Cyber Security
Defence Consultants

Cyber Security Consultancy

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G-Cloud 15 Service Description

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GovAssure and CAF Assessment Service

Cyber Security Defence Consultants

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Service Definition Document

Check Point Harmony Email and Collaboration MSSP

1 OVERVIEW

Cyber Security Defence Consultants delivers specialist GovAssure and NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment services to UK government departments and public sector organisations.

Our assessors have extensive experience delivering CAF assessments across central government, achieving SIRO sign-off and supporting organisations through the annual GovAssure cycle. We provide gap analysis against all 39 CAF outcomes and associated Indicators of Good Practice (IGPs), remediation planning, evidence preparation, and ongoing compliance support.

All consultants hold SC clearance and relevant professional certifications including CISSP, CISM, and ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor qualifications. Our engagement process aligns with the NCSC Certified Cyber Security Consultancy Standard.

2 SERVICES

2.1 GovAssure Assessment Service

GovAssure is the annual cyber security assessment process for UK government departments, requiring organisations to demonstrate their security posture against the NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework. Our services support organisations throughout this cycle:

- Initial assessment and gap analysis against CAF outcomes
- Evidence gathering and documentation preparation
- Remediation planning with prioritised action roadmaps
- SIRO briefings and board-level reporting
- Submission support for annual GovAssure returns
- Ongoing maturity improvement programmes

2.2 CAF Assessment Methodology

The NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework comprises four objectives covering 14 principles and 39 contributing outcomes. Our assessment methodology covers:

2.2.1 Objective A: Managing Security Risk

- Governance arrangements and risk management processes
- Asset management and supply chain security

2.2.2 Objective B: Protecting Against Cyber Attack

- Identity and access management controls

- Data security and system security measures
- Resilient networks and staff awareness

2.2.3 Objective C: Detecting Cyber Security Events

- Security monitoring capabilities
- Proactive security event discovery

2.2.4 Objective D: Minimising Impact of Cyber Security Incidents

- Response and recovery planning
- Lessons learned processes

3 KEY FEATURES

1. Gap analysis against all 39 CAF outcomes and IGPs
2. GovAssure assessment preparation and evidence gathering support
3. Remediation planning with prioritised action roadmaps
4. Security control implementation guidance and validation
5. SIRO briefings and board-level reporting
6. Ongoing CAF maturity improvement programmes
7. Cross-government benchmarking and best practice guidance
8. Evidence documentation for annual GovAssure submissions
9. Integration with existing risk management frameworks
10. Knowledge transfer building internal CAF assessment capability

4 KEY BENEFITS

1. Achieves GovAssure compliance for annual government submissions
2. Identifies security gaps before official assessments
3. Provides clear prioritised remediation roadmap
4. Delivers SIRO sign-off with confidence
5. Reduces risk of assessment failures and delays
6. Builds internal capability through knowledge transfer
7. Aligns security investment with CAF outcome requirements
8. Demonstrates cyber maturity to stakeholders and auditors
9. Supports continuous improvement of security posture
10. Proven government delivery with SC-cleared assessors

5 Engagement Approach

Our standard engagement follows a structured approach:

- **Scoping:** Initial discovery to understand organisational context, systems in scope, and GovAssure timeline requirements
- **Assessment:** Structured review against CAF outcomes through documentation review, stakeholder interviews, and technical evidence gathering
- **Analysis:** Gap identification and maturity scoring with detailed findings documentation
- **Reporting:** Comprehensive assessment report with prioritised remediation roadmap and SIRO briefing materials
- **Support:** Ongoing guidance through remediation and GovAssure submission

6 Pricing

Services are delivered on a time and materials basis using SFIA day rates. Rates range from £500 to £1,150 per day depending on consultant seniority (SFIA Levels 1-7). Fixed price engagements available for defined scope assessments.

Travel and subsistence within M25 included. Outside M25 charged at departmental rates. See separate Pricing Document and SFIA Rate Card for full details.

7 Support

Standard Support (included): Pre-engagement scoping, dedicated assessor contact throughout engagement, post-engagement support for 30 days including report clarification and remediation guidance.

Enhanced Support (additional cost): Extended support, annual reassessments, ongoing maturity tracking. Available at SFIA day rates.

Response Times: Initial response within 4 business hours during UK business hours (09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday). Urgent matters escalated immediately.

8 Qualifications and Certifications

- All assessors hold Security Clearance (SC)
- Staff screening to BS7858:2019
- Cyber Essentials Plus certified
- Professional certifications: CISSP, CISM, ISO 27001 Lead Auditor/Implementer
- Engagement process aligned to NCSC Certified Cyber Security Consultancy Standard