

Schedule 16 (Buyer Specific Security Requirements)

1. Definitions

- 1.1. In this Schedule, the following words shall have the following meanings and they shall supplement the other definitions in the Contract:

“BPSS” “Baseline Personnel Security Standard”	the Government’s HMG Baseline Personal Security Standard. Further information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-baseline-personnel-security-standard
“CCSC” “Certified Cyber Security Consultancy”	is the National Cyber Security Centre’s (NCSC) approach to assessing the services provided by consultancies and confirming that they meet NCSC's standards. See website: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/scheme/certified-cyber-consultancy
“CCP” “Certified Professional”	is a NCSC scheme in consultation with government, industry and academia to address the growing need for specialists in the cyber security profession. See website: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/about-certified-professional-scheme
“Cyber Essentials” “Cyber Essentials Plus”	Cyber Essentials is the government backed, industry supported scheme to help organisations protect themselves against common cyber-attacks. Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus are levels within the scheme. There are a number of certification bodies that can be approached for further advice on the scheme; the link below points to these providers: https://www.cyberessentials.ncsc.gov.uk/getting-certified/#what-is-an-accreditation-body

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“Data” “Data Controller” “Data Protection Officer” “Data Processor” “Personal Data” “Personal Data requiring Sensitive Processing” “Data Subject”, “Process” and “Processing”	shall have the meanings given to those terms by the Data Protection Legislation
“Buyer’s Data” “Buyer’s Information”	is any data or information owned or retained to meet departmental business objectives and tasks, including: (a) any data, text, drawings, diagrams, images or sounds (together with any repository or database made up of any of these components) which are embodied in any electronic, magnetic, optical or tangible media, and which are: (i) supplied to the Supplier by or on behalf of the Buyer; or (ii) which the Supplier is required to generate, process, store or transmit pursuant to this Contract; or (b) any Personal Data for which the Buyer is the Data Controller;
“Departmental Security Requirements”	the Buyer’s security policy or any standards, procedures, process or specification for security that the Supplier is required to deliver.
“Digital Marketplace / G-Cloud”	the Digital Marketplace is the online framework for identifying and procuring cloud technology and people for digital projects.
“End User Devices”	the personal computer or consumer devices that store or process information.
“Good Industry Standard” “Industry Good Standard”	the implementation of products and solutions, and the exercise of that degree of skill, care, prudence, efficiency, foresight and timeliness as would be expected from a leading company within the relevant industry or business sector.

Last Update: 13/10/22

	information depending on the role or functions assigned to them.
“Storage Area Network” “SAN”	an information storage system typically presenting block based storage (i.e. disks or virtual disks) over a network interface rather than using physically connected storage.
“Secure Sanitisation”	the process of treating data held on storage media to reduce the likelihood of retrieval and reconstruction to an acceptable level. NCSC Guidance can be found at: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/secure-sanitisation-storage-media The disposal of physical documents and hardcopy materials advice can be found at: https://www.cpni.gov.uk/secure-destruction-0
“Security and Information Risk Advisor” “CCP SIRA” “SIRA”	the Security and Information Risk Advisor (SIRA) is a role defined under the NCSC Certified Professional (CCP) Scheme. See also: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/articles/about-certified-professional-scheme
“Senior Information Risk Owner” “SIRO”	the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) responsible on behalf of the DfE Accounting Officer for overseeing the management of information risk across the organisation. This includes its executive agencies, arm’s length bodies (ALBs), non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and devolved information held by third parties.
“SPF” “HMG Security Policy Framework”	the definitive HMG Security Policy which describes the expectations of the Cabinet Secretary and Government’s Official Committee on Security on how HMG organisations and third parties handling HMG information and other assets will apply protective security to ensure HMG can function effectively, efficiently and securely. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/security-policy-framework
"Supplier Staff"	all directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants and contractors of the Supplier and/or of any Subcontractor engaged in the

	performance of the Supplier's obligations under the Contract.
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Operative Provisions

