

UK Sport

Sustainability Advisory Services RFQ Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ document summarises questions and answers relating to the RFQ for sustainability advisory services. It is intended to provide clear, consistent information to suppliers and reduce duplication across procurement communications.

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1. Contract Scope and Delivery

What sustainability frameworks or standards should the appointed supplier align with?

UK Sport does not require suppliers to align with a specific sustainability framework. However, the approaches most commonly adopted across events in our portfolio include the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Suppliers are welcome to recommend other appropriate frameworks where relevant.

How many events will require support during the contract period?

We are unable to confirm the exact number of events that will require support.

Support will be prioritised according to event need, with some events likely requiring intensive support and others requiring only a light-touch review. It is highly unlikely that the appointed supplier will work with every event within the portfolio.

The primary focus is expected to be on UK Sport's Pinnacle Events Programme.

Which events are expected to be the priority focus?

The main focus during the contract period is expected to be UK Sport's Pinnacle Events Programme.

There are currently six Pinnacle Events scheduled to take place during the contract window (September 2026 – December 2027).

Support may also be required for events currently in early planning stages, including events taking place in the 2030s such as World Gymnastics Championships and the Netball World Cup.

Will support be required beyond December 2027?

While the contract period runs until December 2027, there is an opportunity to influence sustainability planning for events taking place beyond this date, particularly those already secured and entering their planning phases.

What level of effort is expected?

The work can be considered part-time overall, although there will be periods of increased activity throughout the contract.

Many events scheduled for 2027 are already entering key planning stages and will move into live operational mode in the six weeks leading up to delivery.

Suppliers should propose the delivery model they believe is most appropriate to meet the objectives of the contract.

Can a flexible or retainer-based delivery model be proposed?

Yes. Suppliers are encouraged to submit the delivery model they believe is best suited to delivering the contract and achieving the desired outcomes.

2. Nature of Support

Will the supplier be expected to develop and deliver sustainability plans on behalf of events?

No. Event organisers will remain responsible for developing and delivering their own sustainability plans. The appointed supplier will provide advice, guidance and challenge to support this process.

What does “hands-on support” mean?

The expectation is that event organisers will retain overall responsibility for delivery.

Hands-on support may be required where an organising committee lacks capacity, resource or sustainability expertise. For example, this could include practical assistance with collating data for post-event reporting.

Such support would be provided where required and would not be expected across every event.

What types of support could be required?

Support may include a combination of advisory sessions, workshops, online meetings, in-person meetings, review of plans and documentation, email support, practical sustainability advice, and delivery and evaluation support where appropriate.

UK Sport welcomes suppliers' recommendations on how best to support event organisers throughout the event lifecycle.

Is event attendance or site visits expected?

Support may include a combination of online and in-person activity.

Any reasonable travel costs can be claimed up to the allocated travel budget, as set out in the Costs and Budget section.

3. Sustainability Measurement and Reporting

Is there an existing carbon measurement tool?

Yes. UK Sport currently holds a licence for Isla TRACE, which is available for use across the programme.

Is there an existing sustainability reporting framework?

UK Sport has developed guidance outlining the preferred sustainability data that events should collect and measure.

For wider interventions such as fan engagement campaigns, climate advocacy initiatives and climate legacy projects, the appointed supplier will be expected to advise on suitable measurement approaches and success indicators.

Do all events already have sustainability plans in place?

No. Some events are already progressing sustainability planning, while others are still determining their ambitions and requirements.

4. Opportunities Fund

What is the purpose of the Opportunities Fund?

The Opportunities Fund is intended to help events deliver sustainability initiatives that may otherwise be unaffordable within existing budgets.

For example, an event may wish to purchase a more sustainable product or service that carries an additional cost.

What role will the supplier play in relation to the Opportunities Fund?

This is a new area of work and UK Sport intends to collaborate closely with the appointed supplier to shape the approach.

The supplier may be expected to identify potential opportunities, review proposals from events and provide recommendations on investment decisions.

Final funding decisions will remain with UK Sport.

5. Fan Engagement and Climate Legacy

Will the supplier be expected to design sustainability campaigns?

The appointed supplier will be expected to support events in designing fan and community engagement campaigns.

Delivery of campaigns will remain the responsibility of event organisers.

There may also be opportunities to develop campaign activity across multiple events within the portfolio.

How will success be measured?

This is a developing area of work for both UK Sport and the events sector. KPIs and success measures will be developed collaboratively between UK Sport and the appointed supplier.

6. Knowledge Transfer and Sector Development

What role will the supplier play in sector learning and upskilling?

UK Sport's Knowledge Transfer Programme has been operating for more than 15 years and is well-established within the sector.

The appointed supplier will work with UK Sport to shape sustainability-focused learning activity, which may include workshops, webinars, guidance documents, case studies and communities of practice.

Can learning extend beyond the sports sector?

The primary focus will remain on the sports events sector. However, UK Sport would welcome knowledge exchange with other sectors where there is clear mutual benefit.

What does success look like for this area of work?

The long-term ambition is to make sustainability business-as-usual within event planning and delivery.

This includes increasing capability and confidence across the sector, embedding sustainability into standard event management practices, demonstrating that sustainability does not make event delivery more difficult, and creating lasting change across the events system.

7. Governance and Reporting

How will reporting be managed?

Reporting will be required at both individual event level and programme-wide level.

The specific reporting format and frequency will be agreed between UK Sport and the successful supplier.

Who will manage the contract?

The named contract manager is currently to be confirmed. However, the appointed supplier's primary contact will be a member of the UK Sport Events Team.

8. Costs and Budget

What is the contract value?

The RFQ outlines a contract value of up to £48,000, including VAT.

Is travel included within the contract value?

UK Sport will make available an additional budget of up to £2,000 for reasonable travel expenses. Any travel costs above this amount should be accommodated within the main contract budget.

How should costs be presented in proposals?

Suppliers are encouraged to provide costs broken down by number of days and resource seniority or grade. This will assist evaluation of proposals.

9. Resources and Additional Information

Are there existing sustainability resources available?

Yes. Relevant resources can be found on the UK Sport website: [Major Events Resources](#)

How does this work connect with UK Sport's wider social impact agenda?

UK Sport anticipates strong links between sustainability and social impact activity, particularly in relation to climate legacy outcomes. As staffing structures evolve, further integration between these areas may develop over time.

Does UK Sport currently have a dedicated sustainability team?

No. UK Sport no longer has a dedicated sustainability team. Sustainability knowledge and support may be embedded within the Events Team, although future arrangements are still being determined.

Can freelancers be included in multiple RFQ submissions?

Yes. Freelancers may be named in multiple RFQ submissions. If appointed as part of a consortium, appropriate confidentiality requirements will apply when working with events.

What does success look like by December 2027?

By the end of 2027, UK Sport aims to use a significant programme of events to drive system-wide change in event sustainability practices, embed sustainability into event planning and delivery, use events as platforms to influence positive behaviour change, create positive climate and community legacies, and generate insight that informs future sustainability objectives and KPIs across the major events programme.
