

GovAssure Independent Reviews

Purpose:

To provide GovAssure Stage 4 Independent Review consultancy for cloud services, ensuring objectivity, collaboration, and compliance in line with GSG and NCSC guidelines to contribute towards strengthening the UK's resilience against cyber-attacks across essential services and Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

Overview:

Actica has mature GovAssure Review Capabilities, backed up and evidenced through the successful delivery of GovAssure independent reviews across the public sector together with excellent familiarity and experience with the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF). Actica is an NCSC-assured consultancy and a member of both the Risk Management and the Security Architecture schemes. Actica is also NCSC-assured to provide Cyber Resilience Audit services.

The GovAssure scheme provides public sector organisations with a better understanding of their security and resilience capabilities in the face of hostile threats. It also relays this information to the central government for transparency and alignment with the Government Cyber Security Strategy to strengthen the UK's resilience against cyber-attacks across essential services. As part of the wide range of GovAssure services that Actica Consulting provide across the [five-stage GovAssure process](#), our experienced team of cyber security consultants are on standby to work alongside organisations and conduct GovAssure Stage 4 Independent Reviews. Our experts will perform independent reviews to verify organisations' self-assessments performed against the Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF); we will assess the level of attainment to the relevant CAF profile, validate the results of the self-assessed findings, and determine the effectiveness of the current cyber security controls. We will then work with the organisation to agree findings and recommendations and then report back to GSG.

Planning:

- Develop and agree a project plan for delivery of GovAssure Independent Review with key organisational stakeholders. The project plan will include workshops & offline reviews at regular intervals, an agreed project management and reporting approach, key stakeholders and technical personnel, deadlines and milestones to be met, format of the deliverables and identification of where we can work across several services and CAF Objectives concurrently.

Quality Assurance and Performance Testing:

- Conduct a high-level assessment of self-assessed comments to provide feedback on whether comments are relevant, sufficiently detailed and are backed up by evidence.
- Conduct a high-level assessment of evidence provisioned to ensure they are accessible and relevant.

Security:

- Validate the self-assessed opinion for each Contributing-Outcomes (CO) by assessing submitted evidence, Indicators-of-Good-Practice (IGP) and Government-Cyber-Security-Policy Handbook.
- Assess the effectiveness of controls relevant to each CO by considering control relevance, maturity and implementation.
- Conduct workshops to ensure that the comments and evidence provided are a true reflection of the organisation's cyber posture.
- Creation of Independent Review Report covering observations and recommendations against the government CAF profile assigned to the service/system in scope.

Ongoing Support:

- Conduct lessons learnt workshop with the organisational stakeholders and project to work through findings and recommendations.
- Provide support in understanding, planning and implementing recommendations made by GSG as part of the Get-well Plan.

Pricing:

This service is priced based on anticipated resource requirement. Resources will be charged in accordance with the agreed SFIA day rates. Two pricing options are available:

- Firm price. The firm price will be based on the anticipated resource requirements including provision for risk. Provision for travel and subsistence cost will be made. Payment will be required against achievement of agreed milestones. Customers may request clarification of the number of days by SFIA grade for their specific deliverables, which will be confirmed by Actica for contract award.
- Limit of liability. The limit of liability will be agreed based on an anticipated resource requirement. Charges will then be made monthly in arrears against resource effort expended. A limit of liability will also be agreed to cover travel and subsistence. Travel and subsistence costs will be charged at cost monthly in arrears against cost incurred.

Service management details and constraints:

Our service is subject to ISO9001 certified quality controls. A lead consultant shall be appointed who will have responsibility for liaising with the client and managing the Actica team providing the required services. In addition, a Project Authority will be appointed who is normally a Director within the Company who will act as the point of escalation. We support our clients on-site, via email or by telephone, during standard office hours and with a 1 business day response time to acknowledge support requests.

Data backup and recovery:

Where our staff use infrastructure and information provided by our clients, it is the clients' policies and procedures that prevail. Ordinarily, our consultants are supported by our own infrastructure up to, and including OFFICIAL, and we have facilities for higher classification information to be received, stored and transmitted. Our consultants' laptops and our corporate systems are backed up regularly and our corporate Disaster Recovery Strategy and Plan ensures that we are able to continue to provide services to our clients in any event.

On-boarding/off-boarding:

For all of our assignments we operate our standard on-boarding/mobilisation activities. At assignment closure, we undertake a review and ensure that skills have been transferred to client staff where appropriate.

Ordering and invoicing process:

Specific details of the clients requirement should be sent to cloud@actica.co.uk. Following discussions about your requirement, Actica will send a fully priced proposal detailing the services to be provided. Once approved, a valid purchase order should be sent to finance@actica.co.uk for processing. Once the work is completed and accepted by the client, Actica will invoice the client for the work. Payment is expected within 30 days. We are able to use a range of electronic purchase and payment systems (e.g. CP&F).

Consumer responsibilities:

We will expect you to liaise with the Actica lead consultant and ensure timely access to the information and key stakeholders necessary to deliver the service.

Contact Details

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