

About tScheme

tScheme serves organisations in the trust service provider sector, providing accreditation for the services they supply to consumers and organisations.

Formed in 2000, tScheme is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve levels of trust in digital economies. We provide an independent means of establishing and testing the trust of services to recognised standards. tScheme's growth reflects the rapid growth of online services, particularly those which involve a need for trusted services.

What we do

We assess services provided by Trust Service Providers (TSPs) against strict criteria. The assessment is carried out independently by UKAS-approved assessors. Only TSPs that meet the requirements can carry the tScheme trust mark. The tScheme trust mark indicates that:

- The service has been thoroughly and independently evaluated against rigorous criteria
- The service provider has agreed to keep to these criteria
- The service provider subscribes to the tScheme Code of Conduct
- The service provider will act promptly and fairly to remedy any faults
- The service provider accepts annual renewal and audit obligations

Why obtain tScheme approval?

tScheme approval is a sign that a trust scheme or service meets exacting standards, and can be relied upon by users and operators.

The tScheme approval process and becoming a Registered Applicant

The tScheme approval process, from start to finish, can usually be achieved within 12 months. Organisations, which have already achieved ISO 27001 or ISO 9000 certification or are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, can in many cases achieve approval more quickly and potentially in as little as 3 months.

The process has two stages. In the first the Organisation becomes a Registered Applicant by:

- selecting the tScheme approval profiles that are appropriate to the service. For more information on tScheme profiles please visit:
www.tscheme.org/schemes-and-profiles/approval-profiles
- selecting an approved assessor. Assessors are independent of tScheme and are UKAS accredited. For more information on approved assessors please visit

www.tscheme.org/directory/recognised-accreditation-bodies-and-assessors

- completing the outline Specification of Service Subject to Assessment (S3A). This provides tScheme and the chosen assessor with a high-level description of the service to be submitted for approval, and lists the relevant approval profiles for the type of service approval being sought.
- registering with tScheme, by agreeing a timetable for assessment and approval, agreeing to be bound by the tScheme Code of Conduct and paying the registration fee. The registration fee is offset against the subsequent approval fees if approval is achieved within 12 months.

Once registered with tScheme the service will be listed in the tScheme directory of Registered Applicants (www.tscheme.org/directory/registered-applicants) and the organisation able to display the appropriate tScheme Registered Applicant mark.