

Appendix 4 - 4.1.3 Forms (Technical Exemption)

Function	Cluster	Description of Contract	Estimated Start date of Contract	Estimated End date of Contract	Total Estimated Contract Value £	Reason for seeking approval under 4.1.3 Technical Exemption:
Families & Communities	Education & Lifelong Learning	<p>Scholar Forum Partnership - Membership Agreement. Scholar is a unique platform that offers online courses for SQA-aligned qualifications in various subjects. It supports teachers and learners with quality content, data insights and professional learning.</p> <p>Scholar provides comprehensive curriculum coverage with 42 complete courses unique to the Scottish context. The SQA-aligned content is a feature which is not available in other products. These features include support for SQA qualification administration, completion of statutory reporting to government and the provision of data feeds to Education Scotland, NHS and other partners.</p>	20.08.2025	20.08.2026	£108,000.00	<p>The Scholar Forum Partnership is the formal partnership between ADES and Heriot Watt University who manage the activity of the Scholar Forum. The Scholar Forum is a not for profit organisation for the benefit of Scottish education, funded by subscriptions from its members. Scholar Membership is not available on any existing frameworks. There are no other current viable solutions for the provision and management of SQA aligned resources and teaching materials. It is recommended that, the relationship with SCHOLAR is reviewed annually and that both the market and internal development options with partners are explored if viable at that time. The Service is of the view that, following market research, that the Supplier is the only provider of this required solution (they hold the relevant IP in the system required) and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists, the provision in the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 exemption for direct award has been fulfilled.</p>
Families & Communities	Education & Lifelong Learning	<p>Pupil Tracking Limited - Tracking and monitoring cloud based services for Aberdeen schools to track/monitor pupil attainment across the school estate, ABZ Campus and NESCOL. Pupil Tracking Limited have created the cloud based tool that links with SEEMIS therefore mitigating errors and saving time for staff. The contract is for a direct award to Pupil Tracking Limited for this service.</p>	01.06.2025	01.06.2026	£240,000.00	<p>This is the only provider of this specialist cloud based tool that can provide this service that integrates with the SEEMIS system following market research by the Service. Due to this there are no other viable solutions that can be used and the provision in the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 exemption for direct award has been fulfilled.</p>
Commissioning	Corporate Services	<p>Provision and support of a corporate system (Infosmart) to manage the invoices that the Council receive from suppliers who provide services to us.</p>	01.04.2025	31.03.2026	£113,816.00	<p>As this is for support and maintenance only of systems provided by a specific supplier and after extensive research and the fact that the software is on-premise therefore only the incumbent supplier can provide support and maintenance it is highly unlikely that any other supplier would have the intellectual property capability to provide this service. Therefore, it is considered that direct award under the existing contract is justifiable in this case.</p> <p>It is proposed that having to re-tender would be exempt under the national Procurement Regulations – as competition is absent for technical reasons (they are the only supplier with the intellectual property capable of continued maintenance of the system and the element of integration designed for ACC with the E Financials system).</p>
Corporate Services	Digital & Technology	<p>Microsoft Unified Support Contract for 3 years</p>			£1,132,929.00	<p>Microsoft Unified Support is only available from Microsoft and can be sourced on the G-Cloud 14 Framework. Unified support underpins both business as usual delivery and transformation activity. Any gap in coverage will have an impact on effective delivery of services.</p>
City Regeneration & Environment	City Development & Regeneration	<p>Contract for National Barrier Asset Equipment required for the Tall Ships Event in July 2025</p>	01/04/2025	01/08/2025	£175,000.00	<p>The National Vehicle Threat Mitigation Unit are a MET Police service with National Barrier Asset equipment that only they have access to.</p> <p>A “call off” framework is in place to allow local authorities to utilise this equipment, there is no other supplier that can provide this service.</p>

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Families & Communities	Corporate Landlord	Confirm Business Application - ACC has managed its public infrastructure assets and the associated repairs and maintenance regimes through Confirm Enterprise Asset Management Software. Roads, Street Lighting, Structures, Gullies, Watercourses, Water Course Hakes, Lifebelts, Grounds and Public Building Assets are all managed through the system.			£386,050.00	<p>The current solution is hosted 'on premise' from ACC servers and end-user devices. Brightly Software, the providers of Confirm are to discontinue support for the on premise solution migrating customers to their cloud based 'Confirm on Demand' Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution. The SaaS solution offers additional functionality currently unavailable on premise.</p> <p>Having used Confirm since 2006, the system is integrated into a large number of service areas and meets current requirements.</p> <p>To allow the services to develop Confirm further and take advantage of additional functionality the SaaS provides we have taken a deep dive into the enhancements and feel that the renewal of Confirm is the best and only option available.</p>
Families & Communities	Corporate Landlord	This is a contract for the provision of consultancy support for the AD Plant and commercial energy strategy. This will enable the Council to achieve its outcomes and fulfil its financial obligations as part of the wider TECA developments financial model and contractual agreements.				<p>This is a highly specialised area of work. There are only approximately 6 other AD Plants in the north of Scotland. The consultant, Biogas Power, was previously involved in the AD Plant project at its inception as a technical advisor on its development and more recently undertook a review of operations, financial and contractor performance. During its development they were responsible for ensuring the plant complied with Ofgem requirements to qualify for Renewable Heat Incentive conditions which is a key income stream for the plant and wider development worth circa £3m annually. They therefore have a detailed understanding and knowledge of the project and its financial constraints.</p> <p>There are no frameworks in place to fulfil this position because AD Plant Consultants are a very niche market role, particularly when that consultant can offer further support to wider energy projects. Following previous experience the consultant is uniquely placed to support the AD Plant and the wider commercial energy strategy</p>