



Cabinet Office

Government Security Classifications

Core Brief for 3rd Party Suppliers

Cabinet Office
October 2013



Strategic Context

- Civil Service Reform and Workplace Transformation
 - Modern workplace Environment
 - Culture Shift – empowerment balanced with personal responsibility
- Cyber Security - appropriate levels of protection
- ICT Strategy and IT Reform – modern COTS, ‘liberated IT’, interoperability, flexibility
- Efficiency and deficit reduction
- Coherence with legal landscape



Why Change?

Government Protective Marking System (GPMS)

- Longstanding - underpins HMG security effort
- Deeply embedded in departmental processes and IA
- Central to exchanges with the international and industry partners

BUT

- It isn't working effectively across HMG
 - Misunderstood, misused and burdensome
 - Outdated and not geared to modern ICT - cost and complexity
 - Inconsistent approaches - interoperability problems
 - False level of assurance

Subjective 'grey' distinctions today:

	<u>TOP SECRET</u>	<u>SECRET</u>	<u>CONFIDENTIAL</u>	<u>RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PROTECT</u> (Sub-national security marking)
DEFENCE & SECURITY	Cause exceptionally grave damage to the effectiveness or security of UK or allied forces or to the continuing effectiveness of extremely valuable security or intelligence operations	Cause serious damage to the operational effectiveness or security of United Kingdom or allied forces or the continuing effectiveness of highly valuable security or intelligence operations	Cause damage to the operational effectiveness or security of United Kingdom or allied forces or the effectiveness of valuable security or intelligence operations	Make it more difficult to maintain the operational effectiveness or security of United Kingdom or allied forces	
DIPLOMACY	Threaten directly the internal stability of the United Kingdom or friendly countries; Cause exceptionally grave damage to relations with friendly governments	Raise international tension; seriously damage relations with friendly governments	Materially damage diplomatic relations (i.e. cause formal protest or other sanction)	Affect diplomatic relations adversely	
ECONOMY & FINANCES	Cause severe long-term damage to the United Kingdom economy	Cause substantial material damage to national finances or economic and commercial interests	Work substantially against national finances or economic and commercial interests; Substantially undermine the financial viability of major organisations	Cause financial loss or loss of earning potential or to facilitate improper gain or advantage for individuals or companies	Cause financial loss or loss of earning potential, or to facilitate improper gain; Give an unfair advantage for individuals or companies
LIFE & LIBERTY	Lead directly to widespread loss of life	Threaten life directly, or seriously prejudice public order, or individual security or liberty	Prejudice individual security or liberty	Cause substantial distress to individuals	Cause distress to individuals
CRIME			Impede the investigation or facilitate the commission of serious crime	Prejudice the investigation or facilitate the commission of crime	Prejudice the investigation or facilitate the commission of crime
POLICY			Shut down or otherwise substantially disrupt significant national operations; Seriously impede the development or operation of major government policies	Undine the proper management of the public sector and its operations; Impede the effective development or operation of government policies; Disadvantage government in policy or commercial negotiations with others	Disadvantage government in commercial or policy negotiations with others
INFORMATION				Breach proper undertakings to maintain the confidence of information provided by third parties; Breach statutory restrictions on disclosure of information	Breach proper undertakings to maintain the confidence of information provided by third parties; Breach statutory restrictions on the disclosure of information



The New Classifications

(simplified model)

OFFICIAL

The majority of information that is created or processed by the public sector. This includes routine business operations and services, some of which could have damaging consequences if lost, stolen or published in the media, but are **not subject to a heightened threat profile**.

SECRET

Very sensitive information that justifies heightened protective measures to **defend against determined and highly capable threat actors**. For example, where compromise could seriously damage military capabilities, international relations or the investigation of serious organised crime.

TOP SECRET

HMG's most sensitive information requiring the highest levels of **protection from the most serious threats**. For example, where compromise could cause widespread loss of life or else threaten the security or economic wellbeing of the country or friendly nations.



Key Points

- Incorporates typical threat profiles
- Concentrates security effort on most sensitive assets
- No direct mapping to current GPMS – ‘jagged edge’
- Vast majority of HMG information at OFFICIAL (est. 90%)
- Step change from OFFICIAL to SECRET
- No change at TOP SECRET



Timelines

- Launch date **Apr 2014** – HMG, Armed Forces and External Partners
- Policy announced - December 2012
- Controls Framework published – Apr 2013
- Training and awareness activities from Oct 2013
- Department implementation planning advanced
- International and partner briefings ongoing



Supporting Information

- Policy, Controls Framework and FAQs published on Gov.UK
- Core Training and Comms materials available:
 - Introductory Film, Posters, Leaflets
 - eLearning and Desk Aids
 - Covers 80-90% of requirement, more if only operating at OFFICIAL
- Generic information may be supplemented by departmental guidance on specific local business processes



Benefits Roadmap

Short term opportunities*

- Drive positive behavioural change
- Liberate and modernise government IT:
 - Commercial good practice at OFFICIAL
 - Join up and simplify approaches to PSN, GCloud, EUD etc.
 - Greater commonality supports uptake of Shared Services
 - More common approaches and interoperability at higher levels

*Departments will realise many benefits as they refresh their IT to take advantage of new standards and approaches



Benefits Roadmap 2

Longer term opportunities

- Uplift in security standards overall
- Reduce cost and improve capabilities of HMG's IT
- Facilitate modern ways of working, particularly at OFFICIAL
- Improve interoperability across Public Sector
- Simplify working with industry, SMEs, academia etc.



Implications for Suppliers

- New tenders must plan on the basis of the new Policy
- Opportunity for HMG to reduce complexity and more readily benefit from market innovation and efficiencies
- Legacy contracts will be assessed on a case by case basis
- Pragmatic approach to contract changes and timeframes to achieve full compliance
- Suppliers should contact their Contracting Authority for further details about how this will be managed



Cabinet Office

Contact Details

Speak to your Departmental Contract Managers in the first instance

General questions can be sent to the Cabinet Office Policy Team at:

classifications@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk