



G-Cloud 15 – Service Definition

Business Assurance for Digital Agriculture Transformation

Taleos Consulting - Lot 3

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SERVICE OVERVIEW

Public sector organisations responsible for agricultural support are undertaking long-term digital and operational transformation in response to climate change, biodiversity commitments, evolving domestic policy, and increasing public accountability. These changes require the introduction of new schemes, rules, and monitoring approaches while continuing to operate existing services, systems, and payment mechanisms.

Transformation of this nature introduces significant delivery, operational, and assurance risk. New digital capabilities must coexist with legacy platforms, complex land and customer data, and established operational processes. Decisions taken early in policy design and system change can have long-lasting impacts on cost, delivery confidence, auditability, and customer experience.

Taleos Consulting provides business assurance, business architecture, and data assurance services to support digital agriculture transformation. We help organisations design, assure, and transition to future agriculture support frameworks while protecting Business as Usual (BAU), maintaining data integrity, and ensuring that change is feasible, proportionate, and sustainable over time.

THE BUSINESS NEED

Organisations delivering agricultural support face a combination of strategic and operational challenges, including:

- Maintaining continuity of BAU services during multi-year transformation
- Designing and implementing new schemes, measures, and eligibility rules
- Managing dependency on complex land, geospatial, and customer data
- Integrating new digital services with legacy systems and processes
- Meeting increasing expectations for auditability, transparency, and value for money

Without strong, independent business assurance, programmes risk cost escalation, delivery delays, operational disruption, and loss of confidence among stakeholders, delivery teams, and service users.

There is a clear need for assurance that:

- Policy intent can be delivered within real operational and technical constraints
- New services and rules will function end-to-end in practice
- Existing investments are protected and reused where appropriate
- Data remains accurate, consistent, and fit for purpose
- Transformation delivers measurable outcomes rather than unintended consequences

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SERVICE DEFINITION

Taleos Consulting provides independent Business Assurance for Digital Agriculture Transformation programmes. The service supports organisations throughout the lifecycle of change — from early design and option assessment through to implementation assurance, transition, and stabilisation.

We are experts in land and farming data and have in-depth knowledge of the nuances of land parcel and feature data. Our knowledge and experience in land data in developed over time and through the implementation of a large Land Parcel Identification System for a UK Agricultural Department

We understand that UK (as the rest of the world), is now facing the twin and interconnected challenges of a climate emergency and an biodiversity crisis. Taleos Consulting is best placed to support an updated agricultural support framework that meets the needs of British farmers and crofters and is critical in meeting the challenging climate response set out by UK.

Our role is to act as a trusted assurance partner, working alongside policy, business, and technology teams to ensure that new capabilities, services, and delivery decisions are aligned with business objectives, operational realities, and long-term operating models.

The service is assurance-led rather than delivery-led. We do not replace delivery teams. Instead, we provide informed challenge, structured assurance, and practical guidance to reduce delivery risk, protect BAU, and support confident decision-making.

The detailed service definition would include the following components

Business Assurance

Taleos Consulting provides end-to-end Business Assurance services to support the safe design, transition, and operation of future agricultural support frameworks. Business Assurance ensures that policy intent, business rules, data, systems, and operating models remain aligned, deliverable, and auditable as reform is implemented.

Our assurance approach spans the full service lifecycle, providing confidence that proposed changes are feasible within existing constraints and that dependencies across land data, geospatial services, application processes, inspections, payments, and monitoring are properly understood. We work closely with policy, business, and technical teams to assess impacts, identify risks, and provide clear advice on delivery options before commitments are made.

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Business Assurance integrates closely with Land Data and Geospatial Assurance and Business Architecture, ensuring that future operating models, land management rules, and supporting digital capabilities form a coherent, sustainable whole. This enables informed decision-making, reduces delivery risk, and protects Business as Usual while enabling reform

- Taleos Consulting will work with technical architecture teams to maintain a common in-depth and end-to-end knowledge of the current landscape, the underlying system rules, its business and process flows, and how they interact with the complex data models
- We will utilise process and business rules understanding to propose alternate delivery options for services that will replace current support frameworks that deliver the policy objectives and is neutral in how it could be delivered technically.
- Engage early with programme leads to ensure all new capabilities can be delivered at a reasonable cost technically.
- Act as a “bridge” between the old and the new schemes and services. As individual solution components are migrated, assure the end-to-end integrity and accuracy of process flows spanning multiple systems (old and new).
- Provide assurance on which components of the current solution can be retained and where changes will need be made to deliver new outcomes. Work with the technical architecture team to identify what components need to be changed and how they can be integrated into the new or existing systems.
- Work with the business teams to identify cases that do not follow existing rules and processes and advise the delivery teams in the application of rules making changes or fixing defects if required.
- Work with the technical architecture team to support the design completion and delivery of new or enhanced solution.
- Provide end-to-end business assurance to the business ensuring that all change projects and new solutions meet the actual “needs” of the business and can co-exist with existing capabilities / solutions without having a detrimental effect on the overall customer offering. Provide end to end design assurance for any projects, programmes and work-packages that impact existing platform and applications
- Support the development of new measures and schemes that are effective and targeted.
- Work with business and technical teams to maintain an in-depth and end to end knowledge of the core systems and their subscribers along with a detailed understanding of the entire technology landscape



Business Operating Model – Business Architecture

Taleos Consulting provides Business Architecture services to support the definition, assurance, and transition of future operating models for agricultural support delivery. Business Architecture provides a structured view of how policy intent, business capabilities, processes, data, systems, and organisational arrangements work together to deliver outcomes.

