



# Build Higher Frameworks

## FAQs

### What is the purpose of the Build Higher Frameworks?

The purpose of the Framework Agreement is to deliver an efficient and compliant route to market for participating higher education institutes, by minimising the resource and providing value for money.

### What services can be procured under the Build Higher Frameworks?

- Construction
- Architectural Design
- Surveying
- Building Services Design

### What is the term of the Framework Agreements?

The Build Higher Frameworks rely on the development of long-term relationships. For this reason, their terms are: 2no four-year periods commencing on the award date with the option to extend a further 2 years, therefore, totalling 10 years.

### What are the Frameworks' value bands?

They are broken down into three value bands: £0m-£2.5m, £2.5m-£10m and >£10m.

### What is the process for procuring through the Build Higher Frameworks?

The Framework Agreements can be procured via the restricted procedure tendering process and advertised on Contracts Finder, Intend and in the following OJEU:

Discipline	Value	OJEU number
<b>Question groups</b>		
Main contractor	<£10m	2019 S 053-120998
Main contractor	£0.25m-£10m	2019 S 109-264243
Main contractor	£0m-£2.5m	2019 S 102-246001

Discipline	Value	OJEU number
<b>Question groups</b>		
Multi-disciplinary design team	All	2019 S 125-306056
Construction surveying	All	2019 S 115-282664
Building services	All	2019 S 116-284759

## How will the Framework Agreements operate?

The Build Higher Frameworks will be operated in compliance with the Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014, any subsequent legislation or other legislation taking precedence, or at the discretion of the University or any rules imposed by bodies providing funding to the University.

## Who can use the Framework?

Any officially recognised university or college can use the Framework provided they sign an access agreement to exclude the University of Birmingham of any responsibility or liability relating to its use. The University of Birmingham is flexible as to how the Framework is used, but any form of competition must only be between partners who are on the Framework and not by introducing new providers.

## What are the call-off options for selecting a contractor?

They are:

- Direct award to the best placed contractor, for speed of appointment
- Desktop mini tenders based on fees, overheads and profit, or other pricing matrices provided by the contractor
- Fast track tendering processes by administering mini tenders for the provision of the works whereby only the contractors on the approved list will be invited to submit proposals for specific projects
- There could also be a 4:4:2 approach to sub-agreements (for supply of FF&E, for example)

## What is the default contract?

The default contractual form is JCT with agreed Framework specific amendments. Whilst it is possible for other higher education establishments to use their own contract, the JCT amendments have been negotiated with and accepted by all Framework partners and is considered by all to be a fair contract.

## What are the costs for using the Framework?

The Framework is a not-for-profit entity and the modest admin charges of typically 0.1% of project value are invested directly back into the framework to improve the service to customers:

- £2.5m to £10m = £10k
- £10m to £20m = £20k
- £20m to £30m = £30k
- £30m to £40m = £40k
- £40m + = £50k (capped)

The contractors are responsible for recovering this admin charge and paying it to the University of Birmingham.

### CONTACT



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