

Responsible AI Governance & Readiness

Service Description



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About Anmut

Anmut provides public sector decision-makers with the tools and insights to understand how data supports their organisation's goals and where to invest to create measurable value.

We specialise exclusively in data management. Our multi-disciplinary team has proven experience delivering evidence-based outcomes for government organisations. Typical results include clearer prioritisation of data investments, reduced rework and processing costs, strengthened governance, and faster, lower-risk cloud or digital programmes.

We are Cyber Essentials Plus certified and operate an Information Security Management System aligned to ISO 27001. We treat data protection and responsible handling as core to every engagement. For more information visit anmut.co.uk.

"Anmut is unique in that they bring the best of both worlds: the rigour of a Big Four combined with the agility and creativity of a start-up."

"Anmut apply data science to data problems."

CDO, UK Government organisation



Overview of our Responsible AI Governance & Readiness offering

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly embedded in how organisations deliver services, make decisions, and interact with customers, citizens, and employees. AI-enabled capabilities are now routinely used to automate processes, optimise performance, support decision-making, and generate insight at scale. As reliance on these capabilities increases, so too does the importance of ensuring that AI is underpinned by data and governance arrangements that are lawful, transparent, accountable, and fit for purpose across their full lifecycle.

Responsible AI governance is the organisational capability that enables AI systems to be designed, deployed, and operated in a way that can be trusted and sustained over time. It provides the structures, controls, and decision-making mechanisms required to manage ethical and operational risks, and to ensure that AI use remains aligned with organisational objectives, regulatory expectations, and public trust.

Recent government guidance highlights that many AI risks do not arise from models alone, but from the quality, structure, governance, and legitimacy of the underlying datasets used to train, operate, and monitor AI systems. In practice, many organisations have invested in AI technologies without establishing the corresponding dataset-level governance, accountability, and operating models required to support responsible use at scale. Ethical considerations are often addressed retrospectively, data ownership and lawful basis are unclear, and policies are not consistently translated into operational controls embedded within data pipelines, business processes, and delivery practices.

Responsible AI governance is therefore not a purely technical or compliance-driven exercise. It is an enterprise-wide capability spanning data governance, risk management, technology delivery, and organisational decision-making. Effective governance requires clear ownership of datasets and AI use cases, defined decision rights, consistent application of principles, and ongoing oversight across the full AI lifecycle - from use case identification and data preparation through to deployment, monitoring, and re-authorisation.

At Anmut, we help organisations establish responsible AI governance and readiness capabilities that are practical, proportionate, and aligned to their strategic objectives. We treat datasets and AI systems as strategic, data-enabled assets and apply our data asset management expertise to ensure that ethical, legal, and operational considerations are embedded into how AI is governed, built, and used. Our services enable organisations to realise the benefits of AI while managing risk, meeting regulatory expectations, and maintaining trust with stakeholders.



How Anmut delivers its Responsible AI Governance & Readiness Services

At Anmut, we act as an independent and trusted advisor, helping organisations navigate the practical and organisational complexity of responsible AI governance and readiness. We typically support senior leaders, including CDOs, CIOs, and executive or board-level sponsors, who are accountable for AI outcomes but lack a clear, end-to-end view of how AI-related risks are being managed across datasets, use cases, and delivery processes. Our role is to translate ethical principles, regulatory expectations, and organisational values into actionable governance arrangements, operating models, and controls that can be sustained over time.

During the onboarding phase, we work with clients to confirm objectives, scope, and priority AI use cases. We engage stakeholders across business, data, technology, risk, legal, and compliance functions to understand how AI capabilities are currently being developed and used, how datasets are sourced and governed, and where accountability and decision rights sit. This enables us to assess the maturity of existing governance and data management arrangements, identify gaps and risks, and highlight areas of duplication or ambiguity that may limit AI readiness.

Our approach is structured and repeatable. We assess responsible AI governance and readiness across the full AI lifecycle, from use case identification and approval, through data sourcing, preparation, and reuse, to model development, validation, deployment, monitoring, and retirement. In line with current government guidance, we place particular emphasis on dataset-level governance, including ownership, lawful basis for use, metadata quality, lineage, and controls that enable AI systems to operate transparently and responsibly.

Based on this assessment, we work with clients to design and embed proportionate governance frameworks and operating models. This may include defining responsible AI and data principles, clarifying decision rights and accountability, designing approval and escalation workflows, embedding ethical and legal checks into data and delivery pipelines, and aligning AI governance with existing risk management and data governance structures. Where appropriate, we support clients to pilot these arrangements against a small number of priority AI use cases to test effectiveness and organisational readiness before scaling.

