

The Highland Council

HC/D & ITS/2019 – Provision of Trades Services Framework Agreement 2019

Responses to Questions and Areas of Clarification – Form 02 - 15/07/2019

Question/Clarification	Date Received	Response
1. We note that the council DLO is considered to be more competitive than private companies. Can you confirm that the DLO rates applied include all premises and business overheads, transport, management and administration costs within their hourly rates?	04/07/19	Building Maintenance costs are the direct costs of running the service, including all overheads.
2. We are finding it impractical to incorporate the cost of travel into an hourly labour rate, for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) If you simply add the full cost of travel to the hourly labour rate it really inflates the labour rate. 2) The job may be 1-hour or all-day, making it hard to judge how to apportion the van & fuel costs. 3) The job may require 2-operatives, both in the same van, again making it hard to judge how to apportion the van & fuel costs. <p>We respectfully suggest that a separate simple flat rate per trip for travel should be priced, this would leave the hourly labour rates 'unadulterated' by trying to apportion travel costs when there are two unknowns – hours on site and number of operatives travelling together. The simple flat rate would apply whether the job took 1-hour or all-day and/or whether it required 1 or 2-operatives. We also feel this approach would be fairer to both parties as it would not inflate the hourly labour rates to the Council and ensure the Contractor receives the correct cost for travel.</p>	04/07/19	The Council considered a range of options for the treatment of travel costs and the finally agreed position is clearly set out in the Schedule of Rates - see 'Notes' section on the 'Instructions' Tab.
3. We would be grateful if you could confirm please if Lot 13 - Groundworks and Excavation is divisional, i.e. we are able to do some but not all of the listing requirements under that Lot.	05/07/2019	We can confirm that Lot 13 is divisional.
4. Question & Answer 8 & 41 You state that the appointed main contractors have to pay subbies within 30 days from date of Invoice and if this does not happen subbies can notify the Council. That in itself does not reassure me. I would like to know what would happen if	05/07/2019	It is a requirement of the Contract Conditions that sub-contractors shall be paid on the same terms as the Council pays the Contractor; 30 days. The Council expects sub-contractors to be paid on time and in accordance with the Contract Conditions. The Council has at its disposal

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<p>subbies notified the Council that this was happening? What is going to prevent the main Contractors from just continuing this practice? In my experience, the best paying main contractors usually pay at the end of the month following the issue of an Invoice, so in theory, if work was carried out on the 1st of a month, subbies are likely to not receive payment until the 30th/31st of the following month - approx 60 days after completion of the work. That's probably 'best scenario'. I really cannot see this practice changing. Can you please reassure us how you are going to protect subcontractors?</p>		<p>a range of measures through the Contract Conditions where a Contractor is in Default and will seek to apply these should the situation arise.</p>
<p>5. I have an apprentice plumber who has started his second year with me. I receive no funding for this at all. I have been charging £5.00 per hour for him and absorb the rest of his pay costs myself as he has to be paid the minimum wage. When I tender my hourly rate to you will the £5.00 I charge for him be added to my hourly rate? For instance, if my rate is £30.00 per hour will this be viewed as £35.00 per hour for the purposes of the tender process? Many thanks.</p>	<p>06/07/2019</p>	<p>Hourly Rates should be submitted in accordance with the Schedule of Rates which form a part of the Invitation to Tender document. An Apprentice hourly rate may be submitted as indicated.</p>
<p>6. Having expressed an interest to submit for the Framework, we are a demolition contractor and see no Lot for this type of work - can you confirm Demolition Works does not form part of this Framework?</p>	<p>11/07/2019</p>	<p>We can confirm that there is no Lot for Demolition Works and these do not form part of this Framework.</p>
<p>END.</p>		