

Stickytech Architecture Governance & Independent Assurance Service

1. Service Overview

The **Stickytech Architecture Governance & Independent Assurance Service** provides independent, objective oversight of technology and solution architecture to ensure alignment with organisational strategy, standards, risk appetite, and regulatory obligations. Delivered under the Stickytech brand, the service combines strong architectural capability with proportionate governance to support confident decision-making, reduce delivery risk, and provide assurance to senior leaders, audit bodies, and regulators.

The service is advisory in nature and designed to operate pragmatically within Agile and DevSecOps delivery models, reflecting Stickytech's principles of clarity, consistency, and value-led architecture.

2. Stickytech Service Objectives

The objectives of the Stickytech service are to:

- Provide independent assurance of architectural designs and decisions
- Ensure consistency with enterprise architecture principles and standards
- Identify and manage architectural, security, and delivery risks early
- Support regulatory compliance and audit readiness
- Enable timely, well-governed delivery of digital and technology services

3. Scope of the Service

In Scope

- Architecture design creation across **Enterprise, Solution, Technical, and Integration** domains
- Architecture design reviews (conceptual, logical, and physical)
- Definition and maintenance of **architecture principles, standards, guardrails, and best practices**
- Independent assurance of programmes, projects, and services
- Compliance assessment against architecture, security, data, and integration policies
- Risk identification and mitigation recommendations
- Support to design authorities and governance forums
- Audit and regulatory assurance support

Out of Scope

- Solution delivery or system implementation
- Programme or project management
- Operational service management

- Executive decision-making authority

4. Service Users

The service supports:

- Delivery and product teams
- Enterprise and domain architects
- Senior Responsible Owners (SROs)
- Technology, security, and data leadership
- Risk, assurance, and audit functions

5. Service Levels

Level 1 – Advisory & Triage

Standards clarification, architectural advice, and initial triage of assurance requests via a managed ticketing system.

Level 2 – Design & Standards Services

Creation of architecture designs (Enterprise, Solution, Technical, Integration) and definition of principles, standards, guardrails, and best practices.

Level 3 – Design Review & Assurance

Structured reviews and documented assurance outcomes for defined initiatives or changes.

Level 4 – Deep / High-Risk Assurance

Enhanced, multi-stage assurance for high-risk or regulatory-sensitive initiatives.

Level 5 – Executive & Audit Support

Senior architectural input to executive forums, audit committees, and regulatory engagement.

6. Governance & Operating Model

The service operates through established governance forums such as an Architecture Review Board or Design Authority. Reviews are risk-based and proportionate, with clear decision rights, documented outcomes, and traceability.

The service is delivery-aligned and supports early engagement to reduce late-stage rework.

7. Ticketing & Engagement

All requests are logged through an approved service management system to ensure transparency, prioritisation, and auditability. Tickets are triaged based on risk, criticality, and delivery impact, with agreed response targets.

8. Accessibility & Inclusivity

The service complies with public-sector accessibility requirements. All digital artefacts, documentation, and service tooling are produced in accessible formats and assessed against recognised public-sector accessibility standards, including EN 301 549. Reasonable adjustments are supported to ensure inclusive participation in assurance and governance activities.

9. Security & Staff Screening

Personnel delivering the service are appropriately vetted and screened in accordance with UK public-sector requirements, including BS 7858:2019 or equivalent government-approved vetting standards. Access to sensitive information is controlled in line with organisational security policies and least-privilege principles.

10. Deliverables

Typical deliverables include:

- Enterprise, Solution, Technical, and Integration architecture designs
- Architecture principles, standards, guardrails, and best practice guidance
- Architecture review findings and recommendations
- Risk and compliance assessments
- Assurance statements and evidence packs
- Decision and deviation records
- Management information and trend reporting

11. Constraints & Assumptions

The service is advisory and dependent on the quality and timeliness of information provided. Assurance outcomes represent point-in-time assessments and operate within defined scope and prioritisation.

12. Stickytech Value Proposition

The Stickytech Architecture Governance & Independent Assurance Service reduces delivery risk, improves architectural consistency, strengthens regulatory compliance, and provides confidence that technology investments are well-governed, accessible, and aligned to business outcomes.

13. Service Levels & Response Targets (SLA)

The service operates on a risk-based prioritisation model:

- **Priority 1 (High Risk / Regulatory):** Initial response within 1 business day; assurance outcome agreed within programme timescales.
- **Priority 2 (Medium Risk):** Initial response within 3 business days; review scheduled as agreed.
- **Priority 3 (Low Risk / Advisory):** Initial response within 5 business days.

14. UK Government Assurance Alignment

The service aligns with UK government digital, security, and assurance expectations, supporting auditability, proportionate governance, and evidence-based decision-making. It is suitable for use within central government, ALBs, and public-sector delivery partners.

15. G-Cloud Service Summary

This service provides architecture design, governance, and independent assurance to support public bodies in reducing delivery risk, meeting compliance obligations, and ensuring value for money. It covers architecture creation, standards definition, and proportionate assurance aligned to UK government expectations.

16. Executive Summary

The Architecture Governance & Independent Assurance Service provides independent oversight of architectural decisions, ensuring consistency, compliance, and risk management while enabling timely delivery. It supports executives, delivery teams, and audit bodies with clear, defensible assurance.

17. Service Catalogue

The service catalogue includes:

- Architecture design services (Enterprise, Solution, Technical, Integration)
- Principles, standards, guardrails, and best practices definition
- Architecture review and independent assurance
- High-risk and regulatory assurance
- Executive and audit support

18. Stickytech Branding & Tailoring

This service is delivered using Stickytech's architecture-led consulting approach and can be tailored to align with departmental terminology, governance structures, and assurance models. Stickytech branding, language, and artefact templates can be applied consistently across all outputs, including architecture designs, standards, assurance reports, and executive materials, ensuring a coherent and professional presentation for internal and external stakeholders.