

Identity and Passport Service

MINUTES

Independent Assurance Panel (IAP)

Tuesday 10 April 2007

Phone Conference

Chairperson:	Alan Hughes	IAP Member	AH
Members:	Fergie Williams	IAP Member	FW
	Peter Simpson	IAP Member	PS
	John Clarke	IAP Member	JC
	Malcolm Mitchell	IAP Member	MM
Attendees:	David Foord	Office of Government Commerce	OGC DF
Secretariat:	Xxxxxx Xxxxxxx	Programme Support Manager	IPS XX

Agenda Item Comments

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Item comments	Actions :
1.	<p><u>Business Case / Treasury priorities and Building the NIS Infrastructure (theme from IAP work plan)</u></p> <p>DF updated the panel on recent discussions with HM Treasury over the Business Case. Specifically, Treasury's likely approach to await the Crosby work before approving the Business Case in order that IPS incorporate Crosby's recommendations into the overall scheme. DF advised that Crosby is not due to report until July 07. IPS are unable to launch procurement related to the NIS until approval of the Business Case is given from Treasury. DF advised that a meeting is to be held on the 24th April between the CEO, OGC and Treasury to discuss how to move forwards.</p> <p>One option is to move forward with the Framework Agreement but without much substance to this there were concerns that there may be a reluctance from suppliers to bid. IAP queried what issues would be coming out of the Crosby report that would cause this delay. DF advised that the report is likely to suggest that current plans are too slow and that if the NIS isn't delivered quicker then the private sector will have perfected its own solutions and anything delivered by the government will become less relevant.</p> <p>Crosby is also likely to suggest that one of the uses of the token should be that it can be used to authorise online payments. IAP commented on the contradiction of delivering quicker whilst delaying the start date and the risk of this.</p> <p>AH asked about the capability of the team delivering the Framework Agreement. DF advised that the team was short of anyone with previous experience in this area. FW updated that panel of the meeting he had attended with IPS to look at the procurement theme and advised that IPS were looking to award a contract in the second quarter of next year. FW advised that IPS recognised the shortage of skills in this area and were:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking to bring in people from the NHS project Working closely with DWP IT expertise. <p>DF reiterated that even with expertise in the area the timetable was challenging.</p> <p>In summary it was agreed that to get a Framework Supply Agreement with enough suppliers without a tangible supply immediately may be difficult so there may be no way of avoiding a delay with knock-on implications. The panel discussed this together with the greater financial uncertainty for the NIS that may result from competing priorities at the Home Office after its split, and the IPS resourcing gaps that remain, even though recruitment is well under way. Changing scope, changing timetable, questions over funding and continuing difficulty with resourcing suggest the recent Gateway Zero review would have been more likely to be 'red' than 'amber' if the reviewers had been aware of all of this.</p> <p>Update from AH after the meeting (12/04/07): AH advised that having spoken with the CEO, his understanding of Crosby's emphasis would be to populate the biometric database records faster for roll-out of biometric verification services after 2010.</p> <p>The panel considered that giving greater priority to delivering commercial as well as public sector applications for the NIS sooner would have numerous benefits and implications. To offer verification services earlier would need extant Government biographical data on individuals to be joined up and reconciled but could offer commercial value even without the ability to biometrically link the person to that data record. It would be superior to commercially available biographical data alternatives now.</p> <p>Biometric data and the attendant token of it could then be added progressively to what would be an already established usage eco-system. Established practical usage would also offer greater value to the citizen from the ID record and would help recruitment to the eventual token: "secure your data – link yourself to it". The panel recognised that legal and other issues may be a challenge. Whether this option would offer PFI-type investment opportunities may also be questionable.</p> <p>Greater private sector involvement earlier in the NIS would increase the emphasis on earlier benefit realisation. Such a systems-integration and benefits/ usage-driven approach may or may not meet Political priorities but would be a logical conclusion of the possible Crosby/Treasury desire for earlier delivery of value from NIS developments. It may be that the Treasury has asked for more consideration by Crosby of some of these matters.</p> <p>The panel advised that once recruitment of IPS executive directors is complete, the management team may wish to hold a development meeting on these matters and their implications, members of the Panel agreed to offer a facilitator role if this is felt to be of value.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Benefit realisation (theme from IAP work plan)</u></p> <p>PS advised that he was due to meet with the Executive Director, Business Development and Marketing and others in the coming week and would</p>	

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	report back on his findings at the next meeting of the panel in May.	
3	<p><u>Use of biometric identifiers (theme from IAP work plan)</u></p> <p>Panel members enquired as to whether the Biometrics Assurance Group (BAG) had similar concerns/issues as they did about the programme. Members were advised that all concerns were captured in the minutes to which they had received copies. It was also advised that a meeting is to be held in the next month between Sir David King (Chair of the BAG), Professor Brian Collins, James Hall, Alan Hughes and others to take forward the work to better join up the assurance activities across the programme.</p>	
4	<p><u>Reporting</u></p> <p>Members enquired about the required reporting from them of their activity. AH advised of the Annual report that he was looking for the panel to produce and queried the issues log that the secretariat were compiling. XX advised that this would be sent to members along with the minutes.</p> <p>Action: XX to send log of issues/main points compiled so far for the IAP report for 2007.</p>	XX

Details of Next meeting :

Date:	Location:	Focus:	Time:
11/05/07	TBC (face-to face)	Feedback to Programme. Annette Vernon to be invited.	10.30-13.30
19/06/07	TBC		

Version control

Version No.	Date	Reason for Change	Author	Approved for Distribution by
0.1	07/03/07	Initial draft	XX	-----
0.2	23/04/07	AH comments	AH/XX	-----
0.3	25/04/07	Final Version	AH/XX	AH