



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Record of an Authority decision delegated to an Officer as required under Regulation 7 of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014

Subject of decision	To procure licences from XVR Simulation B.V for Incident Command training without inviting competitive tenders, pursuant to paragraph:- • 3.1a(i) - goods, materials or services are of a unique or specialised nature; and • 3.1a(ii) - the supply of goods, materials or services are similar to or compatible with an existing provision so as to render only one source of supply appropriate. of the Authority's Contract Standing Orders. The contract will be for the licence, support and maintenance, this will initially be taken out in 12 month subscriptions which will be reviewed on an annual basis.
Officer name	Lee Watson
Job title	Assistant Director/Area Commander- Response
Date decision taken	25/06/2025
Reasons for the decision	The Authority currently have Incident Command training software supplied by XVR Simulation B.V. The XVR platform allows emergency response personnel to be trained, assessed and be capable of responding to essential scenario's by improving their skill set. The XVR Platform allows the Authority to create any scenario, which can easily be repeated and measured, through a variety of training methods. XVR Simulation B.V has provided the Authority with simulation training for several years and has met performance expectations and delivered a high quality solution promoting best practice. In 2021 XVR Simulation and LearningPro eFireService merged to create a global leader in virtual reality training and e-learning for health and the emergency services. The combined software suite provides a platform for learning management, authoring, competency reporting, and training, including an immersive virtual reality simulation training platform. XVR Simulation is the world's leading developer of simulation technology.

For decisions regarding spend of £100,000 and above

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Details of decision	Following the analysis of recent market conditions and due to the limited supplier market (3.1a(ii)) following the recent merger with XVR Simulation and LearningPro eFire Service the Authority will continue to directly contract with XVR simulation for 7 XVR Complete On Scene OS Licences at £3,254.29 per licence. The Authority will continue to review this contract on an annual basis each June due to the rapidly changing technological advances especially in regard to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and potential benefits they may offer the Authority in the future through enhanced learning outcomes. Stakeholders of the system have been part of the review and decision.
Details of alternative options considered and rejected (if any)	FireStudio is the only known UK alternative supplier, which has been discounted as part of the contract review due to the solution not offering a full range of interactive features. The platform works through the importing of video clips and still images to create scenarios, while XVR offers more advanced, interactive, dynamic 3D environments; with the ability to simulate more complex scenarios providing realistic consequences of actions, making it more useful for operational staff. This comprehensive and immersive training provide the Authority with the following benefits:- • reduced cost, • safe training, • standardised and repeatable training • accessible and adjustable training, and • the ability to provide realistic and dynamic scenario The Authority have chosen to wavier the Contract Standing orders instead of Direct Awarding via RM1557.14 G-Cloud 14 due to the nature of the market and the unlikeliness that an alternative supplier would provide the services.
Any interests declared by a Member or Officer	None
Links to relevant background documents or information	Digital Strategy 2022

Signed



Date 11/07/25

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