- 1.1. The Supplier shall be aware of and comply with the relevant [HMG security policy framework](#), [NCSC guidelines](#) and where applicable these Departmental Security Requirements which include but are not constrained to the following paragraphs.
- 1.2. Where the Supplier will provide products or Services or otherwise handle information at OFFICIAL for the Buyer, the requirements of [Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Note – Use of Cyber Essentials Scheme certification](#) - [Action Note 09/14](#) dated 25 May 2016, or any subsequent updated document, are mandated, namely that “contractors supplying products or services to HMG shall have achieved, and will be expected to retain Cyber Essentials certification at the appropriate level for the duration of the contract”. The certification scope shall be relevant to the Services supplied to, or on behalf of, the Buyer.
- 1.3. Where paragraph 1.2 above has not been met, the Supplier shall have achieved, and be able to maintain, independent certification to ISO/IEC 27001 (Information Security Management Systems Requirements). The ISO/IEC 27001 certification must have a scope relevant to the Services supplied to, or on behalf of, the Buyer. The scope of certification and the statement of applicability must be acceptable, following review, to the Buyer, including the application of controls from ISO/IEC 27002 (Code of Practice for Information Security Controls).
- 1.4. The Supplier shall follow the UK Government Security Classification Policy (GSCP) in respect of any Buyer's Data being handled in the course of providing the Services and will handle all data in accordance with its security classification. (In the event where the Supplier has an existing Protective Marking Scheme then the Supplier may continue to use this but must map the HMG security classifications against it to ensure the correct controls are applied to the Buyer's Data).
- 1.5. Buyer's Data being handled while providing an ICT solution or service must be separated from all other data on the Supplier's or sub-contractor's own IT equipment to protect the Buyer's Data and enable the data to be identified and securely deleted when required in line with paragraph 1.14. For information stored digitally, this must be at a minimum logically separated. Physical information (e.g., paper) must be physically separated.
- 1.6. The Supplier shall have in place and maintain physical security to premises and sensitive areas used in relation to the delivery of the products or Services, and that store or process Buyer's Data, in line with

ISO/IEC 27002 including, but not limited to, entry control mechanisms (e.g. door access), CCTV, alarm systems, etc.

- 1.7. The Supplier shall have in place, implement and maintain an appropriate user access control policy for all ICT systems to ensure only authorised personnel have access to Buyer's Data. This policy should include appropriate segregation of duties and if applicable role based access controls (RBAC). User credentials that give access to Buyer's Data or systems shall be considered to be sensitive data and must be protected accordingly.
- 1.8. The Supplier shall have in place and shall maintain procedural, personnel, physical and technical safeguards to protect Buyer's Data, including but not limited to:
 - 1.8.1. physical security controls;
 - 1.8.2. good industry standard policies and processes;
 - 1.8.3. malware protection;
 - 1.8.4. boundary access controls including firewalls, application gateways, etc;
 - 1.8.5. maintenance and use of fully supported software packages in accordance with vendor recommendations;
 - 1.8.6. use of secure device configuration and builds;
 - 1.8.7. software updates and patching regimes including malware signatures, for operating systems, network devices, applications and services;
 - 1.8.8. user identity and access controls, including the use of multi-factor authentication for sensitive data and privileged account accesses;
 - 1.8.9. any services provided to the Buyer must capture audit logs for security events in an electronic format at the application, service and system level to meet the Buyer's logging and auditing requirements, plus logs shall be:
 - 1.8.9.1. retained and protected from tampering for a minimum period of six months;
 - 1.8.9.2. made available to the Buyer on request.
- 1.9. The Supplier shall ensure that any Buyer's Data (including email) transmitted over any public network (including the Internet, mobile

networks or unprotected enterprise network) or to a mobile device shall be encrypted when transmitted.

- 1.10. The Supplier shall ensure that any Buyer's Data which resides on a mobile, removable or physically uncontrolled device is stored encrypted using a product or system component which has been formally assured through a recognised certification process agreed with the Buyer except where the Buyer has given its prior written consent to an alternative arrangement.
- 1.11. The Supplier shall ensure that any device which is used to process Buyer's Data meets all of the security requirements set out in the NCSC End User Devices Platform Security Guidance, a copy of which can be found at: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/end-user-device-security> and <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/end-user-device-security/eud-overview/eud-security-principles>.
- 1.12. Whilst in the Supplier's care all removable media and hardcopy paper documents containing Buyer's Data must be handled securely and secured under lock and key when not in use and shall be securely destroyed when no longer required, using either a cross-cut shredder or a professional secure disposal organisation.

