

GCIO Assurance Services Sub-panel – Provider Frequently Asked Questions

#	Question	Answer
1.	Why is the GCIO establishing a panel for Assurance Services?	The Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO), as the functional leader for Government ICT, is mandated to establish an independent panel of Independent Quality Assurance (IQA) and Technical Quality Assurance (TQA) providers.
2.	What is the relationship between the GCIO Sub-panel and MBIE's All-of-Government (AoG) Consultancy Services Solution?	The GICO Sub-panel is a sub-panel of the Assurance sub-category of MBIE's AoG Consultancy Services Solution. This means that MBIE is responsible for negotiating and managing all Services Agreements for the supply of Consultancy Services on behalf of the Crown. The GCIO is responsible for the day-to-day management of the GCIO Sub-panel.
3.	What is the objective of the GCIO Sub-panel?	The objective of the GCIO Sub-panel is to improve the quality, consistency and independence of Assurance Services provided to government agencies. This will help agencies to make better informed investment decisions and provide a level of confidence to Ministers and the public that ICT-enabled investments are well managed and will deliver the expected benefits. Other benefits of the GCIO Sub-panel for agencies are improved access to highly qualified providers of Assurance Services as well as value for money and increased efficiency. This is because agencies won't need to maintain their own panels or perform lengthy tender processes.
4.	What Assurance Services will be included within the scope of the GCIO Sub-panel?	Phase 1 of the rollout of the GCIO Sub-panel includes IQA and TQA for ICT-enabled Projects and Programmes. This covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Assurance • Programme Assurance • Portfolio Assurance • Technical Design Assurance • Technical Implementation Assurance
5.	Is there a maximum number of providers to be appointed to the GCIO Sub-panel?	No, there is no limit. We want to be able to match demand and supply and give all providers the opportunity to be used under the GCIO Sub-panel.
6.	Is the GCIO looking to appoint AoG Tier 1 and 2 organisations only to the GCIO Sub-panel?	No. The GCIO has adopted a non-tiered approach i.e. irrespective of AoG Tier status, all GCIO Sub-panel providers will be subject to the same quality requirements. This means that AoG Tier 3 providers need to meet additional reporting requirements, service levels and obligations under the GCIO Sub-panel.

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7.	What additional requirements is the GCIO asking of providers beyond those specified for the AoG Services Agreements?	<p>The GCIO has specified additional quality requirements with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Reviewers who will be responsible for delivering assurance engagements • Engagement Terms of Reference • Assurance Reports • Independence • Service Levels and Performance Measurement • Reporting to the GCIO.
8.	If I am not a member of the AoG Consultancy Services Panel can I still be appointed to the GCIO Sub-panel?	<p>No. You must be appointed to the AoG Consultancy Services Assurance Panel first. The AoG Consultancy Services Assurance Panel is an open panel and a refresh process to add new providers will be run on annual basis. The GCIO Sub-panel is also an open panel and the process to appoint new providers will be aligned to MBIE's refresh process.</p>
9.	What is the relationship between the GCIO Sub-panel and DIA's Security and Related Services Panel?	<p>The GCIO Sub-panel is a separate panel to DIA's Security and Related Services Panel. The GCIO Sub-panel is focused on IQA and TQA for ICT-enabled Projects and Programmes only. Agencies will continue to use the DIA Panel for Security and Related Advisory Services. Examples of Advisory Services not within the scope of the GCIO Sub-panel include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing project and programme management activities • Performing technical design and implementation activities, including Privacy Impact Assessments and Certification and Accreditation of new systems • Providing consultancy advice on how to fix issues.
10.	Is the Treasury planning to establish its own sub-panel for non-ICT Assurance Services?	<p>No. The Treasury is not planning to establish its own sub-panel for non-ICT Assurance Services. The Treasury expects agencies to access these services directly from the AoG Consultancy Services Solution.</p>