



North East Corner,
Level 6, Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street,
London, WC2N 6HT

1st October 2009

To: All Section 151 Officers in English and Welsh Local Authorities
By email

Copied: IT Leads

Dear Colleague

Government Connect: Introducing Siemens Code of Connection Re-Assessment Service

To continue using GCSX your authority will need to be assessed annually for compliance with the Code of Connection. Government Connect has awarded a contract to Siemens Enterprise Communications Ltd to undertake Code of Connection re-assessments on our behalf for the period October 2009 to March 2011. Siemens will ultimately make formal recommendations to Buying Solutions who will approve your connections and continued access to GCSX.

The re-assessment process is very similar exercise to the first assessment. Siemens will send you a new Code of Connection workbook and request various supporting information to enable the assessment to take place. The majority of assessments will be conducted remotely by Siemens, but some will be conducted at your premises to allow a greater degree of interaction and supporting evidence to be provided. Assessments will be undertaken by CLAS consultants and peer reviewed prior to a formal recommendation. During October Siemens will establish a GSE connection to the GSi to enable PROTECTED and RESTRICTED information to be exchanged securely.

Siemens will be contacting your authority in due course to confirm the timetable for your re-assessment. Re-assessment will either be on the 12 month anniversary of when you first became compliant, or, by mutual agreement, another date which allows Government Connect to re-profile the number of local authorities being assessed in any one month. This re-profiling is necessary due to the large number of local authorities currently due for re-assessment during April and September and your co-operation is appreciated. Inevitably the assessment process will generate queries that need to be addressed. To avoid the threat of disconnection it is essential your authority provides all the information requested and responds promptly to any queries.

Fundamentally, Siemens role is that of assessor, but they will also be able to provide, at no charge to the authority, a limited amount of advice and guidance in matters relating to GCSX Code of Connection compliance. You are advised to contact Siemens or Government Connect directly if you have made, or plan to make, significant changes to your organisation or network. Siemens will be pleased to provide advice and advise whether the changes will cause a need for an accelerated re-assessment.

If you have any questions or queries then please email us via your GCSX email account to gcinfo@dwp.gsi.gov.uk and we will contact you by return.

Yours sincerely

Philip Littleavon
Programme Director, Government Connect