

BUYER BRIEFING

Fractional Assurance for SMEs

Senior assurance when you need it - without building a permanent internal team.

Intended audience

Founders, CEOs, COOs, technology leaders, investors and boards of growing SMEs

Status

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THE PROPOSITION

Your delivery partner should not be the only source of truth about whether delivery is healthy.

Why fractional assurance

Most SMEs do not need a standing programme assurance department. They do need independent challenge at moments where poor evidence, supplier optimism or a weak go-live decision could create a disproportionate commercial impact.

Common triggers

- A platform replacement, ERP/CRM implementation or digital product build is supplier-led.
- The board cannot reconcile progress reports with missed outcomes.
- A go-live, migration or investment decision is approaching.
- Internal leaders lack time or specialist assurance experience.
- A recovery plan exists, but its assumptions have not been independently tested.

A proportionate operating model

Level	Use	Outputs
Assurance pulse	Regular light-touch independent challenge	Evidence request, confidence note, priority actions
Decision review	A gate, release, migration or funding decision	Focused opinion and decision conditions
Embedded fractional lead	Sustained third-party delivery risk	Governance cadence, evidence standards and board reporting
Recovery support	Persistent delay, quality or control failure	Independent baseline, recovery tests and closure checks

What we will not do

- Create a heavyweight governance layer for its own sake.
- Repeat supplier status reporting in a different format.
- Call a programme green because actions exist but evidence does not.
- Independently assure work that the same practitioner directly owns.

The skills available

The assurance team can combine programme leadership, quality and test expertise, agile delivery insight and technical architecture. You buy the smallest credible mix for the risk - not a pre-set consulting pyramid.

First conversation

Start with one question: which decision would be materially safer if it were supported by independent evidence? That question defines the scope, cadence and seniority required.