

## ***Introduction***

Welcome to the second issue of a periodic newsletter from the Accreditors' Forum Steering Committee (AFSC) which aims to keep accreditors informed of events relevant to them.

## ***Resourcing Accreditation***

Following the survey on resourcing accreditation, the AFSC is acutely conscious of the need for accreditation practice to reflect the realities of the economic climate and the difficulties all parts of the public sector experience in meeting the mandatory requirements in the HMG Security Policy Framework that relate to accreditation. Thank you to all who responded to the survey.

There is no quick fix to the challenges that accreditation brings but we can help share ideas for best practice across the community. Both the next Accreditors' Forum and the annual Sunningdale Accreditors' event in September will aim to share experience on how to make best use of accreditation resources across an organisation. This may mean thinking about different ways of meeting our aims, or developing new tools to help accreditors.

At the time of writing, due to the election, the spring version of the HMG Security Policy Framework has yet to be published. However drafts that have been circulated have included the amendments requested by the AFSC to recognise the role of the accreditor. Opinions on whether the mandatory requirements relating to accreditation should be amended are welcome, and if so, what should they be amended to. Please send your views to [christopher.few@cesg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.few@cesg.gsi.gov.uk).

## ***Investment in Common Good Information Assurance Products & Services***

The Information Assurance (IA) Oversight Board, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and attended mainly by Permanent Secretaries, has for some time been concerned by the level of investment in common good IA products and services. In February 2010, departments were asked by the Cabinet Secretary to contribute to a common good fund for IA investment. Departments contributed additional funds and an IA Capability Delivery Committee (IACDC) has been formed to decide how to invest it. The committee met for the first time on 27 May with attendees representing Cabinet Office, DWP, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, HMRC, DCLG, Department of Health and CESG. Of particular relevance to Accreditors, the investment package includes partnering with industry to improve the range of information risk management tools available to the public sector. More information on the IACDC and this year's investment programme will be given at the next Accreditors' Forum.

## ***IA as part of the HMG IT Profession***

Since the last Accreditors' Newsletter, the Government IT Profession Board has agreed in principle to include IA as part of the IT profession and CESG expects this to be formally announced at IA10 in September. Although the AFSC believes this will, at this stage, give greater professional recognition to those working in IA and will encourage management to invest in the training and development of IA professionals, the AFSC would nevertheless prefer that IA was an independent profession (as would CESG). This will entail some overheads that are currently not resourced. As IA professionalism expands and demonstrates its value, the AFSC will continue to press for an independent IA profession at the earliest opportunity.

As part of the professionalism agenda, CESG plans to define a set of IA roles, in similar style to the Accreditor Role Definitions, and to establish a process for certifying individuals against the requirements in the role definitions. This process would typically be invoked when recruiting or promoting IA professionals so vacancy adverts could include requirements such as 'certified Senior Accreditor'. The AFSC has asked to see the plans for this so that the accreditor community can contribute to the development of the roles and the certification process and CESG has agreed to this.

## ***Accreditor Role Definitions***

A draft version of the Accreditor Role Definition (ARDs) is accessible from <http://www.cesg.gov.uk/publications/general.shtml>. It will be published at version 1.0 once the branding to reflect the join with the IT Profession is agreed and how the join will be implemented is clarified. These changes will not affect the substance of the role definition so please reference it when advertising for accreditors or when setting criteria for promotion. You are of course free to add requirements specific to your business needs.

We also wish to include some guidance on training programmes for accreditors. We have copies of training programmes from Home Office and GCHQ and we will base our guidance on these. Contributions from other organisations are welcome.

## ***Communications Among Accreditors***

As a next step in the development of communications among accreditors, it now seems sensible to use the IT profession website (<https://it.civilservice.gov.uk/>) facilities where these give some advantages over the various CESG websites. It is therefore recommended that we use the IT profession website for advertising Accreditor vacancies and for initiating discussions, whilst bearing in mind how open access to this website is.

## ***Next Events***

The next Accreditors' Forum will be at MoD Head Office on 29 June 2010. The theme of the forum will be managing information risk and the expected agenda is attached at Annex A. If you have received this newsletter by e-mail direct from CESG and have yet to receive an invitation to attend, you should receive one shortly. If wish to have your name added to the event distribution list please e-mail [Events@cesg.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Events@cesg.gsi.gov.uk).

SUAC, the annual Accreditors' event at Sunningdale, organised by the National School of Government, will be on 28 – 29 September with the theme of Pragmatic Accreditation. In response to feedback from the accreditor community the former Conference is being refocused as an Accreditors' Professional Update and Development event. For more details and to book see [http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/news\\_events/conferences/SUAC/index.asp](http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/news_events/conferences/SUAC/index.asp).

Chris Few, CESG

On behalf of the Accreditors' Forum Steering Committee

## AGENDA FOR ACCREDITORS' FORUM OF 29 JUNE 2010 AT MOD HEAD OFFICE

Theme: The Information Risk Management Process

09:30	Registration & Coffee	
10:00	Introduction	CESG
10:05	Update on Accreditation	Head of Accreditation Specialisation, MoD
10:20	Operational Assurance & CHECK scheme update	Head of CESG Operational Assurance Team
11:00	Coffee	
11:15	Managing the Risks of Virtualisation	CESG
11:55	MoJ Accreditation Framework	Detica/MoJ
12:40	Lunch	
13:40	Public sector common good IA investment	Head of IA Delivery, CESG
14:10	CESG policy update	CESG
14:45	Tea	
15:05	Accreditation experience at Department of Justice, Northern Ireland	DoJ (NI)
15:40	Q & A panel	
16:00	Wrap-up	Head of Accreditation Specialism, MoD