

## AGENCY FACT SHEET: GCIO ASSURANCE SERVICES PANEL



### IMPROVING THE QUALITY, CONSISTENCY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ASSURANCE SERVICES

#### What is Assurance?

*Assurance is an independent and objective assessment that provides valuable information for decision-making by giving level of confidence as to whether business outcomes and benefits will be achieved.*

#### Guiding Principles:

*Assurance should align with the following guiding principles:*

- ✓ *Be risk and value-based*
- ✓ *Be impartial and independent*
- ✓ *Be planned from the outset of the project or programme*
- ✓ *Be forward looking by providing an assessment of 'Delivery Confidence'*
- ✓ *Be conducted to inform key decisions*
- ✓ *Be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to be fit for purpose.*

### New panel for Assurance Services established

The GCIO Assurance Services Panel (GCIO Panel) was established on the 8 December 2015.

The GCIO Panel provides agencies with access to 26 highly qualified providers of Independent Quality Assurance (IQA) and Technical Quality Assurance (TQA) services for ICT-enabled projects and programmes.

The aim of the GCIO Panel is to improve the quality, consistency and independence of Assurance Services provided to government agencies in order

to achieve the following outcomes:

- ✓ Helping agencies to make well informed investment decisions
- ✓ Providing a level of confidence to Ministers and the public that ICT-enabled investments will deliver the expected benefits
- ✓ Improved access to highly qualified providers of Assurance Services
- ✓ Delivering value for money and increased efficiency as a result of agencies not having to maintain their own panels or perform lengthy tender processes.

### What does this mean for you?

The GCIO Assurance Services Panel is mandated for all Public Service and non-Public Service departments as well as ACC, EQC, HNZA, NZTA, NZTE, NZQA, TEC and the 20 DHBs.

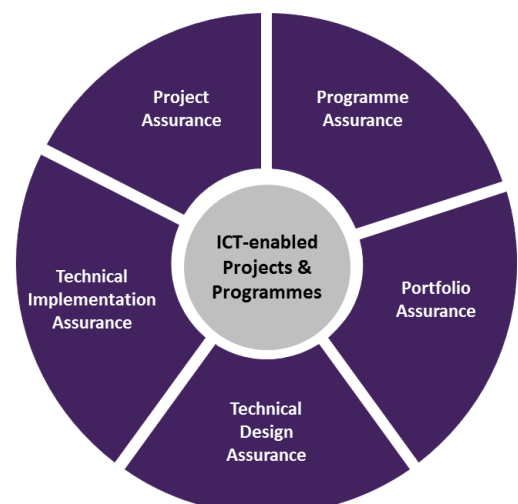
This means that agencies within the GCIO's mandate must transition to the new Panel as existing contracts expire. Other agencies are encouraged and welcome to opt-in at any time.

### What Assurance Services are available?

Assurance Services available under the GCIO Panel cover IQA and TQA for ICT-enabled projects and programmes.

Non ICT-enabled projects and programmes may use the GCIO Panel.

Other Assurance Services will be made available once these services have been defined and demand has been validated.



**GCIO Panel Providers:**

Ascendo Ltd  
 Azimuth Consulting Ltd  
 Beca Ltd  
 Business Cycles  
 Caravel Group (NZ) Ltd  
 Central Regions Technical  
 Advisory Services Ltd  
 Deloitte  
 Entity Group Ltd  
 Equinox IT  
 Ernst & Young Group Ltd  
 (EY)  
 Gemtech Solutions Ltd  
 Genesis Consulting Group  
 Ltd  
 Grant Thornton New  
 Zealand Ltd  
 IntuiSec Ltd  
 IQA New Zealand Ltd  
 (IQANZ)  
 KPMG  
 Link Consulting Group Ltd  
 McHale Group Ltd  
 Outcome Insights  
 Price Perrott Ltd  
 PwC New Zealand  
 Qual IT Solutions Ltd  
 Resultex Ltd  
 Starfish Consulting Ltd  
 Techspace Consulting Ltd  
 Tenzing Ltd

## How do I access the panel?

The GCIO Panel is a sub-panel under MBIE's All-of-Government Consultancy Services Panel (AoG Panel).

Government agencies that are eligible to participate in AoG contracts can automatically access the GCIO Panel

provided they have signed up for the AoG Panel.

Further information on the AoG Panel can be found on [MBIE's website](http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement) ([www.business.govt.nz/procurement](http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement)).

## Selecting a provider

You can choose to source a provider from the GCIO Panel directly or undertake a secondary selection process.

In making this decision consider the budget, timeframes, specific nature of your requirements and any existing or past relationships, as well as any internal financial delegations and processes your agency may have.

A secure web-based Online Panel Directory is available to assist with searching and identifying a suitable provider for your assurance engagement. The Online Panel Directory is only available to agencies participating in the AoG Panel.

Search criteria include:

- ✓ Assurance Services category
- ✓ Provider quality rating
- ✓ Lead Reviewer quality rating
- ✓ Pricing (by job level).

You should contact your approved agency Procurement representative to obtain the login details for your agency.

Additional information for agencies on how to choose a provider is available via inSource, MBIE's secure web-based library ([www.business.govt.nz/procurement/all-of-government-contracts/govproc-eportal/rearea-login](http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement/all-of-government-contracts/govproc-eportal/rearea-login)).

## What else do I need to do?

There are some additional expectations for high risk / high value ICT-enabled projects and programmes:

- ✓ Email a copy of your approved assurance plan to the GCIO Panel Manager.
- ✓ Email a final draft of your Terms of Reference (ToR) for any IQA / TQA review to the GCIO Panel Manager for a quality review.
- ✓ Email a final draft of the assurance report (version issued post factual accuracy check) to the GCIO Panel Manager for a quality review.

## Additional Resources

Additional resources are available on the [GCIO's website](http://www.ict.govt.nz/ict-system-assurance/gcio-assurance-services-panel/gcio-sub-panel-additional-resources/) ([www.ict.govt.nz/ict-system-assurance/gcio-assurance-services-panel/gcio-sub-panel-additional-resources/](http://www.ict.govt.nz/ict-system-assurance/gcio-assurance-services-panel/gcio-sub-panel-additional-resources/)) including:

- ✓ GCIO Assurance Services Guide
- ✓ Terms of Reference Template
- ✓ Terms of Reference Quality Checklist
- ✓ GCIO Report Rating System
- ✓ Assurance Report Quality Checklist.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the GCIO Panel, email us at: [gciopanelmanager@dia.govt.nz](mailto:gciopanelmanager@dia.govt.nz)