



Date issued: 26 February 2019

Town and Community Council Audit Contracts

I am writing in response to your request for information dated 29 January 2019 in which you requested information regarding Town and Community Council Audit Contracts. For ease of reference, I have reproduced your questions below and set out our corresponding responses.

1. How did the AG notify companies that a new contract was being offered/started to examine town and community council accounts from 2015/16 onwards.

A Contract Notice was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and through Sell2Wales. Prior to that the Auditor General set out his contracting strategy on Wales Audit Office's website. We also engaged with key stakeholders such as One Voice Wales.

2. I ask for a copy of the tender form and any other forms that the companies were required to tender for work to complete before it was possible to appoint another company from 2015/16.

I attach copies of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and tender document. These are in English only which is the OJEU official language requirement

3. Was it a 3 year Contract that was given, ie for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18?

It was a three-year contract with an option to extend for an additional two years, which was exercised.

4. How many companies submitted a tender for the new contracts?

Seven expressed an interest across 3 Lots. Five suppliers completed a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire for the audit of Town and Community Councils, and four of these suppliers were invited to tender.

5. How much was the total cost to the taxpayer for an external audit of town and community councils in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18

I have set out below the amounts received in each financial year in respect of the sums charged to Town and Community Councils for audit work. This includes work carried out by the firms and in a small number of cases by staff of the Wales Audit Office.

2015-16: £190,521

2016-17: £170,038

2017-18: £195,986

If you have any queries, or questions about my handling of your request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer