



Home Office

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Ms Anna Fisher

By email to: request-456208-04cc8fdd@whatdotheyknow.com

7 February 2018

Ref: 46828

Dear Ms Fisher,

Thank you for your email of 10 January, in which you ask for information relating to research being commissioned into the nature and prevalence of prostitution and sex work in England and Wales. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the information you have requested on 1) who has been commissioned to undertake the research 2) the specification of that research 3) when the research is due to be completed and 4) whether there are plans to publish the results of the research, and if so, when. The information is set out in the enclosed Annex.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 46828. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

Public Protection Unit

Annex:

Q.1 Who has been commissioned to undertake the research?

The Home Office has provided £150,000 to fund this research, which has been commissioned by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

The research tender process closed on 10 January 2018 and bids are currently being assessed. The successful applicant will be announced by the end of March 2018.

Q.2 What is the specification of that research?

The research specification is as follows:

SPECIFICATION SCHEDULE

Background

On 1 July 2016, the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) published their interim report on prostitution. The report made six recommendations: decriminalising soliciting; amending brothel-keeping legislation; deleting previous offences relating to prostitution; developing guidance for police and local authorities; policy changes to prevent trafficking and exploitation; and strengthening the evidence base on prostitution. The Government response accepted that there was a need for in-depth research to develop an impartial evidence base, which is vital prior to considering further changes to policy and legislation.

The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner has subsequently received a maximum of £150,000 funding from the Home Office to commission research on the nature and prevalence of prostitution in England and Wales.

In addition, South Wales Police have undertaken profiling analysis and consultation on a force basis to better understand the policing demands in terms of types of prostitution, sex work, brothels, online and associated vulnerabilities of sex workers. This work has been undertaken through the assessment of data and consultation with support providers, street sex workers and women working in parlours. Local findings are reflective of some of the issues highlighted by the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Research Scope

The overarching aim of the research is to:

- **better understand the extent and changing nature of prostitution in England and Wales.**

The Contractor shall be required to:

- develop a comprehensive typology of contemporary prostitution, incorporating the multiple realities of workers and others linked to prostitution and sex work. This will

include street and off-street sectors; those working online; those trafficked for the purposes of sex work; and other relevant categorisations;

- develop approaches for estimating the extent of each of these types of prostitution; and specify where further work needs to be undertaken
- where possible, populate the typology using existing survey and administrative data.

Research Methodology

The Research Methodology set out below is an outline proposal, and the Contractor shall develop this methodology. The methodologies for each stage of the research are cumulative, with each stage building on the previous stage. The Research Methodology will be finalised and agreed with the Contractor during the initial phase of the Project.

Key Stakeholders

The Contractor shall be required, as a minimum, to liaise with the following key stakeholders during the course of the research:

- people affected by or involved in prostitution;
- third sector organisations including generic and specialist support services currently working with or providing support to those affected by or involved in prostitution;
- law enforcement agencies;
- academics;
- health services;
- policy makers;
- gatekeepers – those who control access to people or resources;
- Sex workers.

Disclosures relating to safeguarding will be required to be referred to the relevant local safeguarding fora in line with safeguarding legislation and policy guidance.

Typology of Prostitution

The Contractor will be required to develop a typology of prostitution based around:

1. A systematic review of the current evidence on prostitution, using current UK published literature and drawing on overseas literature if available and relevant. It is anticipated that this will draw on the recent Scottish Government review on prostitution.¹ Tenders should set out the approach they propose using for the search, including sources and how they will evaluate and present this evidence.
2. Interviews with key stakeholders and organisations, and people affected by or involved in prostitution, including sex workers, to understand the evidence they have available and to test out the findings of the work.

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/02/3333/1>, <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/02/6562>

3. Development of tools for assessing the quality of data sources (tools shall be agreed by the Steering Group prior to being developed by the Contractor). Data should be triangulated, as appropriate, and overlaps in the different types of prostitution should be explored as appropriate.
4. Data workshops to be held with possible data providers and academics, to identify approaches to quantifying the unpopulated categorisations.

