **5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

##### **5.1. Research Q1 - Causes, drivers and aggravating factors of domestic abuse**

Research which increases our understanding of the long-term 'causes' of domestic abuse. Areas of interest include:

- The societal factors or experiences that may lead an individual to become abusive.
- The shorter-term drivers or aggravating factors.
- The more immediate triggers and risk factors of domestic abuse.

##### **5.2. Research Q2 - Identifying perpetrators of domestic abuse**

Research which builds our understanding of who perpetrators of abuse are, including the characteristics of perpetrators and numbers of perpetrators. Areas of interest include:

- The early signs or behaviours that may indicate someone is abusive, or at risk of becoming abusive.
- If domestic abuse perpetrators are likely to have committed other offences and if there is an overlap between domestic abuse and any other crime types.
- The role of an offender's previous criminal history in assessing the risk of them perpetrating domestic abuse

##### **5.3. Research Q3 - Interpersonal abuse in adolescent relationships**



Research into the perpetration of domestic abuse in adolescent intimate-partner relationships. We are particularly interested in the risk factors which might make young people more vulnerable to domestic abuse.

#### 5.4. Research Q4 What works in preventing offending

Research that expands our understanding of 'what works' for preventing abuse at different stages of victimisation. Areas of interest include:

- Early interventions or interventions that seek to prevent re-offending and how successful they have been.
- Both court-mandated and out-of-court interventions.
- Innovative approaches to tackling offending and re-offending, both domestically and internationally.
- What works in preventing offending in minoritised groups.
- What works to reduce the escalation of domestic abuse offending, particularly preventing domestic homicides.

#### 5.5. Research Q5: Domestic abuse risk assessment

Research into domestic abuse risk assessment, looking at what works in terms of risk identification approaches and tools and analysis on the predictive validity of particular tools.

#### 5.6. Research Q6: Evaluation

Research into the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes. We are interested in understanding the impact that interventions can have in reducing the risk of (re-) offending.

#### 5.7. Research Q7: Domestic Abuse-related suicides

Research into the link between domestic abuse and suicide for perpetrators of domestic abuse and their victims. Areas of interest include:

- Understanding whether domestic abuse increases the risk of individuals dying by suicide
- If any demographics are more likely to be impacted by suicide
- If the perpetration of certain forms of domestic abuse is more likely to result in either the perpetrator or victim dying by suicide.

#### 5.8. Research 8 - Feasibility studies



Feasibility project(s) designed to develop or test potential methodologies that would ultimately help the longer-term goal of filling the evidence gaps referenced in the research areas listed above

Bidders should propose research aligned with advancing knowledge in one or more of the areas listed above.

## **6. FORMAT OF PROPOSALS**

6.1. Proposals must set out:

6.1.1. Overall aim of the project

6.1.2. Bids must outline the proposed research project, including how the research will build our understanding of one or more of the above research areas. Each Bid should detail the specific research question that their proposal seeks to answer and explain how this will be relevant to future policy making.

### **6.2. Methodology**

6.2.1. Successful bidders will be responsible for designing and implementing the study, and delivering findings, in liaison with the Department. Bidders must outline their intended methodology in the bid. We anticipate proposals such as:

6.2.1.1. Reviews of existing evidence, including international evidence, where such reviews have not already been done or where the research base has expanded since the last review.

6.2.1.2. Evaluation or analysis of data from current schemes or pilots that aim to prevent perpetration or re-offending, including those delivered internationally, where this has not already taken place.

6.2.1.3. Secondary analysis of available data.

6.2.1.4. Short qualitative studies.

6.2.1.5. Open source analysis, such as case file analysis of available court documents.



- 6.2.1.6. Expansion of existing research to include relevant research questions.
- 6.2.1.7. Alternatively, bidders could propose feasibility project(s) designed to develop or test potential methodologies that would ultimately help the longer-term goal of filling these evidence gaps.
- 6.2.1.8. Bidders must set out how their proposed methodology will be achievable within the timescales, including explaining how data will be obtained. It must not be assumed that the Home Office will be able to share any data with successful bidders.

## **7. NEED AND ADDITIONALITY**

7.1. Proposals must be for additional activity not currently provided for through service provision funded by another national or local commissioning body e.g. PCC, CCG, local authority. The bid should clearly demonstrate that there is an evidence gap for the proposed research. We will consider bids that seek to build on existing work provided bidders demonstrate how the research will be expanded to address something new and clearly demonstrate the need for additional funding.

## **8. INTENDED DELIVERABLES AND TIMESCALES**

8.1. In line with the requirement to provide the final report by 30 April 2022 and a presentation by 30 June 2022, bidders should outline their intended timescales for the project. Bidders may propose additional deliverables that they will produce, such as guidance documents, datasets etc. If so, they must justify how each deliverable will be of use to policy-makers and/or operational staff.

8.2. In all instances, the bidder must be prepared to deliver a report setting out the findings of their research and a presentation to Home Office officials where there will be an opportunity for the findings to be probed

8.3. Proposals should outline key risks to delivery and should specify how they plan to mitigate these.



## **9. PROJECT TEAM EXPERIENCE AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE**

9.1. Proposals should give details of the team who will be delivering the research, including details of their relevant expertise in the subject matter area or proposed methodologies used. Bids should demonstrate the experience of the project team in delivering similar projects and the capability of the team to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse and safeguard and support victims.

9.2. We welcome collaboration with other organisations. Bids should provide evidence that you have discussed with and gained early agreement from the organisation. Bids should outline how you will ensure the quality of services provided, including evidence of quality assurance processes.

