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Public Sector Network

Programme Mandate

1. This document is intended for approval by the Programme Board.

Programme Vision

2. The Public Sector Network (PSN) will change the approach to the acquisition of Information and Communications Technology by the UK Public Sector, allowing public sector customers and select partners to harness changing technology to better support their delivery of service and the transformational government agenda. This will be achieved through a commonality of standards, a customer-centric operational model and a flexible approach. The PSN concept will be global, including Her Majesty's Government overseas and other international UK public bodies; all interfaces to the PSN from UK or overseas will be compliant with PSN standards.

Background

3. The Transformational Government agenda seeks to improve delivery of service to the citizen across organisational boundaries. Whilst complying with all relevant legislation the approach aims to integrate provision from central and local government with third sector and private sector bodies in the supply chain, facilitating the exchange of information and reducing the proliferation of data retained across the public sector. This will also lead to cost reduction in the supply of service as well as in aggregate across the public sector (Note: a key driver for the PSN is industry estimated was savings of between 17 and 34%).
4. Telecommunications provision in the public sector is inefficient, inflexible and does not effectively support changes to the machinery of government. The cost of changes to the machinery of government is significant and the barriers to interoperability of government bodies are high. These barriers lead to fragmented service delivery and the risk of security breaches for both public sector organisations and the customers of government.
5. Work was initially undertaken under the direction of the Government CIO Council and, under the ambit of the Strategic Supply Board, engaged with a telecommunications industry group to modernise provision of telecommunications in the public sector. The development work has led to the concept of the Public Sector Network which forms the basis of delivery programmes such as Ocean and Hampshire's telecommunications tender.

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The scope of the PSN itself is delivery of the network connection with assured, end to end, service management and governance. Higher order technical services such as telephony, or business services such as HR, will not be provided through PSN but will operate across the PSN and must therefore be compliant with PSN standards.

Programme Definition

Programme Objectives

6. Through the agreement of common standards for interoperability, security and architecture, an agreed procurement approach and establishment of the PSN Authority the PSN Programme will enable delivery programmes and projects to achieve:
 - a. Increased responsiveness to organisational change
 - b. Increased opportunity for cross boundary working between public sector bodies.
 - c. Reduced cost of procurement to customer organisations.
 - d. Reduced cost of products and services to customers.
 - e. Reduced cost of service management and integration across organisational boundaries.
 - f. Opportunities to extend use of niche products across the public sector without the need for multiple implementations.
 - g. Reduced cost of change.

Programme Scope

7. The PSN Programme will engage across the public sector with; Central Government, Local Government, Health, Defence, Education and other bodies to encourage the realisation of benefits and cost savings through application of the PSN standards. The programme will also engage with key industry stakeholders to define how PSN standards are delivered and managed.
8. The scope of the Programme covers:
 - a. Definition, agreement and publication of technical requirements and standards for the PSN;

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- b. Definition, agreement and publication of the security requirements and standards for the PSN;
 - c. Definition and delivery of a Governance regime for the PSN;
 - d. Definition, agreement and publication of key PSN enablers such as the Legal architecture, Code of Interconnect, Code of Connection and Code of Practice.
 - e. Agreeing commonality of approach to procurement of PSN transport and network level components¹ across the public sector to enable the reuse of PSN compliant items and simplify the procurement process;
 - f. Creation of the PSN Authority to endorse and monitor compliance with PSN standards and ensure continued enhancement of those standards and PSN services.
 - g. Agreement of the industry developed architecture for the Government Conveyancing Network (GCN);
 - h. Direction of the delivery of various initial 'brokering' services (to be defined) to allow industry to operate and manage the GCN²;
 - i. Monitoring of Network Delivery acquisition and change activities across the public sector and identifying intercept points to allow compliance with PSN standards and leverage of benefits;
 - j. Planning of a transition path for delivery of the GCN³ and the strategy for technical implementation across the public sector as well as the facilitating culture change for consumer procurement processes and supplier engagement.
9. The Programme will engage with industry and international standards bodies to encourage the adoption of the agreed standards for the benefit of HMG.

Exclusions

¹ Possibly to later include the technical and business level services.

² Responsibility for oversight and further development of these brokering services will transition to the PSN Authority and/or industry once operational.

³ Responsibility for oversight and further development of the GCN will pass to the PSN Authority once operational.

