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Please find attached previous responses to government consultations on commissioning domestic violence services which cover the answers to the following consultation questions:

- What issues should the Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce consider in order to reduce the bureaucratic burden of commissioning?
- How can commissioners achieve a fair balance of risk which would enable civil society organisations to compete for opportunities?
- What are the key issues that civil society organisations face when dealing with TUPE regulations and what could government do, within existing legislation to resolve these problems?
- What issues should Government consider in order to ensure that civil society organisations are assessed on their ability to achieve the best outcomes for the most competitive price?
- What approaches would best support commissioning decisions that consider full social, environmental and economic value?
- What issues relating to civil society organisations should the Government consider when refreshing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance?
- How could civil society organisations facilitate, encourage and support community and citizenship involvement in decision making about local priorities and services commissioned?
- What issues should the government consider in the development of the future programme of training public service commissioners?

The first document is relevant in its entirety; the response to question 7 covers commissioning in the second.

Additional issues relating to TUPE which it is important to highlight include:

- We have first hand experience of local authorities attempting to transfer high levels of risk to us in the hope that we will accept it. We have spent considerable time and so have our legal advisors on negotiating TUPE situations that would have put us at extremely high risk of liability
- Lack of complete information at commissioning stage which results in an inability to price a tender accurately
- Lack of information after award of contract
- Unrealistic timescales for implementation of contracts means there is very little time for due diligence in TUPE situations; you are often penalized for giving realistic timescales in tenders.

Please do let me know if you require any additional information.

Best wishes,

Nicola

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