



## North Devon Council

1 September 2023

### Request for Waiver

1. NAME AND JOB TITLE OF OFFICER REQUESTING WAIVER:

Simon Fuller, Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

2. TITLE OF PROPOSED CONTRACT:

Online legal resources

The proposed contract for the above will be between £5,000 and £74,999.99.

With this RFW I include a copy of the specification or brief which has been prepared for this contract and which details the goods, services and/or works which will be provided.

*Specification Attached (and provide a brief description of the contract below):*  
This contract is for the provision of online legal resources for the Council's Legal Services team. This is an essential tool to allow the team to access up to date statutory and case law as well as helpful practice notes and precedent documents which aid in the preparation of legal documents and in legal procedures.

I can also confirm that the contract terms which will be used for this contract will be the Council's standard terms and conditions for goods and services or (where relevant) works or, where this is not the case, I have sought the approval of Legal Services to the alternative terms and conditions that I propose to use for this contract.

In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedures Rules, three alternative quotes should be obtained and the lowest quotation should be accepted.

I can confirm that I have sought advice from Legal Services and we have agreed that it is appropriate that this requirement be waived for the following reason(s):

*(Delete A, B **OR** C as applicable)*

**A Obtaining three price quotes is not appropriate**

**NOTE:** This form, and the decision, must be kept on file and properly recorded for audit purposes.

It is a legal requirement that details of the contract being procured pursuant to this RFW must be included on the Council's Contract Register. A copy of this RFW must be sent to [supplyingndc@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:supplyingndc@northdevon.gov.uk) immediately following approval.



3. THE PROPOSAL IS TO AWARD THIS CONTRACT TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIER:

RELX (UK) Ltd trading as LexisNexis

4. DETAIL

I can confirm that, despite non-compliance with the requirement to seek at least three quotes, the award of this contract to the above supplier will be best value for the Council for the following reason(s):

There are only two recognised providers across the legal profession of online legal resources at present and the Council is opting for the lowest quote of those available. The providers on the market are Thomson Reuters with their product Westlaw and Practical Law and the other being RELX with its product Lexis+. The Council sought quotes from both providers and commenced a free trial with Thomson Reuters. The quote for the equivalent Westlaw product including everything we would need was a minimum of £31,863 over three years whereas for Lexis+ it is £26,872. In addition the Lexis+ product allows us to include non-lawyers as users without extra cost meaning other officers in teams such as elections, environmental health and the chief executive himself can have access to consider up to date law themselves without needing to ask our team saving time. This includes procurement/freedom of information officers and trainee lawyers in our own team as well. For the Westlaw product every user must have a licence, lawyer or non-lawyer, and the price increases per user (the price above is solely for lawyers to have access). On using the free trial from Thomson Reuters the team did not consider that the product justified the extra cost. Finally, as a member of a consortium of public sector lawyers called EMLS, the Council benefits from a discount of 15% for Lexis+ over three years resulting in the above fee.

5. DECISION TO BE MADE BY: Head of Governance

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To be completed by Decision Taker:

6. REQUEST FOR WAIVER AUTHORISED BY DECISION TAKER?: Y

7. DECISION TAKER'S COMMENTS: I authorise the Request for Waiver

8. DATE OF DECISION: 04/09/2023

**NOTE:** This form, and the decision, must be kept on file and properly recorded for audit purposes.

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