

Crown Commercial Service Digital Outcomes and Specialists 5 - Supplier Briefing

30 September 2020

Question and Answer:

#	Question	Answer
1.	Are there any changes to the Digital Specialist roles, titles or descriptions?	No, these roles will remain the same for Digital Outcomes and Specialists 5 (DOS 5).
2.	Will there be an obligation for buyers to provide timely updates on down selection?	Buyers are required to provide suppliers with an update once they have completed shortlisting and evaluation. As a team we work hard to remind buyers of this obligation in our guidance, webinars and any discussions we might have with them.
3.	Can you elaborate on the IR35 changes please?	DOS 5, with reference to updated guidance and appropriate case studies from the Tax Centre of Excellence (https://taxcentreofexcellence.uk/), will allow buyers in specific limited circumstances to undertake a procurement that is deemed to be inside IR35. As such, provision is being made within the contract terms and conditions to give buyers the right to request; and suppliers the obligation to supply; the necessary level of information on individual workers to enable buyers to their meet their obligations under the off-payroll working rules (including their obligation to issue Status Determination Statements as from April 2021).
4.	Will suppliers be able to port responses over from DOS 4?	Yes, you will be able to use your previous DOS 4 application to copy over your responses to DOS 5. Just ensure you check each question and that your response is still appropriate.
5.	If details are transferred from DOS 4, can they be added to/edited?	Yes, these can be added to/edited during the application period.

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6.	Can we assume that the DOS 5 Stage 1 responses will remain limited to 100 words?	Correct, no changes have been made to the maximum word limit against each criteria response on the Digital Marketplace.
7.	Given the greater complexity of the public sector contract with up to 30 schedules, will the timescales for a mini competition be longer than when responding to a DOS 4 tender?	No, there is no dependency on the structure or changes to the T's & C's which should impact the timescales for a call-off procedure. We advise buyers to read through the T's & C's before they run their procurement, so they can ask any questions they might have to avoid delays.
8.	It was mentioned that the scoring criteria for DOS opportunities will be scored out of 3. Can you advise if this is CCS best practice or is this across all clients?	The generally accepted standard scoring methodology used by buyers on DOS, and written in current guidance, is 0-3. If a buyer wishes to use a different methodology they can, and they should make this known to suppliers up-front in their opportunity. If buyers choose to do this they must use the same scoring methodology consistently at both the shortlisting and further evaluation stages.