

Evaluation of the Employer Investment Fund Phase 1 – Questions and Answers

No.	Question	Answer
1.	What are the plans for individual project level evaluations, and have any been completed already? Are these summative or formative in nature?	SSCs are expected to undertake their own project level evaluations. Plans for these have been submitted to the UK Commission. It is expected that project level evaluations will be formative and summative, but a requirement for this has not been specified.
2.	Do all projects have to operate in all four nations? If not, how many projects are operating only in one nation, or in 2 or 3 nations?	The vast majority of the projects operate on a UK-wide basis. There is only one project that focuses on England-only.
3.	What is the nature and form of performance monitoring data to be analysed in the evaluation? Is this being held centrally at the Commission?	The UK Commission holds most of the performance monitoring data to be analysed, although SSCs may hold additional useful information. Performance monitoring information mainly consists of progress reports against key milestones/activities, and takes the form of narrative information submitted by SSCs. There is also quantitative data against some key measures for some projects.
4.	Do you have a database of employers and individual beneficiaries that could be used by contractors to underpin the survey work?	The UK Commission does not hold a central database of this sort, but lead SSCs will hold this information. SSCs whose projects are selected as case studies will be expected to share contact information with the successful contractors.
5.	How many employers and individuals have benefited to date from the EIF?	This is one of the key questions that we expect the Evaluation research itself to investigate.
6.	Given the nature of the project to be evaluated would you consider an SSC to be a suitable supplier for this work? Would this be the case only if they did not receive EIF 1 funding?	<p>Firstly let me say, that we would welcome proposals from SSCs or clusters of SSCs where you have the requisite experience and where it is appropriate for the project. However, on this occasion we feel that it would not be appropriate from two perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is a Conflict of Interest issue here in that you may have access to commercially sensitive information during the evaluation which could potentially have an impact of future competitive funding rounds. b) The impartiality of the evaluation could potentially be called into question. <p>Under these circumstances we do not feel that it is appropriate for you to conduct the evaluation.</p>
7.	What is the deadline for questions with regard to this tender?	The deadline for questions about this tender has been extended to 12:00 noon on 20 December, UK Commission responses to these questions will be uploaded to the website by 16:00 on 21 December.

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8.	Was a 'framework' agreed for the self-evaluation of the projects by the SSCs (on what type of information would be collected, from whom etc), so that there is some consistency for analysis of the evidence at the programme/fund level evaluation?	See answer to question 1.
9.	Did the SSCs carry out surveys of employers and other participants as part of the self-evaluation? (We would like to know to inform the development of our approach to ensure that employers are not over-burdened with requests for information).	The extent to which SSCs are using existing data or conducting bespoke primary qualitative or quantitative research to monitor and evaluate their projects varies. Some evaluation plans do not set this out clearly. We will engage with evaluation contacts within the SSCs to clarify and to avoid overlap. We expect that the evaluation we have specified will not duplicate or over-burden recipients and will manage carefully to ensure that.