



2021-0030157POSoS

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State

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Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary, NASUWT
By email: nasuwt@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

Your ref: 210609/Williamson G/PR/TF

9th July 2021

Thank you for your letter of 9 June about the award of the contract for the delivery of the National Tutoring programme (NTP) to Randstad.

I would like to reassure you that the process followed by my department in procuring a supplier for the 2021/22 academic year has been fair and open.

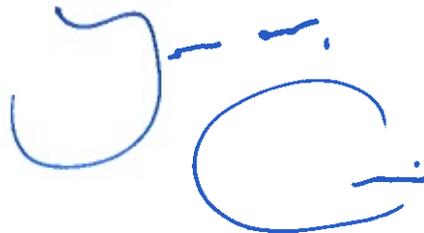
My department began procurement proceedings for a second phase of the NTP on 25 February 2021 under the Open Procurement route. This process was opened to appoint a single Prime Delivery Partner responsible for delivering both Tutoring Partners and Academic Mentors. We hosted a market engagement event for potential suppliers and provided information on the procurement process, including the areas that bidding organisations would be assessed on.

Details of the procurement were advertised publicly and the bids we received were evaluated by an independent board and independently moderated to ensure consistency. Following this robust commercial process, the board made a recommendation to ministers based on their assessment, which we were content to accept. As a result, we have signed a contract with Randstad to be the new supplier of NTP from September 2021.

Randstad has 25 years of experience within the education sector, including existing credibility as a Tuition partner for the first year of the NTP. They will be supported by Teach First to ensure the programme is successfully set up for effective delivery and continuous improvement in 2021/22.

As you mentioned in your letter, Randstad has already been appointed as a Tutoring Partner for the NTP. As with any other organisation, if Randstad wish to work with the NTP next year, they will need to apply and be accredited against the relevant criteria. My department will continue to ensure that strict controls are in place to manage any conflicts of interest.

Thank you for writing to me on this important matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Williamson', with a large, stylized 'G' and 'W'.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education