The Contractor shall comprehensively test this typology at a minimum of four stakeholder workshops. Participants will include representation from those key stakeholder groups outlined above.

The Contractor shall be required to peer review the typology i.e. the work must be evaluated by one or more people of similar competence to the Contractor who produces the work.

Populating the Typology

The Contractor will be required to populate the typology through:

1. A systematic review, to capture data on different categories of the typology which may become apparent during the project.
2. Interviews with key stakeholders and organisations, and people affected by or involved in prostitution, including sex workers, to highlight additional data sources.
3. Development of tools for assessing the quality of these data sources (tools shall be agreed by the Steering Group prior to being developed by the Contractor). Data should be triangulated, as appropriate, and overlaps in the different types of prostitution should be explored as appropriate.
4. Data workshops to be held with possible data providers and academics, to identify approaches to quantifying the unpopulated categorisations.

The Contractor shall comprehensively test this populated typology at a minimum of four stakeholder workshops. Participants will include representation from those key stakeholder groups outlined above.

The Contractor shall be required to peer review the populated typology i.e. the work must be evaluated by one or more people of similar competence to the Contractor who produces the work.

Outputs

The Contractor shall be required to produce the following outputs:

1. Short Summary document outlining interim findings and recommendations at six months

2. Deliver a presentation at six months to the Steering / Advisory Group to advise on progress and interim recommendations
3. Typology Report of approximately 30 pages, with appropriate annexes setting out the typology, available data and proposing a strategy for developing data and filling any data gaps.
4. Technical Report making available online additional data and information that has been collected but not included in the Typology Report.
5. The development of tools that will be published and accessible to interested parties to assist the measuring of prevalence

The structure and format of all reports will be agreed, by the Steering Group, in advance of drafting. Reports will be written in an accessible way, using the Home Office house style (details available on request). The published reports will reference the Home Office, South Wales PCC and researchers collectively.

Quality

Given the sensitivities of this work, it is imperative that the research design, tools and outputs are of high quality and are reviewed. As a minimum, the final research designs will be peer reviewed and signed off by the Steering Group prior to the commencement of work. And all final outputs should also be independently peer reviewed.

Management of the Contract

Governance

The Contractor shall nominate a dedicated Lead who will be the main point of contact for the research work and manage the Working Group. The Contractor shall be required to set up the Working Group during the initial phase of the project, the Working Group will be responsible for conducting the research and delivering the requirements of this specification. The Working Group will report to the Advisory / Steering Group on a quarterly basis.

The Advisory/Steering Group, made up of representatives from South Wales PCC, South Wales Police, NPCC Sex Work Lead, and the Home Office, will meet quarterly and will be responsible for steering the Contractor's work and monitoring progress. The Advisory / Steering Group will report to the Oversight Group. The Advisory / Steering Group will provide oversight to ensure safeguarding issues have been identified and appropriate action has been taken.

The Oversight Group, comprising of senior South Wales PCC, NPCC and Home Office representatives, will meet bi-annually during the lifetime of the research, to provide oversight of the research work.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Contractor, via the Working Group, will be required to provide Quarterly Highlight Reports to demonstrate progress against the project plan, agreed milestones, outputs and exception reporting. In addition the Contractor will be required to report any action taken relating to reporting of safeguarding concerns that they become aware of whilst undertaking the research. The template for the Quarterly Highlight Report will be agreed with the Advisory / Steering Group in the initial phase of the project.

Timeline

The research is proposed to begin on 1st April 2018 and final draft reports will be required to be presented to the steering group no later than 31st March 2019. The Contractor shall be required to produce a Project Plan and identify key milestones for delivery, which will be agreed by the Advisory / Steering Group in the initial phase of the Project.

Q.3. When is the research due to be completed?

The research is proposed to begin on 1st April 2018 and completed by the end of April 2019.

Q.4. Whether there are plans to publish the results of the research, and if so, when?

The research will be published in full following its completion in April 2019.

Date: 7 February 2018