



Ministry
of Justice

Questions and Answers

MoJ Lawtech Grant

Last Updated 28/07/2026



This document has been produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). If you have any further queries, please email MoJLawtechgrant3@justice.gov.uk



Eligibility

Is there a limit on the number of teams in the consortium?

No. Applicants will be required to set out all members of the consortium and what their roles will be in the evaluation form. They will also be required to explain the governance structure of the consortium. Applications that have unnecessarily complex governance structures or include consortium members that don't have clearly defined roles are unlikely to score favourably in these aspects.

Does a consortium application require a single legal entity to apply?

No. Organisations may apply as part of a consortium or joint venture. However, applicants must identify a Lead Partner to submit the application on behalf of the consortium or joint venture. The Lead Partner will be responsible for all communications with the MoJ during the competition process.

If successful, the Lead Partner will enter into the Grant Funding Agreement with the MoJ, receive the grant funding, and be responsible for managing the consortium's activities and distributing funding to consortium members as appropriate.

The Lead Partner will be subject to due diligence checks. These may include, but are not limited to, a review of financial statements to assess financial viability, a review of the proposed governance arrangements, adverse media checks and legal entity verification.

What happens if the lead applicant changes?

Submitted applications will be considered final unless MoJ are informed otherwise. There may be an opportunity to change submitted applications if MoJ is informed of any changes before the application deadline. If the successful application is changed after this deadline, MoJ reserves the right to refrain from awarding the grant to this applicant.

Is the MoJ able to match applicants who are interested in forming a consortium with other organisations?

No. To ensure the competition is fair and transparent, the MoJ will not introduce or match prospective applicants with other organisations. It is the responsibility of applicants to identify and establish any consortium or partnership arrangements before submitting an application.



What counts as a track record in project delivery?

Applicants are expected to demonstrate that they have credible plans for delivery and the capacity to meet all grant objectives. Experience of successfully delivering other projects that are comparable in scale, ambition or funding will be helpful in demonstrating this credibility. Examples of other grant funded projects or projects in support of government objectives will be particularly relevant, but a range of other experience will also be considered. Comparable commercial, charitable or accelerator programmes may also demonstrate capability, not only government-funded projects.

Do I have to have undertaken a government grant before to be eligible?

No, this is not a requirement. Please find the full eligibility criteria in the Invitation to Application.

Do I need in-house PR capabilities or could I plan to contract them in and still be eligible?

In-house PR capabilities are not a requirement. An important aspect of the programme is promotion in respect of the UK lawtech sector. Therefore, the provider will need to have access to marketing and PR capabilities to deliver this. Existing capabilities in this regard are desirable but a credible plan to commission such capabilities, for example through a 3rd party supplier, may be sufficient.

Public sector organisation are not eligible to apply for the funding. What counts as a public sector organisation in this context? i.e. could a higher education institution apply for this funding?

We consider public sector organisations to be Ministerial Departments, non-Ministerial Departments, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Local Authorities, and Mayoral Combined Authorities. We do not consider Universities and/or Higher Education Institutions or regulators to be public sector organisations in this context.

Are charities/not-for-profit organisations eligible to apply?

Yes.



Can we utilise offshore staff in delivering the programme?

All applications that meet the stated eligibility criteria will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria set out in the Invitation To Application. The Grant Funding Agreement does not prohibit the use of offshore staff. However, applications will be assessed in terms of whether they represent a credible plan to deliver the grant objectives. Applicants should include staffing plans in their answer to question B1 in the application form. These plans are required for all staffing circumstances.

The successful applicant will be obliged to:

- Adhere to general obligations regarding the assurance of ethical practice of subcontractors; and
- Ensure that any offshore staffing is in line with Government legislation

What do you mean by significant UK presence?

The lead applicant must be a legal entity established in the United Kingdom.

In addition, applicants should have an active operational presence in the UK. This means the organisation should carry out substantive business activities within the UK, rather than simply being registered here. Applicants should describe their UK presence and operations in their application where relevant.

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that organisations receiving grant funding have an established and genuine presence in the UK that supports effective delivery of the programme.



Funding

Can I use other funds (e.g. match funding) in addition to the grant?

Organisations can commit their own resources to the project but this is not a requirement. You should include all descriptions of any additional funds or resources in your application. For the purposes of this grant, match funding means any contribution to activities funded by this grant from a third party to the grant recipient.

