



# GC Communicate



We are learning, through Government Connect, that central and local government can work well together. OK – mistakes have been made, and lessons have been learned, but in less than a year, spectacular progress has been made in joining-up securely and efficiently. Good job too! If ever there was a need for secure, efficient and joined-up government, high profile data losses and the credit crunch conspire to tell us it's now!

Government Connect lays the foundation for a single pan-government security infrastructure. It can't make sense, and is spectacularly inefficient, for local government to engage separately with each central government department. I'm delighted, therefore, that the Government Connect team aims to work with the Public Service Network programme, and related developments to advance the vision, further enhancing our ability to deliver public services securely and efficiently and demonstrating that Government really can connect!



Richard Steel, Former President of Socitm and GC Programme Board Member

## *Gwent Police affirms GCSX network*

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CBC), Gwent Police and other local agencies have recently signed up to the GCSX programme, with several departments within the council looking to use the network to securely share information with trusted partner organisations. Those organisations include Housing Benefits, Community Safety, Social Services, Youth Offending Service and HR/payroll.

Head of Caerphilly council, Cllr Lindsay Whittle, said: "This system is excellent in that we are now able to securely transfer sensitive and confidential data between partner agencies swiftly and accurately. Not only is it of real benefit to us, but it will also benefit the residents of the Caerphilly county borough. No doubt others will follow suit in the near future to take advantage of this new secure communication facility."

Caerphilly's Community Safety Manager, Howard Rees agreed: "Residents of the Caerphilly county borough should feel safe in the knowledge that this technology will now aid us even further in tackling crime and disorder across the area, as it allows us to communicate with our partners quicker and more accurately than ever before.

Those responsible for committing crimes and acting anti-socially will not be tolerated, and this new technology will help significantly in helping us bring them to justice quickly."

Detective Inspector Huw Watkins of Gwent Police has emphasised the timeliness of the implementation: "we are working together on a daily

basis in the sharing of information for the benefit of the community. As the staff at Caerphilly CBC are working with us on a variety of themes, it is essential that we are able to communicate securely.

This approach has allowed us to drive down volume crime, and share information about preventing radicalisation. This is great news for the people of Caerphilly, who can be sure that those responsible for ensuring their safety are working together to target those who cause harm.

One particular incident recently highlights this to very good effect. Following the deployment of a 'capture car' in Blackwood the footage of the suspected offender was circulated to Caerphilly staff. Almost a month later, police officers saw some men acting suspiciously in Blackwood and asked the council's CCTV operator to focus on the person. That operator recognised the man as being wanted by the police, was arrested by the officers and the crime cleared up."



## GSI Notice 4/2008

GSI notices are the definitive statements on how the security community should interpret the security status of the GSI network. GSI Notice 4/2008 has recently been re-issued to clarify the position on the transport of data up to Impact Level 3 (IL3) which is, in local authority terms, sensitive data.

The notice states; *the GSI infrastructure should be the preferred mechanism for data transport, in that it provides an accredited IL3 route directly to the endpoint and will provide better security than the available alternatives.* In practical terms this means that GCSX is the preferred mechanism for transport of sensitive data from central to local authorities because GCSX is the local authority implementation of GSI.

It does not follow, however, that because there is a secure network that the exchange of IL3 data will be permitted. To understand this, you must consider 2 use patterns;

The first pattern is **the exchange of restricted material on an ad hoc basis**. If a department wanted to swap data with a local authority it would be permitted on an ad hoc basis, probably via email, even for IL3 Restricted material.

The second pattern is **the regular exchange of data**, probably system to system, as part of a regular business process. It is still possible to use GCSX but with some additional measures

specifically through the signing of an agreement (probably a Memorandum Of Understanding or MOU) which would set out the responsibilities to the recipient for properly *managing and protecting* the data. Note that these measures are for secure *management* of the data, not additional network security measures for which the GCSX network itself is sufficient. An example of how this second pattern has been implemented is the regular transfer of IL3 data (access to the CIS database) over the GCSX network backed up with an MOU between the DWP and local authorities.

In summary, the re-issued GSI notice clarifies that the GCSX network is the appropriate, and preferred method of transporting IL3 (sensitive) data between central and local government. For further details go to: <http://www.gsi.gov.uk/notices.htm>



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:it.servicedesk@tameside.gov.uk)

### GC Approved CoCos

| Code of Connection Approved by GC | In month | total |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------|
| <i>Achieved by end of April</i>   |          | 251   |
| <i>Predicted in May</i>           | 10       | 261   |
| <i>Predicted in June</i>          | 32       | 293   |
| <i>Predicted in July</i>          | 26       | 319   |
| <i>Predicted in August</i>        | 15       | 334   |
| <i>Predicted in September</i>     | 76       | 410   |

Figures as on 30 April 2009

### Join CESG on 6-7 July

Jos Creese, head of IT, Hampshire County Council will chair the Wider Government stream at IA09, the premier event for senior pan-government decision makers involved in information risk management. Register by 15 May for a £100 discount to attend the London-based event. For sponsorship enquiries call 020 7089 5895.  
[www.ia09.org.uk](http://www.ia09.org.uk).

### Contact GC:

CoCo Support: 0845 838 2945  
[gctech.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gctech.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Communications:  
[geeta.vara@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:geeta.vara@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

General enquiries: [gc.info@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gc.info@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)