



12th October 2026

REFERENCE NUMBER: SPD3/2026/042

**FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE AND FIRST AIDERS
FOR VARIOUS EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE CULTURAL HERITAGE DIRECTORATE
WITHIN THE MINISTRY FOR GOZO**

Reference is made to the above-mentioned Tender, the closing date of which is 21st October 2026 at 0930hrs.

CLARIFICATION REQUEST

Question 1: The requirement for First Aiders to hold an MQF Level 4 First Aid certificate “in accordance with Cap. 646” appears inconsistent with Maltese and EU pre hospital practice. Cap. 646 regulates workplace first aid and does not govern ambulance or event medical services, nor does it prescribe MQF levels. MQRIC is an academic recognition body and does not regulate operational first aid competencies. This requirement risks intentionally excluding organisations whose personnel hold internationally recognised pre hospital qualifications (eg IPHMI, Samaritan International), which exceed MQF Level 4 and are accepted EU wide. We request confirmation that such certifications are accepted as equivalent or superior. The mandatory “TFR certification” refers to a proprietary syllabus offered by very 2 providers. Equivalent or higher trauma care qualifications (IPHMI, FREC) provide broader competencies and are standard across Europe. Restricting eligibility to one local syllabus risks breaching equal treatment principles and unintentionally excluding major national providers such as the Malta Red Cross and St John Rescue Corps, both of which regularly support Government operations, including Mater Dei Hospital deployments.

Answer 1: The requirements stipulated in the tender dossier remain applicable. Tenderers are reminded that, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, equivalent or higher qualifications and certifications may be accepted, provided that the tenderer submits sufficient documentary evidence with its tender to demonstrate that the proposed qualification or certification covers comparable or superior learning outcomes, competencies and scope. The Evaluation Committee will assess the evidence submitted on its merits and determine equivalence during the evaluation process. Tenderers therefore remain responsible for clearly identifying any proposed equivalent and substantiating the claimed equivalence in their tender submission.

Question 2: Regarding ambulance equipment, the list provided does not reflect EU emergency ambulance standards. EN 1789:2020 requires suction units,



airway adjuncts (OPA/NPA), advanced airways, monitoring (NIBP, SpO₂, ECG), immobilisation equipment etc. Wheelchairs are not standard on emergency ambulances; evacuation chairs fulfil this role. The current list aligns more closely with non emergency patient transport vehicles. Kindly clarify whether the intent is to require EN 1789 compliant emergency ambulance capability. These clarifications are essential to ensure fair competition, compliance with EU norms, and the inclusion of established national emergency response organisations.

Answer 2: The ambulance and equipment requirements specified in the tender dossier remain unchanged and constitute the mandatory requirements for this procurement. This clarification does not introduce a requirement for additional equipment or for compliance with EN 1789:2020 beyond what is expressly stated in the tender dossier. Where the dossier refers to a particular item, standard, type or specification, an equivalent may be proposed, provided that the tenderer clearly identifies the proposed equivalent and submits sufficient technical evidence demonstrating that it provides an equivalent or higher level of functionality, performance and safety. Any additional equipment offered by a tenderer shall not replace, reduce or qualify any of the mandatory requirements set out in the tender dossier.

All other tender documents, conditions and requirements, which are not superseded by this clarification remain in place.
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