Does the MoJ have to allocate the total budget?

The MoJ does not have to allocate the total budget and funds will be allocated at the MoJ's discretion. If the applicant does not believe they would require the maximum funding available to achieve the grant objectives, they should state this and the reasons why in their response to section E (finance) of the evaluation questions. Under the grant, if the grant recipient intends to receive any match funding, they will be required to request MoJ approval before accepting or using any such match funding.

Does the grant recipient keep any funding that is not spent on the project?

No. Payments will be made in arrears for eligible costs supported by invoices and other relevant supporting evidence.

Will I be able to transfer underspend from one financial year to another?

No, this will not be possible under the grant. The maximum funding available for each financial year as set out in the Invitation to Application applies only in the respective financial year.

Who determines how much of the funding goes to the salaries of the delivery provider?

This is for the provider to determine in the delivery plan for each financial year. The delivery plans will be subject to MoJ approval.



The Invitation to Application outlines the maximum funding available. What would lead to the provider receiving less than the maximum?

Our assumption is that the maximum funding available will be required to meet the grant objectives most effectively. If the applicant does not believe that they would require the maximum funding available to achieve the grant objectives, they should state this and the reasons why in their response to section E (finance) of the evaluation questions.

The delivery plan for each financial year will set out the activities that the provider will undertake to achieve the objectives and the associated costs up to the maximum funding available. The development of these delivery plans will be solely the responsibility of the provider. The delivery plans will be subject to MoJ agreement.

Can you please refer me to the T&Cs of the funding?

A draft version of the grant funding agreement is available on the gov.uk page with the application form. This agreement would be subject to negotiation with the successful applicant, but the expectation of MoJ is that applicants will be willing to sign the agreement with minimal changes from the draft version currently available.

What will happen at the end of the funding period in March 2029 and will the impact of the programme be measured after that point?

This grant funding runs until March 2029. Towards the end of the funding period, the grant recipient will be required to fund an independent evaluation, from within the total grant award, to assess the programme's success against the objectives. MoJ may evaluate the case for further funding beyond this funding period. This will be dependent on several factors such as the success of the programme, the development of the sector and Government priorities at the end of the funding period.

Will plans for beyond March 2029 be considered as part of the evaluation process?

Answers to the evaluated questions will be evaluated as set out in the Invitation To Application document and the application form. This does not include any questions that relate to beyond the funding period (March 2029).

How will value for money be evaluated by MoJ?

MoJ will consider value for money in line with the HM Treasury's Green Book method. We will consider value for money when assessing delivery plans proposed by the grant recipient. MoJ takes value for money considerations very seriously and this will be an important part of the process for agreeing the annual delivery plans. The nature of an innovation grant is that it is facilitative, and it is not possible to foresee the specific outcomes of the grant at this stage. Delivery plans will be required to include KPIs and milestones. These will be reviewed and assessed on a regular basis throughout the grant funding period to ensure compliance with grant conditions and that value for money is being achieved.

Can grant funding be used outside of England and Wales?

Yes. The programme is expected to deliver against the grant objectives, which include supporting the growth and international competitiveness of the UK legal services and lawtech sectors. As a result, some international activity may be appropriate where it contributes directly to achieving those objectives.

Applicants should explain how any proposed international activity supports delivery of the programme objectives and represents value for money. Activities relating to the UK Jurisdiction Taskforce (UKJT) should reflect its role in promoting the law of England and Wales and the wider UK jurisdictions as a foundation for emerging technologies.



Finance

Can I include contingency costs in the application as part of anticipated project costs?

Contingency costs – costs to cover the monetary impacts of project risks, uncertainties, unforeseen costs or situations - should not be included in the project costs.

How will the MoJ fund collaborative bids?

The lead applicant will have overall accountability for the use of all project funding. All consortium partners should be set out in the application form as well as the governance structure of the consortium.



The Programme

Is the MoJ able to provide any examples of the types of emerging issues the programme should address?

MoJ expects that each delivery plan will take into account emerging issues facing the UK lawtech sector, such as: new challenges affecting the growth of the UK lawtech sector or new barriers to increased innovation in UK legal services. It will be the responsibility of the provider to be aware of such issues and factor them into a delivery plan that will most effectively achieve the grant objectives.

