



Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais Office of Government Procurement

Bespoke competitions

What projects will the OGP support?

Where your requirement is not met by an existing framework, the OGP may be able to support you with running a bespoke competition. Dedicated staff are available to support this work but the capacity to take on new projects is limited.

The OGP will review requirements that meet the criteria below to determine whether we can support them in the short or medium term. Advice and guidance is also available below this level.

Competition type	Complexity level	Minimum Value	Minimum lead time
Bespoke	High	€400,000	9 months with well-developed specification

Is my requirement 'high complexity'?

The OGP will provide support to clients in determining the complexity level of a project. A 'high complexity' level project is one that typically requires an extensive pre-market engagement, a detailed specification that lends itself to subsequent contract management, involves a lengthy and detailed evaluation process, and usually requires special contractual provisions.

When can I expect a decision?

There are two steps involved in the OGP decision as to whether it can support your requirement.

Step 1: you can submit your requirement at any time for a decision as to whether it meets the criteria as a high complexity project. The OGP will provide you with a decision within five working days.

Step 2: once a month, the OGP will decide which projects can be supported from the requirements submitted that meet the criteria. Requirements will be considered if submitted by the last Friday of the month. A decision will be made by the first Friday of the following month¹.

As the decision as to whether or not a requirement will be supported is made at the end of every month, clients are encouraged to complete Step 1 as early as possible in the month, so that any queries can be addressed in good time. Where queries arise, clients may be requested to submit more detail.

¹ Some variations arise around public holidays, see calendar below

Where a requirement does not meet the criteria, the client can proceed to procure the requirement themselves without delay and availing of the OGP helpdesk and guidance.

What will the decision be?

The OGP expects to be able to support the majority of requirements that are submitted that meet the agreed criteria.

A number of possible decisions may be made at the monthly review of requirements:

- A requirement meets the criteria and will be supported in the timeframe requested by the client,
- A requirement meets the criteria and will be supported but with a longer timeframe (within 18 months) than that requested by the client,
- A requirement meets the criteria but cannot be supported at the present time due to capacity constraints.

If a requirement falls in the last category, clients may procure the requirement themselves or will be invited to have it considered again in the following month. Clients can choose to have their requirements considered at up to three monthly meetings.

What's next?

This approach to evaluating requirements for bespoke competitions is being introduced to provide greater clarity for clients as to the support they can expect to receive from the OGP. We will review the assessment criteria after 6 months and communicate any changes that we propose.

Calendar

Submission deadlines together with decision dates for 2018 are shown below.

Submission Deadline	Date of Decision
Thursday 29 March	Monday 9 April
Friday 27 April	Friday 4 May
Friday 25 May	Friday 1 June
Friday 29 June	Friday 6 July
Friday 27 July	Friday 3 August
Friday 31 August	Friday 7 September
Friday 28 September	Friday 5 October
Friday 26 October	Monday 5 November
Friday 30 November	Friday 7 December

Easter – 1 April

October Holiday – 29 October