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  - Outdated and not geared to modern ICT - cost and complexity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:

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