Throughout our engagements, we work collaboratively with client teams to build capability and confidence, ensuring that responsible AI governance and readiness can be sustained beyond the life of the project. Our outputs are practical and actionable, including governance frameworks, operating models, role definitions, and implementation roadmaps that enable organisations to scale AI safely, lawfully, and with confidence.



Client inputs

To support the effective delivery of our responsible AI governance and readiness advisory services, the following inputs are beneficial where available. These inputs enable us to understand the organisation's current AI and data landscape and tailor our approach accordingly, in line with current government guidance on AI-ready data.

Where available, we typically review:

1. An inventory of existing or planned AI use cases, systems, and capabilities
2. Information on the datasets used or proposed for AI
3. Documentation describing current AI development, deployment and monitoring processes
4. Existing policies, principles or standards related to ethics, risk management, data governance, information governance, or AI
5. Organisational structures, roles, and decision-making forums relevant to data, analytics, technology, risk, legal, and compliance functions
6. Regulatory, statutory, or sector-specific obligations relevant to the use of data and AI
7. Known ethical, operational, legal, or reputational concerns associated with current or planned AI initiatives
8. Access to key stakeholders across business, data, technology, risk and legal functions; and
9. Strategic objectives and outcomes driving the adoption of AI within the organisation.

As part of project initiation, we review these inputs with our clients to confirm scope, priorities, and delivery approach. We recognise that many organisations do not yet have complete inventories, documentation, or dataset-level clarity. Where inputs are incomplete or unavailable, we draw on our experience to propose pragmatic alternatives, support rapid discovery, and agree a proportionate delivery approach aligned to the organisation's maturity, risk profile, and ambition for AI adoption.



An example of our experience

THE CHALLENGE

A major UK government infrastructure organisation engaged Anmut to support the establishment of a responsible AI governance framework. While AI use cases were emerging across the organisation, there was limited transparency over how AI-related risks were being governed, how responsibilities were distributed, and whether existing data and governance arrangements were sufficient to support AI use safely and at scale.

The organisation needed a clear, proportionate governance approach that could identify gaps, clarify accountability, and coordinate an action plan to address corporate AI-related risks, without creating unnecessary duplication or constraining innovation and delivery momentum.

THE SOLUTION

We used our Responsible AI Framework, based on leading practice across the UK public sector and relevant international standards, to work with senior sponsors and a cross-functional AI working group to establish a clear governance baseline. The framework set out a comprehensive but proportionate set of requirements, including guiding principles, policies, AI and dataset inventories, controls, standards, and accountability structures, against which existing arrangements could be assessed.

Using the framework, we collaborated with client teams to assess which requirements were already met, partially met, or unmet through existing governance, data management, and delivery practices. This structured assessment enabled a clear gap analysis while avoiding duplication of existing artefacts, and helped build shared understanding of responsible AI expectations across business, digital, data, and risk functions.

In parallel, we supported the organisation in defining and publishing a set of responsible AI guiding principles. These principles provided a clear 'call to action' for short-term improvements, while also informing longer-term planning for supplier engagement and in-house AI development. The principles were explicitly mapped to governance controls to support consistent interpretation and application.

Building on this foundation, we developed a prioritised roadmap of governance and operating model improvements. This roadmap was designed to integrate with existing business planning and portfolio change processes and spanned multiple enterprise domains, including digital delivery, data and information governance, third-party procurement, and cyber security.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

The engagement delivered a clear, evidence-based view of responsible AI governance and readiness across the organisation, including:

- A structured gap analysis mapping responsible AI and data-related requirements to existing governance arrangements and methodologies, enabling senior leaders to understand where change was required and where existing controls could be reused.
- A prioritised implementation plan setting out practical next steps, from quick wins to more complex organisational change initiatives, aligned to in-flight programmes and clearly defining accountabilities across the AI lifecycle.
- A set of responsible AI guiding principles, mapped to specific governance controls, to support enterprise-wide communication, engagement, and consistent decision-making.
- A documented controls framework aligned with the organisation's existing cyber security controls framework, setting out proportionate controls to address ethical, legal, and operational risks, including fairness, bias management, and explainability.

Together, these outcomes enabled the organisation to position responsible AI governance as an integrated part of its wider corporate governance and change management approach, providing a stronger foundation for safe, scalable AI adoption.



Data protection

At Anmut, we feel strongly that data is one of the most valuable and important assets, which is why we are committed to protecting data by maintaining the highest levels of data security and ensuring compliance with data protection regulations. We are Cyber Essentials Plus certified and have developed a comprehensive information security management system that is aligned with ISO 27001.

RECOGNISED



Forbes



Connect your data to your purpose.

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