

<b>For Information</b>	
<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Audit and Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> June 2014</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>R. Adams, Commercial Director, East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit</b>
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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>8</b>

## **REGIONAL PROCUREMENT ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICY – REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE (Oct 2013 – March 2014)**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit (EMSCU) published their policy entitled Prevention of Fraud and Corruption in the Procurement Process (the Policy) on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – see Appendix A. The policy is written for all three partner Forces and whilst written to be applicable to procurement activity conducted by EMSCU for contracts with a total value of £25k and above, the principles are equally applicable to lower level procurements. The three partner Forces are Nottinghamshire Police, Derbyshire Constabulary and Northamptonshire Police.
- 1.2 The report informs the Audit and Scrutiny Panel of the level of compliance against the EMSCU Fraud and Corruption Policy for the period October 2013 until March 2014.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Panel notes the following:
- 2.2 That EMSCU's Commercial Director has received no reports of any fraudulent activity following any audit of procurement activity undertaken by the Force.
- 2.3 That EMSCU's Head of Procurement Services (to which the Policy directs any individual wishing to report any suspicion of fraudulent activity) has advised that there have been no reports of any fraudulent activity in relation to procurement activity undertaken within Nottinghamshire Police.
- 2.4 That EMSCU's Head of Supplier Services will write to Suppliers before the end of June 2014 to re-iterate the Force position in relation to Gifts, Gratuities and Hospitality. The relevant Force procedure states that Police Officers and Staff should not accept the offer of any gift, gratuity, favour or hospitality as to do so might compromise their impartiality or give rise to a perception of such compromise.

- 2.5 That EMSCU's Commercial Awareness training programme which was launched in December last year is being delivered on an ongoing basis, includes content on the prevention of fraud and corruption in the procurement process.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To give the Panel confidence that there is policy, guidance and training in place to mitigate the risk of fraudulent activity occurring during the procurement process.

### **4. Summary of Key Points**

- 4.1 Nothing further to note.

### **5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision**

- 5.1 Not applicable

### **6. Human Resources Implications**

- 6.1 Not applicable

### **7. Equality Implications**

- 7.1 Not applicable

### **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1 EMSCU maintains its own Risk Register and manages and controls all identified commercial risks. Currently, there are no high risks recorded in relation to fraud and corruption.

### **9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

- 9.1 Not applicable

### **10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations**

- 10.1 None to note at present.

### **11. Details of outcome of consultation**

- 11.1 Not applicable

### **12. Appendices**

- 12.1 The Policy is attached to this report.

## East Midlands Strategic Commercial Unit



<b>TITLE OF DOCUMENT</b>	<b>PREVENTION OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS</b>
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### VERSION CONTROL

Version No	Published Date	Review Date	Document Owner	Document Author	Reason for issue
1.0	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	Graeme Unwin (Procurement Policy Manager)	Graeme Unwin (Procurement Policy Manager)	New process
1.1	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013				New Form created
1.2	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2014				Minor amendment

### PROCUREMENT FRAUD

Procurement is a particularly high risk area in terms of fraud. It is important that EMCSU officers, Force officers and staff involved in the procurement process are aware of procurement fraud risks and able to recognise and report potentially fraudulent activity.

There are two basic types of procurement fraud:

- i) Collusion between procurer and supplier
- ii) Collusion between suppliers

Listed below are the specific fraud risks that fall under these two general headings (based on information provided by CIPFA), including controls for mitigating the risks.

Whilst the Force(s) Contract Procedure Rules and Standing Orders embed these controls, Force officers and staff should be conscious of the risks and the reasons for the controls.