## **10. COST**

10.1. Proposals should outline the total amount they are asking for. Bids can be submitted from a lower threshold of £50,000 up to a maximum of £400,000 per research area. Any bids above or below these thresholds will be rejected.

10.2. In making a final decision on allocation of funding, the Home Office will ensure that an appropriate distribution of projects is funded across research questions outlined above.

## **11. REQUIREMENT FOR PRESENTATION AND REPORT**

11.1. The exact content and structure of the presentation and report will be agreed with successful bidders. A full report to be submitted at the end of the project, which will include an executive summary, methodology and limitations, findings, and policy relevance of findings. We anticipate asking suppliers to prepare a 25-30 minute presentation to the Home Office on the research and initial findings following the submission of the final report.

## **12. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS**

12.1. The process leading to the award will be administered using the Home Office eSourcing portal. All applications must be submitted via the Portal. The evaluation criteria poses a series of questions which relate directly to the required outcomes. These have been weighted to indicate their relative importance.

### **13. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

- 13.1. Bids must provide research proposals into one (or more) of the research areas outlined in the specification
- 13.2. Bids must be for additional activity not currently provided
- 13.3. Multiple proposals must be submitted as separate bids by uploading a separate technical response document. Suppliers can submit a maximum of two bids.
- 13.4. Full and final bids must be submitted on the Portal by 12:00 noon 2<sup>1st</sup> October 2021

### **14. PROJECT TIMETABLE**

- 14.1. Successful organisations will be required to complete a detailed research proposal describing how their project will achieve a delivery against outcomes and how funding will be spent in the financial year for which it is allocated.

### **15. SIZE OF FUND**

- 15.1. The Home Office will ensure that an appropriate distribution of projects is funded. Bids can be submitted from a lower threshold of £50,000 up to a maximum of £400,000 per research area. Any bids above or below these thresholds will be rejected.

### **16. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE**

- 16.1. The geographical scope for the research is England and Wales.

### **17. SERVICE LEVELS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

- 17.1. The following Key Performance Indicators will form part of the contract once awarded.



Ref	Description of Service Level	KPI Metric	Method of Measurement	Measurement Period	Target Service Level	Minimum Service Level	Key Service Level? Y or N
KPI -1	Delivery of the Presentation	The presentation is to be delivered by 31st March 2022, unless otherwise agreed	The time of receipt will be monitored, recorded and measured against the Target Service Level	30 June 2022	100%	≥95%	Y
KPI -2	Delivery of the Final Report	The final report is to be delivered by 30th April 2022, unless otherwise agreed	The time of receipt will be monitored, recorded and measured against the Target Service Level	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	100%	≥95%	Y
KPI -3	Monitoring Spend to Date	The supplier will provide the Authority with an update on contract spend to date, including volumes, within 5 working days of request	The time of receipt will be monitored, recorded and measured against the Target Service Level	As Requested	≥97%	≥95%	N
KPI -4	Production of a Monthly Management Information Report	The supplier will provide the Authority with a management information report within 5 working days of each	The time of receipt will be monitored, recorded and measured against the Target Service Level	Monthly	≥97%	≥95%	N



Ref	Description of Service Level	KPI Metric	Method of Measurement	Measurement Period	Target Service Level	Minimum Service Level	Key Service Level? Y or N
		calendar month end					
KPI -5	Accurate and Timely Billing	The supplier will ensure that invoices are accurate and in accordance with the pricing schedules and issued on the first working day of each month for the preceding months activities	The accuracy and time of receipt will be monitored, recorded and measured against the Target Service Level	End of February 2022 and end of March 2022	≥97%	≥95%	N

## 18. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of the key definitions and abbreviations used throughout the RFQ documentation.

Term	Definition
“Authority”	means the Secretary of State for the Home Department
“Award Criteria”, “Selection Criteria”, or “Evaluation Criteria”	means in the case of this procurement, the criteria used by the Authority to evaluate submissions and determine a successful Bidder
“Bid”, “Response”, “Submitted Bid”, “Submitted Response”, or “ITT Response”	means the Bidders formal offer in response to this Invitation to Tender (ITT)
“Bidders”	means the organisations being invited to respond to this ITT
“Competed Goods/Services”	means the competed goods/services that will be Ordered from the Contract and are set out in Attachment B - Specification
“Conditions of Bid”	means the terms and conditions set out in this ITT relation to the submission of a Bid
“Contract”	means the agreement to be entered into by the Authority and the Supplier following any award under the procurement exercise
“Due Diligence Information”	means the background information and supporting documents and information provided by the Authority for the purpose of better informing the Bidders’ response to this ITT
“FoIA”	means the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under such Act from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant Government department in relation to such legislation
“Key Performance Indicators” or “KPI”	means those key performance indicators agreed as requiring to be met by the Provider as part of performing the Contract
“Provider”	means the organisation awarded the Contract
“Request for Quotation” or “RFQ”	means this Request for Quotation documentation and all related documents published by the Authority and made available to Bidders
“Specification”	means the specification set out in Appendix B - Specification
“Term”	means the term of the Contract which shall be from the date of signing the agreement to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
“Terms and Conditions”	means the Terms and Conditions that will apply to any future

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Term	Definition
of Contract”	agreement

### Table of Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	MEANS
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
DA	Domestic Abuse
HO	Home Office
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MI	Management Information
ITT	Invitation to Tender
SLA	Service Level Agreement
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls