Experiences scoring and assessing complex evaluations
What goes well

**Where commissioners:**
- Set up the bid in the right way to score for complexity (e.g. ensuring right balance of ‘Understanding the requirements’)  
- Make ‘space’ for alternate bids which might use more complexity-aware methods

**Where contractors:**
- Provide assurance on having completed similar, messy evaluations (even in different sectors)  
- Are open and honest about their proposed methods and any uncertainty in the evaluation  
- Are able to challenge the brief
What works less well

**Where commissioners:**
- Haven’t adequately advised on the complexity of the system (do we always know?)
- Are overly prescriptive on methodologies
- Can’t fully explain the complexity of the policy in the bid document

**Where contractors:**
- May repeat previous methodologies in being risk averse
- Draw comparisons between systems which might not be correct
- Propose innovative methods which would answer the evaluation question but are prohibitively expensive (M.E.A.T)
Suggestions: making the process smoother..

• Thinking about **more flexibility in tendering**: call off contracts, breaking down larger contracts into smaller commissions
• Contracts being able to clearly demonstrate how methods will support policy development within contexts: what is the **value added** of the complexity aware method?
• Thinking about **tools you can provide as a commissioner** within an organisation to increase capacity and fluency in complexity to support development of ITTs (e.g. Complexity Evaluation Framework)
• Maintaining a **clear dialogue** throughout starting at the bid stage – good evaluation is a partnership.
Your thoughts..

• What works well in commissioning complex evaluations?
• And less well?
• And how could we make it better going forwards?