
SUMMARY

Summary of Report 6/2018, relating to Tarragona City Council, governmental procurement, year 2016

Barcelona, 30 May 2018

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 6/2018, relating to Tarragona City Council's governmental procurement in financial year 2016, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Joan-Ignasi Puigdollers, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 10 April 2018.

The purpose of the assignment was to audit governmental procurement by the City Council (not including its subsidiary organisations) corresponding to the 2016 financial year, to check that it had been undertaken in accordance with public sector procurement principles and with laws and regulations then in force.

The audit reviewed a sample of procurement files for contracts awarded during the 2016 financial year, and also of contract renewals, price reviews and contract modifications arranged in year 2016 relating to contracts awarded in previous years, from an overall total of €24.09m.

The most significant findings from the audit carried out, as explained in section 3.1 of the report, can be summarised as follows:

- In one procurement process the contract was declared non-awardable because there were mistakes in the offers received from all the tenderers. The process was finally concluded using a non-publicised negotiated procedure. Since the mistakes in the offers presented had been induced by an error by the awarding authority, the Audit Office considers that the corporation should have initiated a new tendering process.
- The City Council agreed to give a one and a half month extension to a works contractor who had not finished construction within the planned seven month period, even though reducing the construction period to seven months had been one of the enhancements envisaged and assessed in the tendering process, and all the tenderers had offered comparable time reductions.
- On 25 November 2016 the Council awarded a construction contract using emergency procedures. But the work was not able to commence until April 2017, when the corporation approved the Safety and Health Plan.

- One file featured the modification to another contract, awarded in 2008, whose execution had been suspended because of financial problems. In the Audit Office's opinion the correct approach would have been to rescind the contract when its execution was suspended, in 2012, and to have organised an updated tendering process when it was decided that the construction work could proceed, in 2016.
- In one contract awarded on 15 November 2016 the actual contract was not signed until 22 December 2016, even though service delivery had started in September 2016. So during the period extending from September to December no contract existed as a basis for providing that service.
- In none of the audited procurement files for public works, services and supplies tendered out using negotiated procedures was evidence given that a negotiation process regarding the contract conditions had actually taken place, when this is an essential feature of contracts arranged using the negotiated procedure.
- As regards submitting basic details of procurement files to the Public Contracts Register held by the Government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*), contract modifications, extensions and price changes were not reported. And some awards deriving from framework agreements were also not reported.

The Audit Office also makes several recommendations relating to some of the issues brought to light during the audit carried out.

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