Using our Target Operating Model (TOM) framework as a reference, we work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a clear understanding of the current (“As Is”) operating model, including existing capabilities, value streams, data dependencies, system interactions, and organisational responsibilities. This includes assessing capability maturity, data quality, complexity, and delivery risk.

Our Business Architecture services include:

- Mapping business capabilities and value streams to understand how services are delivered end-to-end and how they depend on underlying systems and data
- Identifying capability gaps, constraints, and duplication across policy, delivery, data, and technology landscapes
- Supporting the definition of a future (“To Be”) Target Operating Model, including required capabilities, operating principles, and service boundaries
- Developing structured gap analyses to identify where existing capabilities can be reused, enhanced, or retired, and where new capabilities are required
- Proposing and assessing delivery options, ensuring that risks, costs, dependencies, and benefits are clearly articulated and governed
- Supporting organisational change planning, including roles, responsibilities, performance measures, and transition sequencing

Business Architecture ensures that strategic objectives and value propositions are grounded in practical delivery realities. We work with business and technical teams to ensure that future capabilities are linked to measurable outcomes, that operating models are coherent and sustainable, and that change is planned in a way that protects BAU while enabling reform.

Our standardised modelling framework incorporates capability models, process views, benchmarks, and insights. The six TOM design layers provide a holistic view of the organisation, ensuring that organisation, technology, sourcing, performance, and people are aligned to support high-performing, auditable services.

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Land Data Assurance and Geospatial Assurance

Taleos Consulting provides specialist Land Data Assurance services to support the design, assurance, and evolution of land management and land-based payment systems within agricultural support frameworks. This includes assurance of both attribute-based land data and geospatial representations of land, recognising that modern agricultural delivery increasingly depends on spatial data, digital mapping, and Earth Observation-enabled monitoring.

We support organisations in developing and assuring land management rules, services, and data models that are capable of operating across parcel-based, feature-based, and activity-based approaches. This includes ensuring that land data repositories can capture, store, and consume new and emerging land attributes arising from regulatory change, scheme reform, and environmental requirements.

Our Land Data Assurance services include:

- Maintaining detailed, end-to-end understanding of land data models, land rules, and their interaction with schemes, payments, inspections, and monitoring services
- Assuring that future land rules and services will operate effectively within transformed land management solutions, including LPIS, GSAA, and successor platforms
- Working with policy, business, and technical architecture teams to ensure land rules are internally consistent, auditable, and implementable
- Supporting the design and assurance of geospatial land management solutions, including map-based application submission, spatial validation, and integration with Earth Observation and remote sensing data
- Working with domain experts and delivery partners to define consistent data standards, geospatial schemas, and data-sharing approaches across organisations and suppliers
- Assuring that geospatial data, land attributes, and business rules align to support future monitoring, compliance, and outcome-based schemes

This assurance ensures that land and geospatial data remain accurate, extensible, and fit for purpose as agricultural support frameworks evolve, while reducing delivery risk and protecting existing investments.

Knowledge Transfer

Taleos Consulting will help organisations progressively building in-house knowledge using a combination of formal and in-formal learning, on-the-job training, mentoring and coaching,

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performance support, collaborative working and use a balanced scorecard method to measure progress from the agreed baseline.

Business Assurance Testing

- Taleos Consulting will help organisation to develop and maintain a Business Assurance Testing (BAT) function
- Co-develop a testing strategy to position the business well as it moves into transformation
- Identify the impact of change on the key integration points of the existing system.
- Follow formal signoff processes for end to end business journeys before executing and presenting the results to business. Develop detailed BAT plans along with estimations and dis-tribute to the key stakeholders for information and signoff.
- Set up BAT environment in line with industry standards. Maintain the environment and it's integrity to produce correct test results and produce detailed test completion reports and follow existing formal signoff procedures. Use exit gate meeting by involving key stakeholders and collectively take a decision by assessing the Exit Criteria defined in the BAT strategy.
- Work with development teams to ensure issues are fixed and re-tested or suggest workarounds that are acceptable to the business and have no adverse systems or data impact

SERVICE MANAGEMENT

The service can be delivered:

- As a defined project or work package
- As ongoing assurance support on a time-and-materials basis

Delivery models are agreed with the buyer to align with programme needs, governance, and risk profile.

PRICING

Pricing is provided in accordance with the SFIA rate card. Engagements may be delivered on a time-and-materials or fixed-price basis, subject to scope and requirements.

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ORDERING AND INVOICING

Ordering, invoicing, and termination are in accordance with the Supplier Terms and Conditions for this service.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on any of our G-Cloud services please contact Taleos Consulting at info@taleosconsulting.com

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