The term 'lock and key' is defined as: "securing information in a lockable desk drawer, cupboard or filing cabinet which is under the user's sole control and to which they hold the keys".

- 1.13. When necessary to hand carry removable media and/or hardcopy paper documents containing Buyer's Data, the media or documents being carried shall be kept under cover and transported in such a way as to ensure that no unauthorised person has either visual or physical access to the material being carried. This paragraph shall apply equally regardless of whether the material is being carried inside or outside of company premises.

The term 'under cover' means that the information is carried within an opaque folder or envelope within official premises and buildings and within a closed briefcase or other similar bag or container when outside official premises or buildings.

- 1.14. In the event of termination of Contract due to expiry, as a result of an Insolvency Event or for breach by the Supplier, all information assets provided, created or resulting from provision of the Services shall not be considered as the Supplier's assets and must be returned to the Buyer and written assurance obtained from an appropriate officer of the Supplier that these assets regardless of location and format have been fully sanitised throughout the Supplier's organisation in line with paragraph 1.15.

- 1.15. In the event of termination, equipment failure or obsolescence, all Buyer's Data and Buyer's Information, in either hardcopy or electronic format, that is physically held or logically stored by the Supplier must be accounted for and either physically returned or securely sanitised or destroyed in accordance with the current HMG policy using an NCSC-approved product or method.

Where sanitisation or destruction is not possible for legal, regulatory or technical reasons, such as data stored in a cloud system, Storage Area Network (SAN) or on shared backup tapes, then the Supplier shall protect (and ensure that any sub-contractor protects) the Buyer's Information and Buyer's Data until such time, which may be long after termination or expiry of the Contract, when it can be securely cleansed or destroyed.

Evidence of secure destruction will be required in all cases.

- 1.16. Access by Supplier Staff to Buyer's Data, including user credentials, shall be confined to those individuals who have a "need-to-know" in order to carry out their role; and have undergone mandatory pre-employment screening, to a minimum of HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS); or hold an appropriate National Security Vetting clearance as required by the Buyer. All Supplier Staff must complete this process before access to Buyer's Data is permitted. [Any Supplier Staff who will be in contact with children or vulnerable adults must, in addition to any security clearance, have successfully undergone an Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check prior to any contact].
- 1.17. All Supplier Staff who handle Buyer's Data shall have annual awareness training in protecting information.
- 1.18. Notwithstanding any other provisions as to business continuity and disaster recovery in the Contract, the Supplier shall, as a minimum, have in place robust business continuity arrangements and processes including IT disaster recovery plans and procedures that conform to ISO 22301 to ensure that the delivery of the Contract is not adversely affected in the event of an incident. An incident shall be defined as any situation that might, or could lead to, a disruption, loss, emergency or crisis to the Services delivered. If an ISO 22301 certificate is not available the supplier will provide evidence of the effectiveness of their ISO 22301 conformant business continuity arrangements and processes including IT disaster recovery plans and procedures. This must include evidence that the Supplier has tested or exercised these plans within the last 12 months and produced a written report of the outcome, including required actions.
- 1.19. Any suspected or actual breach of the confidentiality, integrity or availability of Buyer's Data, including user credentials, used or handled while providing the Services shall be recorded as a Security Incident. This includes any non-compliance with the Departmental Security

Requirements and these provisions, or other security standards pertaining to the solution.

Security Incidents shall be reported to the Buyer immediately, wherever practical, even if unconfirmed or when full details are not known, but always within 24 hours of discovery. If Security Incident reporting has been delayed by more than 24 hours, the Supplier should provide an explanation about the delay.

Security Incidents shall be reported through the Buyer's nominated system or service owner.

Security Incidents shall be investigated by the Supplier with outcomes being notified to the Buyer.