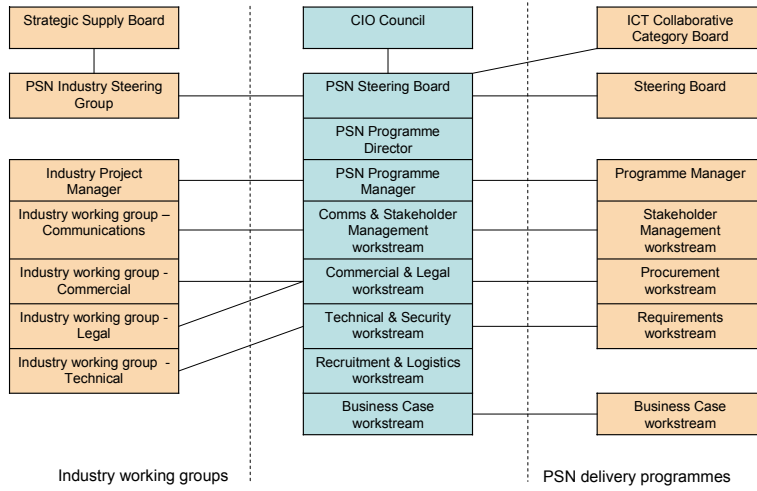
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10. The Cabinet Office PSN Programme will not deliver any physical networks. These will be delivered by associated procurement activities run by procurement bodies throughout the public sector. The underlying GCN will be delivered by industry, but with appropriate safeguards in place to ensure HMG maintain control of the GCN and PSN initially and longer term.
11. The PSN Programme will not mandate government procurements to adopt the PSN standards, but will promptly inform the ICT Collaborative Category Board (CCB) of any potential non-adoption. In the event that the ICT CCB and the organisation(s) in question are unable to reach agreement, the matter will be referred to the CIOC and/or Commercial Delivery Board for resolution. However, the PSN authority will have the right to refuse connection to the PSN of any network which has not met the PSN Code of Connection.
12. The PSN will not be responsible for business applications, hosting activities, data centres or storage – except where these interface with the PSN standards.
13. The PSN Programme will not be responsible for the realisation of the benefits enabled, this will be the responsibility of the individual procurement exercises. The PSN Programme will, however, develop the business case for the PSN – including the associated cost savings – and how these cost savings can be realised by delivery programmes e.g. utilisation of shared infrastructure will deliver cost savings of between X and Y percent. Reduced Service Management will deliver costs savings of Z percent, etc. Within the Business Case it will be clarified that it will be the CIOs/Commercial Directors responsible for the delivery programmes and within the customer organisations that will be jointly and severally responsible for benefit realisation.
14. The PSN Programme will not be responsible for Telecomms Migration Programmes, these must be addressed by individual procurement exercises – although guidance will be provided through the PSN transition strategy.
15. This list of exclusions is likely to be amended during the life of the Programme.

Programme Governance

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This needs updating with the Commercial and Legal workstreams separated

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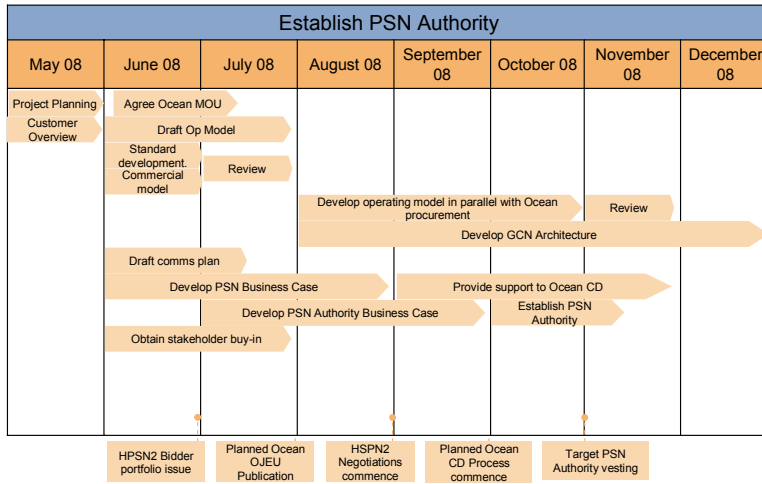
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Timescales & Phasing



Resource Requirements

- The PSN team based in the Cabinet Office will remain small, reliance will be placed on other government departments and suppliers to provide resources for procurement exercises and assurance activities.
- Start up funding / resource is being provided by FCO, OGC, HMRC, Cabinet Office and the GSi TIF.