**Overview**

This response form should be read in conjunction with the [SSRO’s consultation document and draft guidance on qualifying sub-contracts (QSCs)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/guidance-on-how-the-regulatory-framework-applies-to-qualifying-sub-contracts) published by the SSRO on 2 April 2025.

The consultation is open to all interested persons. We particularly welcome comments from individuals or 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 that the prices paid under those contracts are fair and reasonable.

You do not need to answer all the questions if you are only interested in some aspects of the consultation.

When answering the consultation questions, it would be helpful if you could support your responses with additional explanation and detail as appropriate. This will help us to understand the basis for your response and inform our finalisation of the guidance. Where relevant, please include the paragraph number(s) to which your comments relate.

**The consultation closes at 5pm on 14 May 2025**. Responses received after that time may not be taken into account by the SSRO when preparing its final guidance.

Following our consideration of responses to the consultation, we aim to publish final guidance on QSCs in June 2025.

Copies of this response form are available on the SSRO’s website. The response 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: QSC guidance consultation, SSRO, 100 Parliament St, London, SW1A 2BQ

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| If you would like to discuss any aspect of this consultation or the draft guidance during the consultation period, please contact David Pottruff at the SSRO via [david.pottruff@ssro.gov.uk](mailto:hdavid.pottruff@ssro.gov.uk) or 020 3589 4556. |

**Your details**

Name:

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Organisation:

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Position:

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**Transparency and confidentiality**

In the interests of transparency, it is our intention to publish responses to this consultation on the SSRO website upon completion of the consultation. Please indicate whether or not you consent to publication of your response by marking one of the boxes below.

Yes, the SSRO may publish this response in full

Yes, the SSRO may publish this response but the details above should be redacted

No, the SSRO may not publish this response

Please note, if you do not consent to publication, we will treat your response as confidential. The comments provided in your response may, however, be included in an anonymised summary of consultation responses.

In the event we are required by law to make a disclosure of your consultation response, to the extent we are legally permitted to do so, we will give you as much notice as possible prior to such a disclosure and will take into account all reasonable requests made by you in relation to the content of such a disclosure.

**Structure and introduction**

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| Q1. Overall, how helpful or unhelpful is the structure of the proposed guidance in assisting readers to identify content that is relevant to their needs?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q2. What changes, if any, would you make to how the content of the proposed guidance is organised? (Please indicate in your response why you consider any changes would be beneficial to users of the guidance.) |
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| Q3. What changes, if any, would you make to the definitions provided at paragraph 1.5? |
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**Section 2 – Your QSC questions answered**

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| Q4. Overall, how helpful or unhelpful are the answers to the questions included in this section?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q5. Do you have any comments on the questions and answers provided in this section? (Please include question numbers where relevant.) |
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| Q6. Are there any other QSC-related questions you think it would be helpful to answer in this section? |
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**Section 3 – Assessing if a contract is a QSC**

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| Q7. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in explaining the regulatory requirements for undertaking a QSC assessment?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q8. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 4 – QSC notifications and appeals**

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| Q9. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in explaining the regulatory requirements for notifications and appeals related to QSC assessments?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q10. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 5 – Agreeing the price of a QSC**

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| Q11. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in understanding the regulatory requirements for agreeing the price of a QSC?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q12. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 6 – Record-keeping and reporting by sub-contractors under QSCs**

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| Q13. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in understanding the regulatory requirements for record-keeping and reporting?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q14. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 7 – Notifying the SSRO of changes**

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| Q15. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in understanding the regulatory provisions pertaining to notices of cessation?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q16. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 8 – Enforcement action by the MOD**

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| Q17. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in understanding the regulatory provisions related to compliance and penalty notices?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q18. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Section 9 – How the SSRO can help**

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| Q19. How helpful or unhelpful is this section in understanding the different types of support provided by the SSRO?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q20. What changes, if any, would you make to the guidance in this section? (Please include paragraph numbers where relevant.) |
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**Updated notification forms**

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| Q21. How helpful or unhelpful is the updated *QSC Assessment* Notification form in assisting contracting authorities to meet their obligations to provide specified notifications about QSC assessments?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q22. How helpful or unhelpful is the updated *Positive QSC Assessment Notification* form in assisting contracting authorities to meet their obligations to provide specified notifications about QSC assessments?   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Very  helpful | Helpful | Neither helpful nor unhelpful | Unhelpful | Very unhelpful | |

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| Q23. What changes, if any, would you make to the notification forms? |
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**General comments**

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| Q24. Please let us know if you have any other comments on the SSRO’s proposed guidance or this consultation. |
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