## **COLLUSION BETWEEN PROCURER AND SUPPLIER**

The principle Risks that could exist in relation to fraud during the relationship between the procurer and the supplier are as follows -:

- A need / requirement is invented
- Matching a specification to favour a particular supplier
- Supplier introduced to selection / evaluation process by single officer
- Tender invitations only made to preferred supplier
- Provision of information is only provided to preferred supplier
- Tender documents disappear or are altered
- Inadequate records showing, for example, when tenders were received
- Undeclared interests of members of the evaluation panel or bidders
- Tender assessment criteria not established, allowing manipulation of the evaluation
- Use of non-standard contracts, including an overly complex / vague schedule of charges

Payment risks, e.g. payment for goods that were not received or were of lower quality, over ordering, duplicate invoices, suspicious invoices (no valid VAT no., mobile phone no. only, little / vague information, round sum amounts, sequential invoice nos. over extended period)

Controls:

- Specifications drafted wherever possible, as a result of the Force Procurement Business Partner consulting with users and the supply market (not just one provider), encouraging innovation by stating outcomes wherever possible, and stating 'or equivalent' wherever appropriate
- Documented policies and procedures. For example, how and in what circumstances shortlists are compiled (see Clause 7.6 and 7.14 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Authorisation and documentation of exceptions from policy and procedure (see Clause 8.4 of the Contract Procedure Rules and specifically Clause 7.5 – Exemptions to normal procedures/single tender action)
- Standing / Approved List membership being subject to authorisation, and adherence to submission, financial and technical criteria (see Clause 7.8 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Standing / Approved List / Framework Agreement usage monitored to track for example contract awards
- Equality of opportunity for all suppliers to submit tenders (see Clause 7.6 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Management trail – documented evidence of how suppliers were selected (see Clause 7.18 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Clear instructions in independently despatched tender invitation documents

- Any clarifications following the issuing of the Request for Quotation or Invitation to Tender are provided to all potential bidders
- Declaration of interests of evaluation panel members – completion of Tender Panellist Declaration form (Form Ref EMSCU 002) as per Appendix A (see Clause 2.3.2.1 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Declarations of interests of tenderers. The following question (or similar) should be asked in the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire or Invitation to Tender:
  - *To the best of your knowledge, does any director or senior officer of your organisation have any personal or financial connection with any member or senior officer of Nottinghamshire Police / Derbyshire Constabulary / Northamptonshire Police?*
- Procedures for tender receipt, e.g. fully auditable for every stage of the tender process using the Proactis e-tendering system, including recording, date/time stamping, opening, custody (see Clause 7.11 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Evaluation methodology and criteria formally established prior to issuing Request for Quotation or Invitation to Tender (see Clause 7.14 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Policy for post tender negotiation (see Clause 7.15 of the Contract Procedure Rules)
- Contract conditions approved by Legal Services
- Documentation of the recording, authorisation, acceptance (see Clause 7.11), notification to tenderers (see Clause 7.16) and retention of tender documents (see Clause 7.18)
- Ordering, receipt and invoicing in compliance with approved electronic system, whether National Police Procurement Hub (NPPH), Force(s) Financial System, Procurement Card

## **Valuation of works and services**

### **Risks:**

- Valuations are made at face value without checks and / or verification to supporting documentation
- Authorisation of payments is made without assurance that checks have taken place
- Inflated claims for payment
- Due damages and credits not being deducted

### **Controls:**

- Checking and sign off of interim valuation certificate
- Full supporting documentation provides completeness, for example how the valuation was compiled, calculated, that deductions (such as for defective work) are included and mitigating actions taken on delays
- Adherence to Force(s) Financial Regulations and the necessary checks of the above prior to payment certification
- Documentation and approval of decisions to deduct damages/apply credits

## **Collusion between suppliers**

#### Risks:

- Suppliers are part of a cartel and divide up contracts between them by sharing tender information
- Pressure on non-cartel members to not submit tenders

#### Controls:

- Suppliers appointed on the basis of quality as well as price – most economically advantageous tender
- Monitoring of tender activities and market awareness by Procurement Services – to identify suspicious behaviour, e.g.:
  - patterns of successful tenderers
  - high margins between tenders
  - same price, discounts, service, credit terms offered by tenderers
  - unexpected refusal to tender
- Maintain the confidentiality of tenderers

