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| **Improving the SSRO’s response to contract-specific queries on the regulatory framework for single source defence contracts**  **Consultation response form** | S:\Darren Poole\MOD\Single Source Regulations Office\SSRO logo\New SSRO logo suite\Stacked\SSRO_BLK_S.png |

The SSRO is consulting on proposals in relation to aspects of its response to contract-specific queries where stakeholders have indicated a desire for improvement: [https:/www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-ssros-response-to-contract-specific-queries-on-the-regulatory-framework-for-single-source-defence-contracts](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-ssros-response-to-contract-specific-queries-on-the-regulatory-framework-for-single-source-defence-contracts)

The consultation is open to all interested persons. We particularly welcome comments from individuals and organisations with an interest in single source defence procurement and ensuring that good value for money is obtained in the government expenditure on qualifying contracts and the prices paid under those contracts are fair and reasonable.

This form can be completed electronically or printed and completed by hand. Completed response forms should be sent:

by email to: [consultations@ssro.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ssro.gov.uk) (preferred).

by post to: Improving the SSRO’s Response Consultation, SSRO, G51/G52,   
100 Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ.

Written responses to the consultation should be received by 5.00pm on 20 December 2023. Responses received after this date may not be considered.

The SSRO also welcomes the opportunity to meet with stakeholders to discuss the proposals during the consultation period. If you wish to discuss the proposals, please contact us by email ([david.pottruff@ssro.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ssro.gov.uk)) or by telephone (020 3589 4556) to arrange a meeting.

**Details of respondent**

Please provide details of the person completing this form.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | Role |  |
| Organisation |  | Email address |  |

**Consent to publish response**

In the interests of transparency for all stakeholders, the SSRO’s preferred practice is to publish responses to its consultations, in full or in summary form. Your attention is drawn to the following policy statements, available on the SSRO’s website, setting out how it handles the confidential, commercially sensitive and personal information it receives and how it meets its obligations under the Defence Reform Act 2014, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Single Source Regulations Office: Handling of Commercially Sensitive Information; and

The Single Source Regulations Office: Our Personal Information Charter

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| Do you consent to your response being published? YES / NO |
| Do you consent to your comments being attributed to you/your organisation? YES / NO |

If the above consents are not provided your response will only be published in an anonymised summary of responses.

**Consultation responses**

The SSRO invites stakeholder views, together with supporting evidence where appropriate, on the proposals presented in its consultation paper to inform their further development and the SSRO’s decisions on implementation. We specifically seek responses to the consultation questions set out below although general feedback on the proposals is also welcomed.

Proposal 1 – Develop and codify procedures for responding to complex queries

* 1. To what extent do you support the proposal to develop and codify principles for responding to complex contract-specific queries?

|  |
| --- |
| Fully support  Support in part  Do not support  Don’t know |
| Comments: |

* 1. What are the main benefits or risks (for stakeholders or the SSRO) of developing and codifying principles for responding to complex queries?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Benefits | Risks |
| For stakeholders |  |  |
| For the SSRO |  |  |

* 1. What aspects of the approach to responding to complex queries should (or should not) be codified in principles?

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Proposal 2 – Provide formal pre-referral advice to inform the decision to refer

2.1 To what extent do you support the proposal to provide formal pre-referral advice to assist in contract negotiations or inform a contracting party’s decision to refer?

|  |
| --- |
| Fully support  Support in part  Do not support  Don’t know |
| Comments: |

2.2 How likely is it that a party or parties to a QDC might request pre-referral advice if the SSRO were to provide such a mechanism?

|  |
| --- |
| Very likely  Likely  Unlikely  Very unlikely  Don’t know |

2.3 What are the main benefits or risks (for stakeholders or the SSRO) of providing formal pre-referral advice?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Benefits | Risks |
| For stakeholders |  |  |
| For the SSRO |  |  |

2.4 What, if any, changes would you make to the elements of the pre-referral advice process outlined in the paper?

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2.5 Should the SSRO restrict in any way the range of matters that can be raised for pre-referral advice?

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| --- |
| YES / NO (Delete as appropriate) |
| Comments: |

Proposal 3 – Provide supplementary guidance in response to contract-specific issues

3.1 To what extent do you support the proposal to provide supplementary guidance in response to contract-specific issues?

|  |
| --- |
| Fully support  Support in part  Do not support  Don’t know |
| Comments: |

3.2 How likely is it that a party or parties to a QDC might request supplementary guidance if the SSRO were to provide such a mechanism?

|  |
| --- |
| Very likely  Likely  Unlikely  Very unlikely  Don’t know |

3.3 What are the main benefits or risks (for stakeholders or the SSRO) of providing supplementary guidance in response to contract-specific issues?

|  | Benefits | Risks |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For stakeholders |  |  |
| For the SSRO |  |  |

3.4 What, if any, criteria should the SSRO apply when deciding whether to accept a request for supplementary guidance, to ensure its resources are used effectively?

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3.5 Do you have any comments on the elements of the proposed mechanism outlined by the SSRO in paragraph 3.23 of the consultation document?

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Proposal 4 – Provide a fast-track opinion option (in some cases)

4.1 To what extent do you support the proposal to provide a fast-track opinion option (in some cases)?

|  |
| --- |
| Fully support  Support in part  Do not support  Don’t know |
| Comments: |

4.2 How likely is it that a fast-track option will lead to an increase in referrals for opinions where these are permitted under the Act and Regulations?

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| --- |
| Very likely  Likely  Unlikely  Very unlikely  Don’t know |

4.3 What are the main benefits or risks (for stakeholders or the SSRO) of offering a fast-track opinion option?

|  | Benefits | Risks |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For stakeholders |  |  |
| For the SSRO |  |  |

4.4 What are the circumstances under which a fast-track opinion might be delivered?

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Please provide any additional comments on the implementation of the proposals below.

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**Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the SSRO’s proposals.**