

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 12/2015, relating to the Department of the Interior, governmental procurement, year 2013

Barcelona, 8 July 2015

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 12/2015, relating to governmental procurement at the Department of the Interior in the 2013 financial year, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, presented by Board Member Ms Emma Balseiro Carreiras, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 19 May 2015.

The purpose of the work carried out was to audit the legality of governmental procurement at the Department of the Interior in 2013, with the aim of obtaining reasonable proof that it had followed applicable statutory requirements.

In accordance with article 3.6 of Decree 200/2010, of 27 December, to create, name and delimit the powers of the departments of the Government of Catalonia (*Generalitat de Catalunya*), the Department of the Interior is responsible for functions relating to citizens' safety, traffic, emergencies and civilian protection; prevention, fire-fighting and rescue; public performances and recreational activities, and any other assigned to it by statutory or regulatory provision.

In the 2013 financial year the Department of the Interior completed 451 procurement procedures, awarding contracts to the sum of €21.8m. Of these procedures 61 related to contracts above the low-value threshold, with awards totalling €19.2m, and 390 were low-value contracts, totalling €2.6m. In addition, the Department also formalised 49 modifications or extensions to contracts from previous years totalling €28.7m.

In the Conclusions section of the report there is a summary of the main findings from the work carried out, of which the following can be highlighted:

- In two procurement procedures the Department did not send the European Commission the documentation required by current legislation. Two other contracts were incorrectly classified according to the CPV (Common Procurement Vocabulary) system and were put out to tender without EU advertising.
- In three contracts solvency criteria were considered as criteria to assess the offers tendered, and in three procedures these criteria were only defined in a general way and were not sufficiently detailed.

- In none of the tendering processes using the negotiated procedure is there documentary evidence that negotiations actually took place, an essential feature of this procedure, and in one case there is no documentary proof that more than one company was invited to tender.
- In three contracts awarded using the unpublicised negotiated procedure for reasons of extreme urgency circumstances did not exist to justify the use of this procedure. With better planning the ordinary procurement procedure could have been followed.
- Twelve procedures for modifying contracts were carried out after the contracts had been in force and in one case the actual conditions of the contract were modified, which should have meant starting a new tendering process.

Lastly, the report includes recommendations on planning procurement procedures, clearly specifying minimum solvency requirements when establishing assessment criteria and adequately formalising the awarding process, all of which, in the opinion of the Audit Office, could help to improve procurement management at the Department of the Interior.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.