SAPPHIRE™

GovAssure Consultancy Support Service Definition

Classification: Public

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Proprietary Notice

Overview

The GovAssure scheme provides public sector organisations with a better understanding of their security and resilience capabilities in the face of cyber threats. It 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 services.

Services features:

- Risk based, evidence-led GovAssure Stage 4 independent assurance reviews
- Validation of CAF outcomes and target profiles within WebCAF
- Independent corroboration of control design, operation, and effectiveness
- Focused technical sampling of critical cyber security controls
- Clear identification of gaps, risks, and misaligned self-assessments
- Senior leadership-ready findings with clear business and risk impact
- Prioritised, actionable recommendations aligned to government best practice
- Minimal burden delivery using desk reviews and targeted stakeholder workshops
- Secure, government-aligned evidence handling and 'review where data resides' model
- Optional support converting findings into targeted, measurable improvement plans

Service benefits:

- Provides independent, evidence backed confidence in GovAssure self-assessment accuracy
- Avoids late-stage assurance challenges and rework
- Clarifies which security controls genuinely operate in practice
- Identifies material gaps before they become audit or delivery issues
- Improves prioritisation of remediation based on risk and impact
- Saves stakeholder time through focused, low-burden validation activities
- Strengthens senior decision-making with clear, risk-based findings
- Accelerates improvement planning with actionable, well-defined recommendations
- Aligns security assurance with government CAF expectations and best practice
- Improves organisational cyber resilience through targeted, evidence driven insight

Functional and Non-Functional Detail

Sapphire can conduct a GovAssure based gap analysis based on the five key stages:

Organisational Contact and Services

The first stage is a scoping exercise, where you must have and develop a complete understanding of your strategic context, aligning with current and evolving cyber security threat landscapes. This scope is defined by the essential and critical services you provide.

In-Scope Systems and Services

After this, your assets should be reviewed, and critical systems identified – operational and support systems – related to the essential and critical services you provide. These will be assigned to either a Baseline or Enhanced profile from the Government's Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF).

Security Self-Assessment

Next, you will undertake a self-assessment from the CAF, which measures your organisation against four objectives that also closely align with several industry-standard frameworks such as ISO 27001.

1. Managing Security Risk
2. Protecting Against Cyber Attacks
3. Detecting Cyber Security Events
4. Minimising the Impact of Cyber Security Incidents

Independent Assurance Review

Accredited third parties are then required to independently review your self-assessment, assessing the level of attainment, and validating the results of the CAF assessment findings to determine how effective your current security controls are.

Final Assessment and Improvement Plan

The last step involves a final assessment report generated and provided to you after the independent review is completed, with the Cabinet Office's Government Security Group (GSG) working with you to develop a targeted improvement plan.

For each stage we will cover the principles and establish if the G-Cloud customer has achieved, partially achieved, or not achieved based on a profile from the Government's Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF). The Q&A based session with key staff members and stakeholders will follow the framework. We can help you achieve Gov Assure Compliance by utilising the following services:

Sapphire's Certifications and Associations