

Assurance

The background is a dark blue field filled with intricate, glowing white and light blue circular patterns that resemble complex circuitry or data maps. A solid orange horizontal bar is positioned below the 'Assurance' header.

At i3Works, Assurance is more than a compliance exercise, it is a strategic enabler that builds organisational confidence, mitigates risk, and drives successful delivery. Our Association of Project Management (APM) and National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA, formerly IPA) Review Team Leader and Review Team Member accredited Assurance team brings deep expertise across diverse sectors, including Transport, Defence, Emergency Services, and Central Government. Our expertise in providing assurance services is industry recognised, we recently formed part of the APM Specific Interest Group (SIG) tasked with updating the APM Measures for Assuring Projects publication.

Our approach employs proven methodologies such as the Three Lines of Defence model (3LOD), APM recognised Integrated Assurance Framework, and the APM Assurance Toolkit. We are accredited in leading standards, including NISTA Review Team Leader and Review Team Member, APM™ Assurance Practitioner, Management of Risk (MoR), Agile PM, PRINCE2, and ITIL4, ensuring our clients benefit from innovative expertise. We employ industry best practices, underpinned with practical experience to deliver assurance that is tailored to our client's specific requirements.

We offer a full suite of Assurance services, from Stage Gate Reviews, Health Checks, and Critical Friend Reviews to NISTA style High-Risk Reviews covering Deep Dives, Quality & Benefits Realisation Reviews and the creation and development of Integrated Assurance and Approval Plans (IAAP). These services are designed to enable organisations and their Portfolio Management Offices (PMO) to effectively assess and validate delivery confidence, identify delivery risks early, and provide actionable recommendations that strengthen governance, optimise outcomes and provides confidence that business case benefits will be realised.

Our experience spans high-profile initiatives such as:

- + **National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Quality Assurance Framework** – We designed and embedded a lifecycle-based assurance model to improve product reliability and stakeholder confidence across the organisation for effectively and consistently assuring the quality of its products – guidance, learning materials, and policy documents – amid organisational change and the introduction of a new Target Operating Model (TOM).
- + **Cabinet Office National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA – formerly IPA)** – We frequently conduct High Risk Reviews on behalf of NISTA across the UK Government's Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP). Our NISTA and APM accredited assurers have led and participated in UK Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) Project reviews, such as the Nuclear Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) valued at £50bn, Astute Nuclear Hunter Killer Submarine Programme valued at £12Bn and the Constant at Sea Nuclear Deterrent (CASD) Trident Replacement Programme valued at £41Bn.
- + **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)** – We are routinely commissioned by the NDA to review business and time critical programmes, such as the £2.0bn Hex Conversion Programme, and £multimillion projects, including the procurement of the Infrastructure Delivery Partnership framework (IDP), Javelin cloud data migration and Enterprise Asset Management

system replacement programmes. This included evaluating business case, delivery models, interrogating the cost and time estimating processes and reporting on the overall confidence of achieving value add outcomes through deliverability of the initiatives.

- + **Transport for London (TfL)** – TfL regularly engages us to conduct Risk Led Assurance Reviews across their Technology and Infrastructure portfolios that deliver most TfL renewal and improvement initiatives. Our NISTA and APM accredited assurers have critically reviewed a range of high value (£multimillion) critical programmes and projects from both portfolios, such as Technology: iBus2 & CPOS ECOS and Infrastructure: Project Blackwell Tunnel Refurbishment and DLR Pontoon Station Upgrade. What sets us apart is our collaborative and empathetic approach. We work in partnership with clients and their delivery teams, ensuring open and honest dialogue and shared ownership. Unlike traditional audit methods, our assurance is constructive, forward looking and focusing on improvement rather than fault-finding. This ensures organisational leadership and their stakeholder communities gain confidence that processes are credible, effective and the initiatives will deliver their intended benefits.

Whether supporting major programmes, Agile transformations, or complex business change, we deliver assurance that is independent, risk-based, and aligned to organisational objectives. Our goal is simple: to provide clarity, confidence, and capability that enables successful delivery every time.



What We Can Do For You

At i3Works, we provide Assurance that delivers transparency, evidence led performance insights and practical recommendations that underpin delivery success. Our clients rely on us to validate the quality and resilience of their projects, programmes, and portfolios, while uncovering opportunities for continuous improvement. Through tailored assurance techniques, we deliver specialist advice and honest feedback that empower organisational decision-making and strengthen governance.

Our approach is always collaborative, never adversarial. We focus on partnership, creating a transparent environment and shared ownership. Using recognised principles such as the Three Lines of Defence model, we help clients meet standards, comply with regulations, and achieve contractual obligations. Beyond identifying risks, we provide practical, achievable recommendations and support implementation to ensure enduring success.

From Gate Reviews and Health Checks to High-Risk Reviews and Integrated Assurance Strategies, we offer flexible solutions tailored to your needs. Whether you require assurance coaching, stage reviews, or the establishment of a dedicated assurance function, we have the extensive expertise to deliver.

With NISTA High-Risk Reviewers and APM accredited practitioners on our team of subject matter experts, we bring first-rate insight into complex, high-risk initiatives. Our mission is to deliver confidence that your investments are secure, your risks are managed, and your objectives will be achieved.



Our Experience

Client:

NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS COUNCIL

Project/Programme:

Quality Assurance Framework for Products

Situation

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), the professional voice for UK fire and rescue services, identified the need for a consistent and reliable approach to assuring the quality of its products – guidance, learning materials, and policy documents – amid organisational change and the introduction of a new Target Operating Model (TOM). Existing gaps in quality, governance, and stakeholder engagement posed risks to product uptake and public safety.

