

Public Service Network(PSN)

Issues and Opportunities



What is the PSN

The PSN is the foundation layer of the Government ICT Strategy. It aims to provide the platform required by the UK public sector to deliver increasingly innovative, shared and cost-effective services.

- Replaces ageing gcsx(government secure extranet) and GCF(Government Connect Framework) platforms
- New 'Code of Connection'(CoCo) to support PSN introduced in April 2013
- BDC has transitioned to PSN and NEDDC imminent
- Annual CoCo submissions and external audits imminent

What do we use PSN for?

In addition to secure gcsx email we use the following services provided by central government:

- DWP Customer Information System(CIS) system for benefits claim checking
- DWP Data Transfer Appliance(DTA) to transfer benefits data
- The new Individual Electoral Registration(IER) system
- The Tell Us Once service for births, deaths and marriages

Issues

With the new PSN tighter and more consistently applied controls mean:

- 'Zero tolerance' approach from Cabinet Office in April 2014
- Loss of webmail facility(data protection issues also)
- end point security control(memory sticks etc)
- unspent conviction checks required for all PSN users in 2014 ~ 162 staff at £25 each
- unspent conviction checks for all staff from 2015 ~ 946 staff
- Significant effort from ourselves on migration work ~ 190 hours to date

Opportunities

With the launch of PSN the government hopes that this will facilitate more shared working and shared use of facilities, in practice:

- We are an accredited customer so can consume service now
- available service offerings currently limited but will increase, initial benchmarking has not, as yet, demonstrated savings to us through procuring services through PSN
- To become a 'supplier' of services we will need to comply with additional controls at extra cost
- Launch of new Information Governance Board

Conclusion

The PSN should provide us benefits in the future but we must accept the pain in the short term, looking forward:

- Consider PSN services via the 'G-Cloud' for all future procurements
- Acknowledge that further restrictions may be placed on as the PSN audit regime becomes more consistent
- Keep abreast of emerging Bring Your Own Device(BYOD) accredited solutions for increasing agility in work force
- Consider opportunities to provide services to other public sector organisations

Questions?