



GC Communicate

Book your free configuration visit ...

As part of the installation process, Government Connect (GC) are offering each local authority a free configuration visit.

This service is not compulsory but enables your configuration to be verified. Early adopting local authorities found this service to be very valuable and GC would advise you to take advantage of this offer.

This consists of Cable & Wireless allocating an engineer to either attend a 'final configuration' visit on site or, it may take the form of a conference call. This would be on an agreed date between your authority and Cable & Wireless.

In preparation for site configuration, a GCSx Pre Connection checklist will need to be completed by every local authority if this has not already been submitted. The completed form will need to be returned to Government Connect as soon as possible.

This form can be downloaded from the GC website at the foot of the Implementation page:
www.govconnect.gov.uk/implementation/

This requirement will enable earlier scheduling of the final configuration day.



LIBRA - now available over the GCSx

LIBRA replaces the magistrates' courts existing information technology systems with one national system enabling standard national business processes across all courts. LIBRA is live in 92 of approximately 370 magistrates' courts, with over 25% of HM Courts Service (HMCS) staff now on the system.

HMCS are also changing the business processes used to manage the criminal, civil, accounting and enforcement workload, these new processes coupled with the new infrastructure will improve information links between the courts and criminal justice partners. Local authorities can utilise these enhancements initially through their Youth Offending teams (YOTS), using their GCSx connections.

YOTS be able to streamline work practices and share information more efficiently with these key agencies. LIBRA provides electronic interfaces that automatically transfer case information between the courts and partners (such as the Police, DVLA and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform). Interfaces reduce re-keying of data and should decrease transcription errors. GCSx users will be able to access LIBRA from their own desktops, negating the need to use third party access and will be able enquire about court cases, view an electronic diary and print court lists and registers. This reduces the time spent dealing with routine enquiries and printing lists.

Youth offending teams (YOTS) may currently have local agreements to access existing court systems to see



court lists and results for young people that YOTs are managing. However, when LIBRA is installed, this will no longer be possible.

Local Authority IT networks that are Code of Connection compliant will meet these criteria and will not have to make costly and timely alternatives to receiving this information.

Phil Sutton, Head of ICT Business Change and Benefits for the Wiring Up Youth Justice programme, said:

"The Libra Central Service is a real benefit for YOTs in court areas where LIBRA has been installed. Early feedback from YOTs using the service has been extremely positive. They now receive court lists and results automatically, which saves them time."

More information at: www.govconnect.gov.uk

Visit Government Connect at the following events:

[IRRV Benefits/Benefit Fraud Conference and Exhibition](#)

10-12 February 2009
Southport Convention Centre

[Information Sharing in the Criminal Justice Sector](#)

11 February 2009
London, TBC

E-Transfers across GCSx

Initially LAs have been using GCSx for Secure Email and Secure Access to the DWP's CIS database. The next development is that DWP are piloting the electronic transfer of data from Job Centre plus and Pensions offices. The purpose is to replace the unreliable and insecure postal transfers of LAID and LACI forms. Initially the transfers will be PDF versions of the data (images) but by the Autumn it is intended to replace these forms with XML data that will be capable of direct input to Benefit Systems, eliminating the manual keying of data. The public will therefore directly benefit from faster updates and a reduction in keying errors. The Local Authority will see a reduction in cost and effort. The system will also be extended to the incorporate the new ESA.

The solution will require the implementation of a Bulk File Transfer (BFT) capability using FTPS over the GCSx network. In order to facilitate the transfers, each authority will have to implement a Data Transfer Appliance (DTA) - in effect a rack mounted PC - to handle the transfers. The device will be fully managed by EDS/HP on behalf of DWP. In the event of a hardware fault, the device will be replaced next day. The system will be managed remotely via self installing File Transfers for Patching and antivirus updates. Management access from DWP will be provided via controlled access on an as needed basis with limited functionality to the Axway file transfer product only. Local authority systems will therefore be fully protected from unauthorised access.

Access to the device will be controlled by opening the firewall ports by the LA. Initial installation will require the LA to enable FTPS over the GSi Firewall. This can be difficult to set up and configure although support will be available through a configuration visit as part of the GCSx installation.

We are currently undertaking the Pilots across England, Scotland and Wales. Early learning has indicated the need for specialist knowledge to configure the GSi Firewalls in the LAs. A number of Pilot sites (8) are being implemented prior to roll out. After the completion of full end to end testing, full roll out will commence in Scotland (GSX) before beginning connection of the early GCSx adopters in England and Wales.



We will be shortly confirming details for installation via a DTA Proforma which will be sent to all LAs. Like GCSx, a full take on guide will be available which we are currently revising in the light of the pilot exercise. All remaining authorities will be connected as their GCSx connection becomes available including those authorities with Data Policy exempt status.

LA Connectivity Progress:

(as on 5 February 2009)

1	Submit GCSx Proforma, obtain connection	complete
2	CoCo Review & Consultancy	21
3	CoCo Assessments	359
4	Submit Contracts, CoCo approval & circuit application	4
5	Complete local configurations	6
LIVE	Business Live over GCSx connection	20

What do you need to do next?

- Agree a plan for CoCo re-submission with the central support team.
- Schedule your free configuration day
- Should your authority circumstances change please keep in touch with the support team: gctech.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- Monitor the Government Connect website & newsletters for updated information

If you were granted an exemption, keep working towards going live on the agreed date. This includes meeting the agreed actions, staying in contact with Government Connect if you have any questions and submitting your Code of Connection in time to meet your Go Live date.

Contact Government Connect:

CoCo Support: 0845 838 2945 gctech.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Communications: geeta.vara@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries: gc.info@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