Task

The NFCC engaged i3Works to design and implement a robust quality assurance framework that would address these gaps, align with best practice, and remain adaptable to TOM-driven governance changes. The framework needed to cover the entire product lifecycle and ensure proportionate assurance based on risk and impact.

Action

i3Works conducted a comprehensive gap analysis using Total Quality Management principles and collaborated with NFCC stakeholders to design a tailored assurance framework. This included mapping assurance activities across the product lifecycle,

developing review types aligned to the “Three Lines of Defence” model, and creating toolkits, templates, and decision trees for tailoring assurance to product risk profiles. A pilot was run across multiple business areas to refine the framework, supported by training sessions and a capability matrix. Additionally, i3Works helped establish a Governance Assurance Group to embed continuous improvement and break down siloes.

Result

The framework delivered a proportionate, organisation-wide approach to product quality, improving risk management, decision-making, and stakeholder confidence. It enhanced product reliability, facilitated collaboration, and positioned NFCC for sustained quality governance, ensuring safer and more effective outputs for UK fire and rescue services.



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Our Experience

Client:

CABINET OFFICE

Project/Programme:

Geological Disposal Facility

Situation

The National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA – formerly IPA) commissioned i3Works to conduct a high-risk assurance review of the £50Bn proposed Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The review aimed to assess the delivery model and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)'s ability to realise anticipated business benefits from the long-term disposal solution of nuclear waste.

Task

i3Works was tasked with providing independent assurance, validating the programme's delivery strategy, financial model, and resource deployment. The objective was to identify risks and recommend actions to enhance delivery feasibility and stakeholder confidence.

Action

Over six days, the IPA-accredited review team undertook a forensic analysis of programme documentation and conducted interviews with key stakeholders, including the Senior Responsible Owner and programme director. The team triangulated findings from desk-based studies and interviews to produce a comprehensive assessment. This included evaluating the intricate financial dependencies and delivery enablers underpinning the initiative. The review culminated in a formal IPA report, incorporating observations, recommendations, and a delivery confidence rating.



Result

The review team found the programme to be deliverable and provided a suite of prioritised recommendations to ensure the initiative avoids cost and schedule overruns. The recommendations provided a clear roadmap to strengthen governance, validate business drivers, and optimise resource allocation.

The assurance review delivered significant benefits:

- + Enhanced stakeholder confidence
- + Alignment with NDA objectives
- + Valuable knowledge transfer to the delivery team

The engagement was completed within agreed cost and time parameters, reinforcing the value of independent assurance in complex, high-risk programmes.

Client Testimonial

Client:

NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS COUNCIL

Project/Programme:

Quality Assurance Framework for Products



The collaboration with their team was exceptional and I found the entire process to be highly productive.

From the outset, i3works demonstrated a genuine commitment to incorporating our ideas and input into the project. Their team actively engaged with us, ensuring that our perspectives were valued and incorporated into the outcome. It was evident that they approached the project as a collaborative effort, working closely with us as a cohesive project team, rather than simply functioning as external consultants driven by their own agendas.

The team maintained a constant flow of communication, keeping us informed at every stage with consistent open dialogue that fostered a sense of trust and transparency.

They actively sought and considered the comments and recommendations provided by various stakeholders. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with them, thank you."

Sarah Darracott-Hawkins **Head of Portfolio and Planning**

All Services on G-Cloud



P3M



Digital Services



**Business Change &
Transformation**



Architecture



Project Controls



**Climate Security, ESG and
Sustainability**



Assurance



Data and AI Automation



Service Management



Cyber Security

Driving Public Sector Transformation Since 2014

Who We Are

i3Works Ltd is a leading UK-based management consultancy, specialising in Project, Programme, and Portfolio Management (P3M), digital delivery, and transformation within the public sector.

The i3Group comprises [i3Works](#), [i3Secure](#), [i3NetZero](#) and [i3Data](#). We combine deep expertise with innovative thinking to deliver sustainable solutions that create measurable organisational improvement.

Our Expertise

We partner with major public sector organisations such as the MoD, HMRC, DEFRA & Home Office, applying best-practice frameworks like Agile, Waterfall, and hybrid methodologies to ensure flexibility and efficiency.

Our services include:

- + P3M
- + Business Change & Transformation
- + Project Controls
- + Assurance
- + Service Management
- + Digital Services
- + Architecture
- + i3NetZero (Climate Security, ESG and Sustainability Services)
- + i3Data (Data and AI Automation)
- + i3Secure (Cyber Security)

All delivered by specialist and accredited consultants, ensuring tailored solutions for every client.

Our Vision

i3Works is committed to shaping the future of consultancy through integrity, collaboration, and impact. We strive to be the consultancy of choice for public sector transformation, delivering exceptional results that exceed expectations and create lasting value for the communities we serve.

Forward thinking

The public sector is evolving—and so are we. Our future strategy focuses on:

- AI-driven delivery and automation for smarter, faster outcomes
- Digital resilience and cybersecurity to protect critical services
- Net Zero and sustainability initiatives embedded in transformation programmes
- Data-driven insights and predictive analytics for evidence-based decisions
- Workforce capability building to prepare teams for a digital-first future

By embracing our priorities, i3Works will continue to lead the way in delivering innovative, secure, and sustainable solutions that empower public sector organisations to thrive in a dynamic world.

Let's Shape the Future Together

Discover how i3Works can help your organisation achieve its strategic goals.

Visit: <https://i3works.co.uk>

Email: info@i3works.co.uk

