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Re: Code of Connection Version 4.1

The purpose of this letter is to complement the recent notices and communications from Buying Solutions to all IL2 users and the recent letter (dated 25 August 2009) to England and Wales Local Authority Section 151 Officers from the Director of Government Connect on the introduction of CoCo version 4.1.

As you are aware, the GSi community is revising the Code of Connection that controls access to the GCSX circuits provided by Government Connect. This is seen as an important development towards improved information assurance.

In response to the introduction of Code of Connection 4.1, the Managed Telecommunications Executives (MTE) that govern the GSi have set up a working group (made up of Cabinet Office, CESG and Government Connect officials) to ensure that the Code of Connection 4.1 is introduced and interpreted appropriately and sensitively for all stakeholders.

To ensure that the changes posed as a result of the migration to Code of Connection 4.1 (mainly in the areas of mobile working, firewall specification (EAL 4), execution of unauthorised software, requirement for IT Health Checks (CHECK/CREST) and the labelling of emails with protective markings) is both manageable and relevant to the evolving view of risk, the working group would like to advise IL2 stakeholders of the following:

***From 1 November 2009 CoCo version 4.1 should be used for all new authorisation and re-authorisation applications.***

***A transition period of up to six months will apply, during which non-compliance against new or upgraded CoCo version 4.1 controls will be regarded as acceptable, provided that the level of compliance demonstrated is at least good enough to satisfy CoCo version 3.2 requirements.***

***From 1 May 2010 compliance needs to be achieved against CoCo version 4.1 controls. Exceptionally, compliance against individual controls can be interpreted as a firm plan to introduce appropriate measures within a reasonable timeframe, depending on the overall level of compliance demonstrated by the authorisation (or re-authorisation) submission in the round.***

This notice has taken into consideration concerns that Local Authorities may have with regards to investing in improved security and the requirement to drive up the overall standard of security in the middle of the financial year.

Yours sincerely

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