*How do you report suspected collusion between procurer and supplier or between suppliers? Inform Jayne Christer,, Head of Supplier Services, EMSCU (jayne.christer@emscu.pnn.police.uk) Tel : (03000 111 222 ext 7440)*

**TENDER EVALUATION PANELLIST  
DECLARATION REGARDING ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST  
AND CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING**

I, (Title) (Name) (Surname)  
(Job title) (Organisation/Department)  
(Email address) (Contact phone number)

Conflict of Interest

**Conflict of Interest** refers to situations in which personal interests (which may include financial interests) may compromise, or have the appearance of, or potential for, compromising professional judgement and integrity and, in doing so, the best interests of [Nottinghamshire Police / Derbyshire Constabulary / Northamptonshire Police](#).

Examples of conflicts of interest include: *(This is not an exhaustive list)*

- Having a financial interest (e.g. holding shares or options) in a potential tenderer or any entity involved in any tendering consortium
- Having a financial or any other personal interest in the outcome of the evaluation of any tender evaluation process
- Being employed by (as staff member or volunteer) or providing services to any potential tenderer
- Being a member of a potential tenderer's management/executive board
- Receiving any kind of monetary payment or non-monetary gift or incentive (including hospitality) from any tenderer or its representatives
- Canvassing, or negotiating with, any person with a view to entering into any of the arrangements outlined above
- Having a close member of your family (which term includes unmarried partners) or personal friends who falls into any of the categories outlined above

Having any other close relationship (current or historical) with any potential tenderer

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that any and all potential conflicts are disclosed to the EMSCU (the Chair of the Tender Evaluation Panel) in writing prior to them becoming involved in any procurement process. Individuals will be excluded from the procurement process where the identified conflict is in the EMSCU's opinion material and cannot be mitigated. The decision as to whether the identified conflict is material, and whether any mitigating arrangements are required, is to be made by the line manager of the Chair of the Tender Evaluation Panel (with support from the respective [Category Manager](#)).

Option 1:

"I do not have any conflicts of interest that prevent my full and unprejudiced participation in any procurement process.

I also declare that I will inform the EMSCU immediately, should my circumstances change in any way that effects this declaration."

**Signature**

**Date**

Option 2:

“I **do have** a conflict of interest that may prevent my full and unprejudiced participation in a procurement process. The nature of this conflict of interest is described below:

I also declare that I will inform the EMSCU as soon as is practicable, should my circumstances change in any way that effects this declaration.”

**Signature**

**Date**

Confidentiality Undertakings

“**Procurement process**” encompasses any formal and informal meetings, associated discussions, meeting preparation and follow up or any other related activity.

“**Information**” means all information, facts, data and other matters of which I acquire knowledge, either directly or indirectly, as a result of my activities as an evaluator of any supplier Pre-Qualification Questionnaire or Tender submissions or tender interviews/presentations etc.

“**Documents**” means all draft, preparatory information, documents and any other material in either paper or electronic form, together with any information contained therein, to which I have access, either directly or indirectly, as a result of my participation in any procurement process. Furthermore, any records or notes made by me relating to information or documents shall be treated as Confidential Documents.

I understand that I may be invited to participate either directly or indirectly in the procurement process and agree:

1. To treat all information and documents under conditions of strict confidentiality
2. Not to disclose, make copies of, or discuss any received information with any person who is not a member of the Tender Evaluation Panel (without the prior written approval of the Chair of the Tender Evaluation Panel)
3. Not to use (or authorise any other person to use) information and documents other than for the purpose of my work in connection with the procurement process
4. To return documents to the Chair of the Tender Evaluation Panel as soon as the evaluation process is complete

Unless otherwise agreed with the Chair of the Tender Evaluation Panel, and subject to relevant legislation, this undertaking applies until the end of the contract, including any contract extensions.

This undertaking shall not apply to any document or information that becomes public knowledge otherwise than as a result of a breach of any of the above undertakings.



**Signature**

**Date**

**PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM  
TO THE CHAIR OF THE EVALUATION PANEL**