



GC Communicate

Not long to go now...

As we approach the final stages of the GCSX implementation, the majority of local authorities are on track to be going live by the end of September. I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for becoming compliant with the Code of Connection.

Remarkable progress has been made with GCSX connectivity and authorities are now able to use a range of secure services and access DWP systems over the Government Secure Intranet (the GSI). This is beginning to improve efficiency and reduce costs as shown in the KPSN case study in this issue.

If you are a local authority with an agreed exemption date until the 30 September but now think you can implement sooner, please speak to the team for additional help. Furthermore, DTA installations are now taking place and we would appreciate if all authorities were able to be flexible on their installation dates soon after their GCSX connection is live.

The constructive challenge and feedback that we have received has enabled the department to deliver a robust service that will meet the needs of central and local government. Government Connect will move from a project to business as usual footing from October 1st inside DWP. We will publish more information on the business as usual arrangements in the coming months.



*Philip Littleaon,
Programme Director,
Government Connect*

The Public Sector Network - Partnership and Innovation

Today we live in an 'on demand' world. Video, music, internet, business service access – everyone wants it now. And this need has to be satisfied, irrespective of time, place or device.

The Public Sector Network (PSN) might not offer such unbridled access, but it aims to enable common business functionality across the Local Government Sector. It will improve the way we share services and information, bringing the potential for better efficiency and effectiveness. To put it bluntly, it will allow us do our jobs better.

The PSN is designed to be a single, integrated infrastructure, delivered by multiple service providers - in effect a 'private network of networks' for the public sector, providing voice and data services.

It will allow the same quality of experience to be offered across a range of platforms – desktop, laptop, mobile devices and telephone

Why Network Procurement Should Change

At the very heart of the PSN is a concept that brings together network services and standards, and most importantly helps to re-invent and improve the procurement process.

Currently, procurement lacks centrally managed standards. All public sector bodies run separate procurement competitions to buy their networks to connect their various departmental locations. This creates an environment which is highly inflexible, built to different standards, wasteful and costly. Procurement needs to change.



Buy Services

In a nutshell, the PSN allows users to move away from the 'kit and bandwidth' mindset and look at ICT in terms of service needs.

John Stubleby, PSN Programme Director

GC Approved CoCos

Code of Connection Approved by GC	In month	total
<i>Achieved in July</i>	15	299
<i>Predicted in August</i>	10	309
<i>Predicted in September</i>	66	375

Figures as on 30 July 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.

Aggregated Connection to GCSX Saves Kent £1m

The Kent Public Services Network (KPSN) is the first of a small number of partnerships pioneering an aggregated approach to GCSX. The result is over £1m in savings for all 14 Kent and Medway authorities, plus better standards of resilience and capacity than any would have achieved by themselves.

How KPSN increases savings

Authorities signed up to a standard configuration which simplified the installation required for GCSX compliance and reduced associated costs. Centralised project management freed up ICT staff to focus on other work, and streamlined discussions with GCSX. Future costs are reduced too as network services are shared.

Other benefits

Better resilience and business continuity have been achieved with two 10MB GCSX compliant circuits in separate locations. Each receives equal volumes of data, has separate firewalls, and supports the other.

Partners benefit from at least 100MB circuits, with the

majority of KPSN running at 1GB. The greater bandwidth increases capacity and provides the network with flexibility in peak times.

Jeff Wallbank, KPSN's Partnership Development Manager, says aggregation supports the Digital Britain agenda and has environmental benefits too: "The number of circuits has been reduced but upgraded, potentially extending high speed access to the internet for small businesses and residents."

More to come

Jeff believes aggregation is an option for other authorities: "There are more savings and efficiencies to be had. Bigger aggregations are possible, and it can only help in the drive for efficiencies and joined-up public services. However I recommend getting the partnership governance model right at the outset."

Meanwhile KPSN partners are developing the use of GCSX and the secure GC mail: sharing information with magistrates' courts to streamline council tax and business rate summons, tackling fraud with Trading Standards and Kent Police, and liaising on Social Services cases.



GCSX Code of Connection Re-submissions

For all local authorities coming up to one year since the approval of their last Code of Connection (CoCo) approval, a new set of CoCo submission documents must be re-submitted for re-authorisation. This process will ensure that local authorities continue to stay compliant with the GSi security standards.

Re-submission is also necessary where the local authority have:

- Connected to a new network or service
- Introduced new and additional facilities for remote working (including mobile email devices)
- Had any devolvement or amalgamation affecting the authority
- Made any change to outsourcing partnerships, facilities managers and system redesign
- Identified a major breach of security
- Reduced in levels of user clearance or physical access controls

In addition to the above, compliance visits to local authorities may be required (at the discretion of Buying Solutions). If you have any queries in relation to Code of Connection re-assessments please contact Buying Solutions at gsi@buyingsolutions.gsi.gov.uk.

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@dpw.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

Contact GC:

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

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

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