



Date of publication: 13 December 2018

Audit of Town Council accounts

I am writing in response to the request for information you made on 14 November 2018, requesting information on the audit of Town Council accounts. For your convenience, I have included your questions below before setting out our response.

Did this work go out to tender?

Yes, by OJEU notice under the restricted process.

If yes, how many companies bid for the work and on what basis was the company chosen?

Five suppliers declared an interest with three bidding for the work. In the qualification stage we considered economic and financial position, the ability to respond to geographic and linguistic issues, business activity and past history, supplier capacity, audit quality and certainty. At the tender stage we considered skills, knowledge and experience, the intelligence of the Auditor General and audited bodies in Wales, specific arrangements for quality, professional interaction and communication.

What is the length of the agreement?

Initially 3 years from 2015-16 to 2017-18, extended two years so that the contract continued until 2019-20 audits are completed.

What is the cost of the agreement?

Approximately £50,000 is payable to BDO on an annual basis.

Is there a "sanctions" system in place for failing and doing the job in any way?

The contract allows for improvements due to the inadequate performance of the services.

How many Welsh councils do BDO deal with?

367 at the time of tender.

How many staff has BDO allocated to do the work?

Eight members of staff are involved in conducting the work with two Engagement leaders providing an overview and quality monitoring.

Hefyd, byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech gadarnhau'r canlynol: fel rhan o'r cytundeb tendro pa ofynion ieithyddol oedd yn disgwyl i'r cwmni llwyddiannus all ddelio gyda nhw ac i ba raddau yr oedd y cwmni a enillwyd y cytundeb yn cyflawni'r gofynion hynny?

In the first stage of the tendering process we asked for evidence from potential providers about their ability to work across Wales and support a bilingual atmosphere. This included arrangements to meet the needs of audited bodies and residents wishing to communicate in Welsh, an ability to work across all settings in Wales and the language competence of employees to be able to communicate in Welsh. BDO had been able to demonstrate over 12 years experience of community council audits in mid and west Wales, with 314 inspections of bilingual councils. They provided all their first correspondence in Welsh and English to meet legislative requirements, with the service of an interpreter to provide additional capacity.

If you have any queries or questions about the way in which I have handled your application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer