

Dear Colleagues,

Proposed Programme of Research and Analysis for 2011-12

The Department is continuing to build its evidence base in core policy areas of housing, planning, localism and decentralisation, economic growth and local economic development, fire and resilience, sustainable buildings and climate change. This year our focus is on evidence and analysis that will help to maximise value for money from all our policies and programmes.

Our new programme of research and analysis will be divided into broad topic areas, reflecting the Department's policy priorities. Alongside externally-commissioned work we will also have a complimentary programme of in-house analysis.

This year there is a different process for bidding for external research contracts. We will not be seeking *Expressions of Interest for individual projects*. Instead, in accordance with the new transparency agenda, (and to give all organisations the chance to submit a competitive tender for any of the projects), all our projects will be advertised, in open competition, on the Government's new 'Contracts Finder' website.

We expect to publish full details of any projects, and invite bids, in the Autumn. As all invitations to tender will be published on the Contracts Finder website, we recommend that you register as soon as possible.

Please go to the website:

<http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>

- and then register. Once registered, you will be able to search for any research opportunities, and subscribe to alerts based on the areas that interest you.

If you have any queries on the new process, or the programme in general, please feel free to contact me.

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