

Stanhope PFI – Our Ref FOI-5278 - HMT Project Id 177

Question 1: Which companies have advised your local authority on each of its PFI projects and contracts from inception, through procurement, during construction and operation on issues relating to structural, legal, financial, governance, audit and performance review. Please provide that information by each PFI scheme, providing the HMT unique reference number.

Answer 1:

Procurement Advisor – Partnerships UK plc

Procurement Legal Advisor – Hammonds Suddards Edge

Procurement Financial Advisor – RSM Robson Rhodes

Procurement Technical Advisor – Hunter & Partners Ltd

Procurement Negotiation Advisor – Gleeds

Procurement Planning & Development Advisor – David Hicken Associates Ltd

Procurement Insurance Advisor – Aon

Procurement Land Valuation Advisor – Drivers Jonas

Question 2: Please provide documentation demonstrating how your local authority selected the advisers referred to above? Please provide any internal or external process documents (e.g. from HM Treasury/ Partnerships UK) in relation to the selection, a copy of invitations to tender and tender documents.

Answer 2:

Prospective advisers were sent an invitation to tender and asked to make a bid submission and provide a fee proposal. Those shortlisted were invited to an interview and the successful applicants were selected on the basis of a weighted scoresheet:

	Criteria for Bid Submission Scoring	Weighting
1	Technical Ability	10%
2	Track record in PFI	30%
3	Knowledge of social housing PFI	20%
4	Understanding of Council requirements	10%
5	Approach to project	30%
	TOTAL	100%

	Criteria for Interview Scoring	Weighting
1	Quality of presentation	5%
2	Commitment of Firm to Project	25%
3	Understand local authority environment	15%
4	Recognition of key issues	25%
5	Approach to applying standard terms	10%
6	Understanding of private sector requirements	20%
	TOTAL	100%

	Overall Scoring	Weighting
1	Bid Submission Score	40%
2	Interview Score	40%
3	Price	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Question 3: Please provide documents demonstrating how your local authority, as part of that selection, ensured that the auditors and lawyers, accountants and business consultants referred to above were not conflicted in any way with any of the organisations involved previously or currently with your PFI project(s). This could include documents, statements and correspondence between the local authority and its auditors relating to any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest.

Answer 3:

Conflict of interest was addressed in the invitation to tender document sent to potential advisors (see page 14 of samples attached). There was no conflict of interest between council advisors and those advising bidders for the PFI contract as shortlisted bidders informed us of their advisors and their advisors were present with the bidders at meetings with the authority and none were the same company as the advisors engaged by the authority.

Question 4: Please provide all policies/protocols or any other documentation which demonstrate how your local authority continues to ensure that auditors and consultants continue to be free of conflicts of interest.

Answer 4:

Procurement ended over 11 years ago. No advisors have been used on the PFI since the procurement.