

This determines which application form and sections need to be submitted:

Contractor	Description	Documents
Individual	A person carrying on a business	Individual Application (Sections A and B)
General Partnerships	This is a partnership where two or more persons are carrying out a business purpose. General partners share equal rights and responsibilities and assume full responsibility for all business debts and obligations. General partnerships are governed by the Partnership Act 1890.	Partnership application (Sections A and B);
Limited Partnership	This is a partnership where the limited partners are able to restrict their personal liability to the stake in the business, i.e. their investment. A limited partnership must have at least one general partner taking on the full responsibility for the business debts and obligations. The general partners retain the right to control the business whilst the limited partners do not participate in management decisions. A limited partnership is governed by the Limited Partnership Act 1907, must register with Companies House and its business name must end in LP.	Partnership application (Sections A and B);
Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)	A limited liability partnership offers the advantages of a general partnership but also offers personal liability protection to its participants. Individual partners are not liable for the wrongful acts of other partners or the debts or obligations of the business. These are governed by the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2000.	Body corporate application (Sections A and B);

Contractor	Description	Documents
Company	A company is an association of legal or natural individuals. The company's shareholders or members (depending on the form of the company) are usually liable to a capped amount. Companies are governed by the Companies Act 2006.	Body corporate application (Sections A and B);

All applications submitted to NHS England South West (South) must be accompanied by company letter headed paper and completed banking declaration. The remainder of standard information that must be provided and is contained within all GOS contract applications is set out in Schedule 3 of the General Ophthalmic Services Contracts Regulations 2008.