Does the MoJ prioritise any particular objective over others?

No. The purpose of this grant funding is to meet the grant objectives, so the MoJ seeks to identify the provider who can use the grant funding most effectively to achieve these objectives.

What will the role of the LawtechUK Panel be?

The LawtechUK Panel currently provides the programme with expert advice and guidance. More information can be found [here](#).

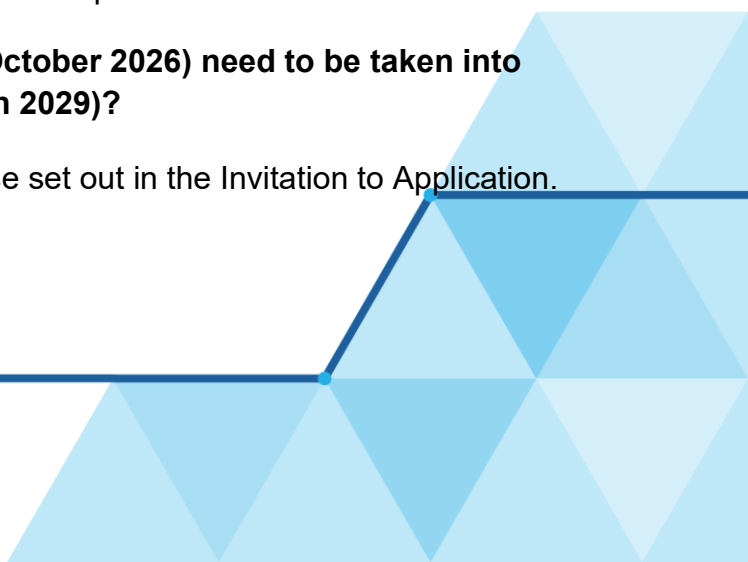
The Panel will continue to support the programme with expertise and advice in phase 3. MoJ is currently considering how to ensure that the Panel can offer the skills, experience and perspectives needed to support the programme's priorities and objectives in this new phase.

Are there any particular initiatives the MoJ would want a new provider to work with?

The expectation is that the provider will work collaboratively with as broad a range of stakeholders in the lawtech and legal services sectors as possible to source the best ideas when developing their approach to achieving the objectives. This is likely to include, but is not limited to; universities, regulators, law firms, legal service businesses, in-house lawyers, communities and incubators and accelerators. It is for the provider to determine how to do this and who the most effective partners will be.

Do the objectives for earlier phases (2019 – October 2026) need to be taken into account for Phase III (November 2026 – March 2029)?

No. The objectives for this grant funding are those set out in the Invitation to Application.



Does the new provider need to take forward any projects from earlier phases?

No. There is no set requirement to continue with specific projects that the current programme currently provides. We are interested to hear about new and innovative approaches to delivering the grant objectives.

Will assets, such as the LawtechUK branding, be available to the new provider?

Yes. All IPR developed under previous phases of the grant are owned by MoJ and will be available for handover to a new provider.

Who will review the delivery plan?

The provider will be required to agree delivery plans with the MoJ. While MoJ policy officials will engage with the provider as part of the process of developing the delivery plans, the drafting of delivery plans will be the sole responsibility of the provider. The SOR (Senior Officer Responsible) for the grant at the MoJ will have final approval of the delivery plans. The SOR will be a Senior Civil Servant.

Why does the programme focus both on lawtech and innovation, and English law and emerging technologies?

The purpose of this grant funding is to help develop a culture of innovation within the legal services sector; increase understanding of the benefits of lawtech in legal service providers of all sizes; support the development of technology which will increase access to legal services and aim to reduce unmet legal need; and help grow the economic contribution of the legal sector. These are all priorities for the MoJ, and we believe that the balance of the grant objectives presents the best way to achieve them.

The objective to enable English and Welsh law and the UK's jurisdictions to become the foundation for emerging technologies is particularly important to help grow the legal sectors' economic contribution. As increasing volumes of commercial activity and legal disputes relate to emerging technologies, it is vital to the UK's international competitiveness that English and Welsh law provides the legal framework that underpins innovation and adoption of emerging technologies, and supports the resolution of related disputes. It is important to note that this objective relates to promoting the work of the UK Jurisdiction Taskforce. Therefore, the provider is not required to provide the relevant legal expertise on how English and Welsh law addresses emerging technologies.

