

United Kingdom-Aberdeen: Research services
OJ S 128/2018 06/07/2018
Contract notice
Services

Legal Basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
Postal address: 4th Floor, Pilgrim House, Old Ford Road
Town: Aberdeen
NUTS code: UKM Scotland
Postal code: AB11 5RL
Country: United Kingdom
E-mail: tommy.mcphelim@gov.scot
Telephone: +44 1412420133

Internet address(es):

Main address: www.foodstandards.gov.scot
Address of the buyer profile: https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA24524

I.2. Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3. Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk
Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address
Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via: www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk

I.4. Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5. Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1. Scope of the procurement

II.1.1. Title

Microbiological Survey of Minced Beef on Retail Sale in Scotland
Reference number: FSS/2018/013

II.1.2. Main CPV code

73110000 Research services

II.1.3. Type of contract

Services

II.1.4. Short description

The primary objective of this project is to generate baseline data on the significant microbiological pathogens and hygiene indicator organisms present in beef mince on retail sale to the consumer in Scotland. A secondary objective is to analyse any patterns of variation (e.g. seasonal or geographical) to identify any risk factors associated with microbial contamination. Thirdly, the presence and significance of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) should be determined in any pathogens and a subset of 100 isolates of generic E. coli found. This will be done by undertaking a comprehensive survey of microbiological pathogens and hygiene indicator organisms in beef mince at retail across a range of geographic locations in Scotland over the course of 1 year. This should include surveying different premises (e.g. butchers, supermarkets), geographical locations and product ranges (e.g. value, premium) in order to represent what Scottish consumers are currently purchasing.

II.1.5. Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: 170 000,00 GBP

II.1.6. Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: no

II.2. Description

II.2.2. Additional CPV code(s)

73110000 Research services

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: UKM50 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

The aim of this project is to address the key evidence gap in relation to the microbiological risk of Scottish beef mince at retail level to contribute to the delivery of FSS's strategy aimed at reducing the incidence of foodborne illness in Scotland.

To assist in achieving this aim, the Contractor shall:

- a. carry out sampling of fresh minced beef on retail sale over a 1 year period across a range of geographical locations in Scotland. Sampling should be designed so that it is representative of what Scottish consumers are buying and eating;
- b. analyse the samples for the following foodborne pathogens and hygiene indicator organisms:
 - i) STEC (including E. coli O157 and non-O157s);
 - ii) Campylobacter;
 - iii) Salmonella;
 - iv) Generic E. coli;
 - v) Anaerobic colony counts (ACCs);
- c. samples that are found to contain pathogenic microorganisms (campylobacter, salmonella and STEC) will be sequenced by whole genome sequencing (WGS);
- d. all pathogens analysed by WGS will be screened for AMR genes;
- e. 100 generic E. coli isolated and all the STEC, campylobacter and salmonella isolates will also be tested for antimicrobial resistance by disk diffusion (or an alternative appropriate method);

f. sample results will be analysed statistically to determine the prevalence and levels of AMR for each of the organisms tested.

The Contractor is required to analyse any patterns in the variation of microorganisms present (e.g. seasonal or regional) or any indications of risk factors that influence the microbiological quality of mince on retail sale in Scotland. This will be achieved by ensuring sampling is undertaken over a full 12 month period and across a range of product ranges and geographical locations in Scotland. The result of this analysis will also be included within the full report.

II.2.5. Award criteria

Criteria below

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Price - Weighting: 40

II.2.6. Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: 170 000,00 GBP

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 20

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.12. Information about electronic catalogues

Tenders must be presented in the form of electronic catalogues or include an electronic catalogue

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

II.2.14. Additional information

Economic operators may be excluded from this competition if they are in any of the situations referred to in Regulation 58 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.

Section III: Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1. Conditions for participation

III.1.2. Economic and financial standing

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

ESPD Q4B.5.1-3

It is a requirement that Contractors hold or can commit to obtain prior to start of any subsequently awarded contract the types of insurance below:

— Employers (Compulsory) Liability Insurance: 5 000 000 GBP,

— Public Liability Insurance: 1 000 000 GBP,

— Public Indemnity Insurance: 1 000 000 GBP.

III.1.3. Technical and professional ability

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required:

ESPD Q4D.1 Quality Management Procedures

The bidder must ensure any laboratory undertaking microbiological analysis must hold an accreditation of ISO 17025 standard or equivalent.

The bidder must ensure that individual test methods shall be accredited for detection and enumeration of each of the microorganisms specified in regulation EC 2073/2005 (i.e. for salmonella, ACC and E. coli) or equivalent. Alternative methods may be used with evidence of appropriate validation. Where possible, details of the accreditation of other methods employed should also be given (i.e. for STEC, campylobacter, AMR and WGS).

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Description

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3. Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

IV.1.8. Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: yes

IV.2. Administrative information

IV.2.2. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date: 13/08/2018 Local time: 12:00

IV.2.3. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.2.4. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6. Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 3 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7. Conditions for opening of tenders

Date: 13/08/2018 Local time: 12:00

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.3. Additional information

Note: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland website at https://www.ubliccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=548679

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

(SC Ref:548679)

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

Official name: Food Standards Scotland (FSS)

Postal address: 4th Floor, Pilgrim House, Old Ford Road

Town: Aberdeen

Postal code: AB11 5RL

Country: United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 1412420133

Internet address: www.foodstandards.gov.scot

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

03/07/2018