



GC Communicate

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Having worked on a number of IT projects, I understand the value of engaging partners. I head up the Improving Information Sharing and Management (IISaM) Programme at the DCSF, which includes ContactPoint, National eCAF and the Integrated Children's System.

We have strong relationships with our partners in all local authorities. Across the programme, security of young people's data is a top priority and we must ensure that only strongly authenticated and authorised staff can access this data.

I am also actively involved in strategic cross-government initiatives which will help to improve access and security across national and local government, GCSX, which provides secure connectivity and Employee Authentication Service (EAS), a cross-government authentication service.

Effective stakeholder engagement means that we all benefit, that what ultimately we produce is relevant to those who will use it; those who work with children and young people. Most importantly, it means that those professionals



can provide our children and young people, and their families, with even better, and earlier, help that they need.

In and Out of Work over GCSX ...

In and Out of Work (IOW) provides the customer with a single point of contact at Jobcentre Plus for customers to access not just Jobseekers Allowance and Income Support, but also Tax Credits administered by HM Revenues and Customs, as well as Housing and Council Tax Benefit administered by local authorities. This means that customers no longer have to make multiple contacts with government, it reduces duplications and improves the time taken to pay benefits and credits.



E-Transfers, a system being developed in collaboration with the DWP Housing Benefit Information Flows team, enables the electronic transfer of local authority Input Documents (LAIDs) using the DWP Generic File Transfer Service via GCSX (Government Connect Secure eXtranet). The IOW project also uses GCSX to provide the links for the secure exchange of customer information.

The E-Transfer and IOW project teams are working

together with Government Connect to align implementation of the two new processes in order to minimise the impact of these changes. Wherever possible local authorities will be e-enabled in advance of adopting IOW processes. Staff will no longer need to work with two different processes on IOW; a pre e-transfer 'clerical' and post e-transfer 'electronic' process.



Windows Mobile

The current CESG policy/guidance states that Windows Mobile version 6.1 is not deemed suitable to access, store or process RESTRICTED (IL3) data. This policy statement goes on to clarify that any such device can be used for data at IL2 and below, subject to extant HMG guidance & policy, such as Memo 35 (and the recently released Good Practice Guide 10).

Councils are strongly advised to review any current deployments of Windows Mobile in line with this guidance, with a view to ensuring such devices will only be used at IL2 and below, and that appropriate measures are applied to protect any sensitive data residing at the endpoint.

GCSX- managing information risk with secure connectivity

As Transformational Government pushes forward greater interconnectivity between government systems, creating a more complex environment, it is more important that we understand and manage the risk to information.

Local authorities handle a great deal of sensitive personal data and material protectively marked by central government. This material must be handled in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Security Policy Framework (SPF) and legal requirements such as the Data Protection Act (DPA).

The Government Connect programme uses the GCSX (Government Connect Secure eXtranet) network, provided for English and Welsh local authority use. This is a government accredited network, and as with all GSi (Government Secure Intranet) networks, connection to GCSX is governed by the satisfactory completion of a Code of Connection (CoCo).

The CoCo is designed to maintain assurance of the GCSX network by ensuring that network endpoints reach a satisfactory level of security. It was produced by Buying Solutions (formerly OGCbs) with input from CESG and the Government Connect programme, and is closely aligned to the international standard for Information Security (ISO 27001). CoCos are initially assessed by the Government Connect team with CESG conducting a percentage based validation exercise for consistency.

Key to understanding and managing the information risk within central government are the specialist IA roles such as the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), the Information Asset Owner (IAO) and the Accreditor. From board level down to the grass roots, everyone has a part to play, but these specialists make sure that information risks are managed properly. Whilst these roles have been developed in central government they are equally applicable, although sometimes under different titles, to the wider public sector and large parts of industry. Ensuring that individuals in these key roles are properly equipped is a key component of the National Information Assurance Strategy.

You can find out more about GCSX at IA09, the premier event for senior government decision makers in information assurance and information risk management. Day Two includes a keynote from Simon Norbury, Head of Technical Assurance and Security Design for Government Connect and a special Wider Government stream, chaired by Jos Creese, head of IT, Hampshire County Council.

IA09 is being held on 6 – 7 July 2009 at QEII Conference Centre, London.

A special single-day delegate rate has been agreed for local authority representatives, allowing them to attend just Day Two of the conference for a special rate of £295 (exc VAT), negotiated with the LGA and Socitm. To register contact the IA09 registration hotline on 020 7089 5806 or email enquiries@ia09.org.uk.



The Government's Information Assurance Event

What do you need to do next?

Authorities not yet live:

- Monitor your compliance and configuration schedule and keep to the agreed actions
- Prepare for your free configuration visit and ensure that you have the technical help at hand on the day
- Should your authority's 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.

Authorities that are now live:

If you are already live with GCSX and have any operational problems, please refer to annex i of the [operational support guide](#) or contact the service desk at 0800 505 3375 / it.servicedesk@tameside.gov.uk

GC Approved CoCos

Code of Connection Approved by GC	In month	total
<i>Achieved in June</i>	22	284
<i>Predicted in July</i>	7	291
<i>Predicted in August</i>	13	304
<i>Predicted in September</i>	71	375

Figures as on 30 June 2009

Please note: Following the Local Government Review (LGR) which came into effect on 1 April 2009, Parliament approved the move to unitary local government in Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire between February and March 2008. A total of 44 local councils have been reduced to just nine. As a result the total number of local authorities in England and Wales has been reduced from 410 to 375.

Join GC on 8-9 July 2009

ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) Summer Conference & International Policing Exhibition:
Manchester Central
<http://www.acpo-apa.co.uk/>

CIPFA: IT Audit & Security Update:
Crown Plaza Hotel, Birmingham
http://www.cipfa.org.uk/events/show.cfm?events_id=5107

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