Where can I find out about the current programme?

Details of the current programme and the projects that it has delivered can be found at <https://lawtechuk.io/>

Is the MoJ's expectation that the grant recipient will distribute the grant funding to i) innovators participating in the programme ii) external programme providers/partners iii) or both?

The purpose of the funding is to achieve the grant objectives that are set out in the Invitation To Application document. MoJ does not have specific expectations about how this should be achieved. We are interested to hear about new and innovative approaches to delivering the objectives. Applicants should explain how they would achieve the grant objectives in their answers to the evaluated questions in the application form.

Are there any key MoJ staff working alongside / seconded into the delivery team?

There are no plans for MoJ staff to be seconded to the grant recipient. Applicants should include information regarding whether they will deliver this programme with their existing staff and if not, how many new staff they will need to hire and the plan for achieving this in responses to question B1.

The Legal Services policy team at the MoJ will be responsible for managing the grant. This will include the tracking and monitoring of delivery as set out in the Planned Delivery outcomes section of the Invitation To Application document. MoJ staff will not be involved in delivery of the programme, which will be the sole responsibility of the grant recipient.

Is the competition being run because the current providers are stepping down?

No. The competition is being run because the current grant funding agreement is coming to an end and the Ministry of Justice is required to run an open competition to award funding for a new phase of the programme.

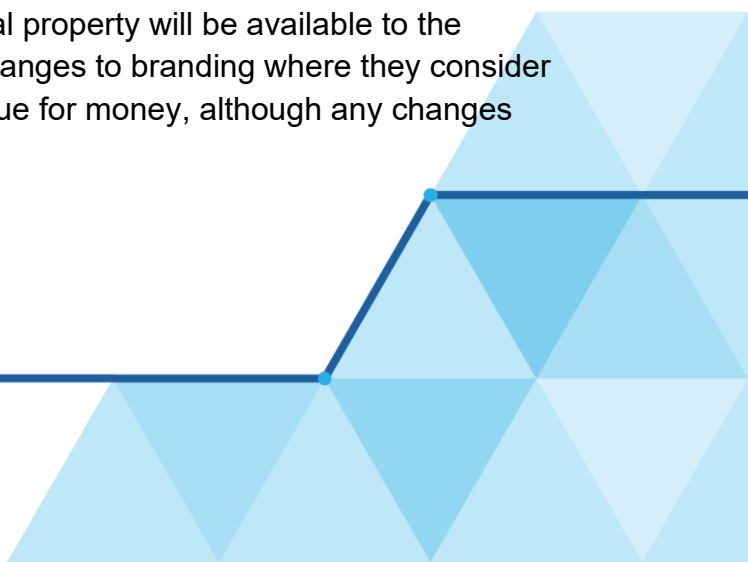
This is not a reflection on the performance of the current providers. The competition is open to all eligible applicants, including the current providers.

Will existing LawtechUK stakeholders or delivery partners be mandated?

No. There is no requirement to retain existing delivery partners, suppliers or stakeholder arrangements. Applicants should propose the partnerships and delivery model they consider most effective for achieving the programme objectives.

Can applicants propose new programme branding?

The LawtechUK brand and associated intellectual property will be available to the successful applicant. Applicants may propose changes to branding where they consider this would improve delivery and demonstrate value for money, although any changes would require MoJ approval.



How much flexibility is there to change activities during delivery?

Annual delivery plans are intended to provide flexibility for the programme to respond to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities. Any significant changes to agreed delivery plans during a given year would require MoJ approval.



Competition Process

What constitutes a convincing vision for how to deliver the grant objectives?

This is for the applicant to determine. Applications will be assessed on whether the applicant demonstrates suitable ambition and credibility in terms of how the funding will achieve the grant objectives. Applications should set out a clear and compelling vision of how the funding will help develop a culture of innovation within the legal services sector; increase understanding of the benefits of lawtech in legal service providers of all sizes; support the development of technology which will increase access to legal services and aim to reduce unmet legal need; and help grow the legal sector's economic contribution.

How is the MoJ ensuring this is a fair competition when previous competitors have already shown they're able to do all that is required?