- 1.20. The Supplier shall ensure that any Supplier ICT systems and hosting environments that are used to handle, store or process Buyer's Data, including Supplier ICT connected to Supplier ICT systems used to handle, store or process Buyer's Data, shall be subject to independent IT Health Checks (ITHC) using an NCSC CHECK Scheme ITHC provider before go-live and periodically (at least annually) thereafter. The findings of the ITHC relevant to the Services being provided are to be shared with the Buyer in full without modification or redaction and all necessary remedial work carried out. In the event of significant security issues being identified, a follow up remediation test may be required, to be determined by the Buyer upon review of the ITHC findings.
- 1.21. The Supplier or sub-contractors providing the Services will provide the Buyer with full details of any actual or future intent to develop, manage, support, process or store Buyer's Data outside of the UK mainland. The Supplier or sub-contractor shall not go ahead with any such proposal without the prior written agreement from the Buyer.
- 1.22. The Buyer reserves the right to audit the Supplier or sub-contractors providing the Services within a mutually agreed timeframe but always within seven days of notice of a request to audit being given. The audit shall cover the overall scope of the Services being supplied and the Supplier's, and any sub-contractors', compliance with the paragraphs contained in this Schedule.
- 1.23. The Supplier and sub-contractors shall undergo appropriate security assurance activities and shall provide appropriate evidence including the production of the necessary security documentation as determined by the Buyer. This will include obtaining any necessary professional security resources required to support the Supplier's and sub-contractor's security assurance activities such as: a Security and Information Risk Advisor (SIRA) certified to NCSC Certified Cyber Security Consultancy (CCSC) or NCSC Certified Cyber Professional (CCP) schemes.

- 1.24. Where the Supplier is delivering an ICT solution to the Buyer they shall design and deliver solutions and services that are compliant with the HMG Security Policy Framework in conjunction with current NCSC Information Assurance Guidance and Buyer's Policy. The Supplier will provide the Buyer with evidence of compliance for the solutions and services to be delivered. The Buyer's expectation is that the Supplier shall provide written evidence of:
- 1.24.1. compliance with HMG Minimum Cyber Security Standard.
 - 1.24.2. any existing security assurance for the Services to be delivered, such as: ISO/IEC 27001 / 27002 or an equivalent industry level certification (e.g. United Kingdom Accreditation Service).
 - 1.24.3. any existing HMG security accreditations or assurance that are still valid including: details of the awarding body; the scope of the accreditation; any caveats or restrictions to the accreditation; the date awarded, plus a copy of the residual risk statement.
 - 1.24.4. documented progress in achieving any security assurance or accreditation activities including whether documentation has been produced and submitted. The Supplier shall provide details of who the awarding body or organisation will be and date expected.

Additional information and evidence to that listed above may be required to ensure compliance with DfE security requirements as part of the DfE security assurance process. Where a request for evidence or information is made by the Buyer, the Supplier will acknowledge the request within 5 working days and either provide the information within that timeframe, or, if that is not possible, provide a date when the information will be provided to the Buyer. In any case, the Supplier must respond to information requests from the Buyer needed to support the security assurance process promptly and without undue delay.

- 1.25. The Supplier shall contractually enforce all these Departmental Security Requirements onto any third-party suppliers, sub-contractors or partners who could potentially access Buyer's Data in the course of providing the Services.
- 1.26. The Supplier shall comply with the [NCSC's social media guidance: how to use social media safely](#) for any web and social media-based communications. In addition, any Communications Plan deliverable must include a risk assessment relating to the use of web and social media channels for the programme, including controls and mitigations to be applied and how the NCSC social media guidance will be complied with. The Supplier shall implement the necessary controls and mitigations within the plan and regularly review and update the risk assessment throughout the contract period. The Buyer shall have the right to review the risks within the plan and approve the controls and

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mitigations to be implemented, including requiring the Supplier to implement any additional reasonable controls to ensure risks are managed within the Buyer's risk appetite.

- 1.27. Any Supplier ICT system used to handle, store or process the Buyer's Data, including any Supplier ICT systems connected to systems that handle, store or process the Buyer's Data, must have in place protective monitoring at a level that is commensurate with the security risks posed to those systems and the data held. The Supplier shall provide evidence to the Buyer upon request of the protective monitoring arrangements in place needed to assess compliance with this requirement.