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Valcon G-Cloud Lot 3
Service Definition

Well-Architected Framework Review

[Cloud Migration Planning | Capability analysis, Cloud gap assessment, Architecture options analysis]

Version 1.0

1. About Us

Valcon is a leading European consultancy specialising in AI and data-driven business transformation, with a growing and established presence in the UK. A trusted partner to major organisations including multiple UK Government departments and public sector agencies. Valcon connects strategy and operations, helping organisations create value in their transformation programmes.

With over 1,750 consultants across Europe, Valcon brings deep expertise across data, AI, technology and consulting. In the UK, Valcon works with clients across financial services, public sector, retail, industrials and infrastructure. Valcon is backed by private equity firm Rivean Capital.

2. Service Description

Our Well-Architected Framework Review service assesses reliability, security, cost, operational excellence and performance of your cloud platform (AWS, Azure, Databricks, GCP, Power Platform). We align with relevant regulations, standards and best practice, including: UK GDPR/DPA 2018/DUAA 2025, CDDO/GDS, ISO/IEC27001, ISO/IEC42001, and NCSC cloud security to realise your AI-ready data ambitions.

Features

- Multi-cloud review: AWS, Azure/Power Platform, Databricks, GCP against Well-Architected pillars.
- Security posture assessment aligned to ISO27001 and NCSC cloud guidance.
- Reliability, backup, disaster recovery, and resilience testing.
- Cost optimisation and recommendations with guardrails.
- Performance benchmarking and capacity planning for scaling.
- Operational excellence: automation, IaC, CI/CD, runbooks.
- Data lens: data architectures, data catalogue, lineage, quality, access, retention.
- Observability: logging, metrics, traces, SLIs/SLOs.
- Sustainability and efficiency opportunities, right-sizing resources.
- Actionable remediation plan and prioritised roadmap.

Benefits

- Increases reliability and availability of critical public services.
- Strengthens security and compliance with embedded controls.
- Reduces spend via targeted cost and efficiency improvements.
- Improves performance and scalability under variable demand.
- Accelerates delivery through automation and standardised practices.
- Enhances audit readiness with traceability and evidence.

- Enables AI-ready data and platform architectures and responsible AI outcomes.
- Aligns to UK government standards and guidance.
- Reduces operational risk with robust disaster recovery.
- Provides clear, prioritised roadmap for remediation.

3. Approach

Discovery
We start with scoping and discovery, inventorying workloads, environments, data pipelines, AI/ML services, and critical dependencies. Stakeholder sessions clarify business objectives, risk appetite, service levels, privacy/security obligations, and constraints. We align the review against each cloud provider's framework (AWS, Azure, Databricks, GCP and Power Platform) across the six core pillars: security, reliability, cost optimisation, operational excellence, performance efficiency, and sustainability – plus a dedicated data lens for AI-readiness.

Security evaluates identity and access (least privilege, role separation), network segmentation, encryption at rest/in transit, secrets management, vulnerability management/patching, protective monitoring, and incident response mapped to ISO/IEC 27001 control families and NCSC cloud security patterns. Privacy checks cover UK GDPR/DPA 2018/DUAA 2025 lawfulness, minimisation, retention, records of processing (where applicable), DPIA triggers, and data sharing constraints.

Reliability assesses platform architecture patterns (multi AZ design where appropriate), backup strategies, RPO/RTO targets, failover mechanisms, and resilience testing. We examine operational excellence via automation (infrastructure as code), CI/CD pipelines, change/release management, and runbooks. Performance reviews sizing, autoscaling, caching, storage tiers, and workload placement. Cost optimisation identifies right-sizing, reserved/committed instances, storage lifecycle policies, data egress control, and tagging/accountability ensuring transparent cross-business unit reporting and budget guardrails. Sustainability highlights efficiency opportunities, resource utilisation, and architectural choices that reduce carbon impact while meeting service needs.

The data lens ensures AI-ready data examining data governance, data architecture and quality management consideration. This typically comprises: data catalogue and metadata standards, provenance and lineage, data quality rule integration and visibility, lawful basis and sensitivity classification, retention enforcement, and governed access workflows. We verify observability across pipelines and workloads (e.g. logs, metrics, traces) defining SLIs/SLOs, alert routes, on call models, and post-incident reviews. For AI/ML services, we consider Responsible AI, including: adherence to frameworks (e.g. AI Playbook for Government, Data & AI Ethics Framework), transparency artefacts (e.g. Algorithmic Trasparency Recording Standard (ATRS), monitoring for drift and performance, and secure model registries with audit trails.

We synthesise findings into risk-ranked issues and actionable recommendations, balancing value, urgency, dependency, and effort. Quick wins improve posture rapidly (e.g. enabling encryption defaults, implementing tagging, budgets, automated backups). Strategic changes may include addressing architectural redesign, resilience enhancements, governance automation, and platform standardisation.

Deliverables
Subject to budget and agreed scope, typical deliverables include:

- Well Architected Review report per scoped area with pillar-by-pillar findings
- Risk-ranked recommendations and remediation backlog with owners and timelines
- Reference architectures for security, reliability, data, and observability
- Cost improvement plan with savings estimates and cost guardrails
- Data enablement: data architecture, data catalogue, data lineage, quality patterns and controls

- Runbooks and SOPs for incident, change, backup/DR and resilience testing
- KPI dashboard definitions: availability, reliability, performance, cost, sustainability, compliance
- Multi-phase roadmap prioritised by impact and dependencies, with governance checkpoints

4. Effort and Cost

Effort will be determined collaboratively between the Valcon and the client based on the skills mix and scope required.
Please refer to the Pricing Document for current rates.

- Rate card prices are exclusive of VAT.
- Expenses are recharged at cost and supported by receipts.
- Expenses may include reasonable travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs.
- The payment schedule will follow milestone completions as agreed in the Statement of Work.

5. Assumptions

The successful delivery of the engagement depends on assumptions and dependencies jointly agreed between the Valcon and the client. These may include (but are not limited to):

- Access to required stakeholders, systems, or information
- Timely decisions and approvals
- Availability of resources and infrastructure
- Defined governance and communication processes

All assumptions and dependencies will be recorded and validated as part of the Statement of Work (SoW).