The grant objectives for the upcoming funding period are different to those that were provided to Tech Nation in 2019 and Legal Geek and Codebase in 2023. There is no set requirement to continue with specific activities that the current programme currently provides. MoJ is open to new and innovative approaches to delivering the objectives of the funding. Applications will be evaluated through a fair process that will consider all relevant experience.

How can I demonstrate that I have all the desired qualities? Do I have to evidence it with specific previous roles/projects?

Applicants should answer all of the evaluation questions to the best of their ability. Where possible, applicable examples of previous experience are welcomed. The application form includes guidance on how to answer each question. The application form should be considered alongside the Invitation to Application that set outs the qualities that the MoJ is seeking.

The Invitation to Application says the MoJ can change the timetable of the competition. Could this include bringing the deadline forward, reducing the time in which applicants can submit?

We do not anticipate reducing the time which applicants have to submit applications and would not do so without reasonable notice.

Can I submit my application after the competition window closes?

You will not be able to submit an application once the competition window closes.

Will submitted bids be subject to Freedom of Information (Fol) requests?

We will not be publishing the bids. However, if your project is selected, we would publish the public description you include in your application. If we receive an Fol, we would consult with you to see if any of the Fol exemptions apply.

Will the details of my application be made public?

Unsuccessful bids, scores and feedback will not be made public.

How are the members of the expert evaluation panel chosen?

The final selection of the grant recipient will be made by an expert evaluation panel appointed by the MoJ. We will appoint senior individuals who are able to fairly evaluate bids without conflicts of interest. Appointments will be made to ensure a balance of knowledge and expertise in the following areas; government priorities, grant funded programmes, lawtech and legal services sectors, project delivery and acceleration of tech sectors.

What happens once I've applied for the grant?

We will confirm that we have received your application and will let you know the outcome of the evaluation process once it has been completed. Should your application be successful, we would then proceed to agreeing the grant funding agreement and awarding the funding.

How will I know my application has been received?

MoJ will confirm that we have received your application.



What does the governance/reporting structure look like for the successful bidder?

Applicants are required to describe the proposed project management processes and governance structures, including the main risks and uncertainties for delivering the project and your mitigations as part of the evaluation questions. This is a matter for applicants.

Once the funding has been awarded, MoJ approval of delivery plans will be required. A monthly meeting between the MoJ and the provider will be required to discuss a monthly reporting pack produced by the provider which will include the progress made towards delivering the agreed outputs and longer-term outcomes set out in the relevant delivery plan. The provider will also be required to provide the MoJ with a regular financial report in a form agreed by both.

As the grant objectives include the promotion of the lawtech sector in the UK, it is anticipated that the grant activities will include spend on promotional and marketing activities. MoJ will take particular steps to ensure that this spending is appropriate and proportionate. The recipient will be required to seek permission from MoJ prior to any proposed expenditure on advertising, communications, consultancy or marketing either in connection with, or using the grant.

What does the proposed engagement look like for the potential bidder with the MoJ?

MoJ officials will be available for engagement with potential applicants throughout the competition process. There will be a webinar with the opportunity for questions prior to the opening of the competition period. MoJ officials will also be contactable via MoJLawtechGrant@justice.gov.uk for any further queries. Please note that any questions posed via email, which are not already covered in this document, will be answered via updates to this document so that any potential bidder has access to the information provided.

Would you like to see a theory of change as part of the application?

A theory of change is not required. It is for applicants to decide how to best answer the evaluated questions within the stated word limits.

Will there be an opportunity to present bids or attend interviews?

No. Applications will be evaluated based on the written submission. MoJ reserves the right to seek clarification on aspects of an application where necessary, but applicants should ensure that all relevant information is included within their submission.

Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?

Yes. Applicants will receive feedback following completion of the competition. Feedback will be proportionate and based on the published evaluation criteria.

Will evaluation scores be shared?

Applicants will receive feedback on their own application. MoJ will not disclose information relating to other applicants.



Other

Does the phrasing in the TUPE section mean the MoJ desires the new provider to take on the existing staff but is not required to do so?

No. Applications should set out how initial activities will commence and should detail the process for setting up the project including how it will be staffed. MoJ is open to new and innovative approaches to delivery.

MoJ does not believe TUPE applies to this grant if the incumbent provider is not the successful applicant, but it is the applicant's responsibility to consider whether TUPE applies in the specific circumstances of your application.





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