

LSC opens Qualified Provider Framework

As of 31st October 2008, the LSC has opened a Qualified Provider Framework for providers of education and training services. The Qualified Provider Framework is a maintained list of all providers from which the LSC will secure education and training services. This list will incorporate those providers with whom the LSC will negotiate and/or invite to tender.

The Qualified Provider Framework will streamline the way the LSC commissions and contracts for provision and will remove barriers for new providers wishing to work with the LSC.

Providers that wish to be eligible to receive invitations to tender can apply to be pre-qualified at any time during the year. This 'always open' approach will allow providers to apply at a time convenient to them and which suits their business need.

When the LSC identifies a need to tender for provision, it will temporarily freeze the list to new applicants in order for the tendering process to begin. The dates that the list will be frozen will be published well in advance; ensuring providers have sufficient opportunity to apply to pre-qualify.

Any provider that wishes to be included in the LSC's tendering round in January 2009 needs to ensure that they apply to pre-qualify by 10th December 2008. Providers who do not apply to pre-qualify by this date will not be eligible to receive invitations to tender in January 2009. This will not impact on a provider's ability to continue to negotiate with the LSC.

Existing providers who have no interest in receiving invitations to tender for new programmes do not need to take action. The LSC will continue to negotiate existing contracted programmes with these providers.

When the LSC identifies a need to tender, it will continue to use e-tendering to meet this need. This could be in response to new provision, gaps in provision, to replace poor quality provision or to meet our obligations as a European Social Fund co-financing organisation.

For more information please go to www.lsc.gov.uk and follow the link from the home page.

