



**An tIonad Náisiúnta  
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta**  
**National Biodiversity  
Data Centre**

## **Request for Quotation:**

### **Provision of outsourced Market Research Services**

#### **Introduction**

The National Biodiversity Data Centre was established as a company limited by guarantee in December 2022, following a decision of Government to put the initiative on a more secure footing, to empower and better resource the Centre to support Ireland's collective national effort to reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to nature restoration. The primary role of the Centre is to contribute to building the knowledge base on biodiversity and track how it is changing in Ireland. It works to ensure that data and information on Ireland's biodiversity is more freely available and accessible for use in research, conservation management and decision-making. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a predominantly publicly funded entity, rather than a public sector body. The Centre formally became a registered charity in November 2025.

#### **The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Its implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Irish pollinators are in decline. The problem is serious, and in order to ensure the sustainability of our food production; to avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector; and to protect the health of the environment, it requires immediate attention. The AIPP is a shared plan of action. At its core, it is about providing food and shelter across all types of land so that our pollinators can survive and thrive. The AIPP is a voluntary Plan, it relies on the enthusiasm and goodwill of those organisations and individuals participating, who do so at their own expense.

Building on the success of the first two phases (2015-2020 and 2021-2025), the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030 is more ambitious. It will focus on landscape level change for all pollinators, by encouraging many more evidence-based actions and connecting these with each other across the island. The third phase of the AIPP is supported through funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Government of Ireland's Shared Island Fund, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

## **Buzzing Communities**

Buzzing Communities is one of ten work packages developed to support the delivery of AIPP 2026-2030. This work package aims to create thriving populations of wild pollinators in local communities, with an ultimate goal of creating joined-up habitats of food and/ or shelter for pollinators every 200 metres. Across the AIPP, more progress has been made within the community sector than any other to date. Resources have been developed for local communities, faith communities, sports clubs, golf courses, gardens and residents' associations. Thousands of individual actions have been logged by these organisations within local communities on Actions for Pollinators. There have been some very successful island-wide campaigns targeted specifically at this sector, most notably 'No Mow May'. Awards have been successfully used in this sector to reward and encourage pollinator-friendly actions, most successfully the dedicated Pollinator Award in the Tidy Towns competition.

While this sector has achieved significant success, much more can be done to support the community sector, which is often led by volunteers, and those without expert knowledge. In 2025, a poll commissioned by the National Biodiversity Data Centre revealed significant public support for pollinator-friendly actions. The market research project will provide a deeper understanding of how the community sector in particular currently engages with the AIPP, how it engages in biodiversity action more widely, identify barriers to this engagement, and will help create a roadmap for developing further resources to support this sector in creating joined up pollinator-friendly landscapes.

## Requirements

The National Biodiversity Data Centre wishes to invite quotations from a suitably qualified and experienced professionals / companies to provide market research services for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, focused on the local community sector.

Provision of outsourced market research services to include, but not limited to the remit provided below:

- Conduct research with a representative spread of community groups across the island of Ireland to identify current levels of engagement with the AIPP, current actions taken for pollinators, challenges and barriers to this work, and potential areas of development for engagement with this sector. Methods of research may include surveys, focus groups and/ or depth interviews.
- Provision of a report including research findings and summary of recommendations for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to guide future engagement with the community sector.

## Project timeline

The task should be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2026.

Once the supplier has been appointed, it is proposed that a kick-off meeting on MS Teams will be scheduled within two weeks of entering into an agreement with the supplier. All samples will be provided to the supplier by this point.

## Maximum Budget Available

It is estimated that the maximum expenditure on the services to be covered by the RFQ will not exceed €12,000 (ex VAT) over the term of the contract.

Those tendering should prepare a proposal and quote that is economically advantageous, while ensuring it delivers an authoritative output.

## Proposal

Submissions should contain the following:

1. The overall cost of the service being provided. The quote should outline proposed solution to meet the market research requirements. It should include the proposed approach taken and indicative number of hours per month, and the hourly rate. All prices should be stated ex VAT with the rate of VAT payable (where applicable) clearly stated separately.
2. Experience of recent and similar work in the provision of market research with the local community sector.
3. Relevant qualifications and skillset to provide outsourced market research.

## Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded from tenders evaluated based on the most economically advantageous tender consistent with the following award criteria:

Criteria	Max. Marks Available	Min Mark
Overall cost of service	400	N/A
Experience of recent and similar work in the provision of outsourced market research.	300	250
Relevant qualifications and skillset to provide outsourced market research.	300	150

## GENERAL TERMS

### Information Supplied

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to seek clarification or verification of any information supplied.

### Confidentiality

The National Biodiversity Data Centre undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided in quotations submitted, subject to the National Biodiversity Data Centre's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Should any of the information supplied in the tender not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, then this should be stated, with the reasons for its sensitivity. The National Biodiversity Data Centre will then consult with the Proposer about sensitive information before deciding on any Freedom of Information request received.

All information provided by the National Biodiversity Data Centre within this document, or in the course of preparing tenders, or subsequent to a successful tender being adopted, is provided in the strictest confidence, and must not be passed to third parties, except bona-fide partners of the proposer to enable the preparation of the tender requested. If there is any doubt, prior permission should be obtained from the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

### Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest involving a contractor must be fully disclosed.

## Tax Clearance

It will be a condition of any Goods/Service Contract pursuant to this Competition that the successful supplier shall, for the term of such contract(s), comply with all EU and domestic tax laws. Prior to the award of any Goods/Service Contract arising out of this Competition, the successful Tenderer shall be required to provide evidence of tax compliance

## Insurance

The successful tenderer will be obliged to satisfy to the National Biodiversity Data Centre that they have adequate public and employer's liability insurance in place. The successful suppliers will be required to provide copies of all relevant Insurance Policy documents.

## Payment

Payment for all services covered by this Request for Quotations will be on foot of appropriate invoices. Invoicing arrangements will be agreed with the successful supplier following the award of contract.

Under the Finance Act 1987, withholding tax must be deducted from payments for professional services.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to withhold payment where a contractor has failed to meet contractual obligations in relation to the provision of goods or services to an acceptable level of quality.

## Submissions

Submissions should be marked "RFQ for Provision of market research services" and sent via e-mail to:

[kchandler@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:kchandler@biodiversityireland.ie)

Submissions should be received no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd of May 2026

Late Submissions will not be considered.

The Request for Quotations contains no contractual offer of any kind. Any quotation will be regarded as an offer by the contractor and not as an acceptance by the applicant of an offer made by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. No contractual relationship will exist except pursuant to a written agreement signed by a representative of the National Biodiversity Data Centre and any successful contractor for the specified services.

Please note that the National Biodiversity Data Centre is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.