

BUYER BRIEFING

Independent Assurance for Public-Sector Technology Delivery

Proportionate challenge for programmes where accountability remains with the authority.

Intended audience

Central Government departments, arm's-length bodies, local authorities and public-sector programme boards

Status

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ACCOUNTABILITY

Delivery may be outsourced. Public accountability, service continuity and value-for-money decisions are not.

The buyer problem

Complex delivery ecosystems often generate large volumes of reporting without giving the authority a reliable answer to the question that matters: is the programme genuinely on course, and what evidence supports that view? Supplier reporting is necessary, but it is not independent assurance.

Where Enigma adds value

Public-sector pressure	Independent assurance response
Multiple suppliers and blurred accountability	Test evidence across organisational boundaries and expose unowned dependencies.
Fixed governance and approval points	Translate technical and delivery evidence into a decision-ready opinion.
Citizen and service continuity risk	Assess operational readiness, failure modes, resilience and recovery arrangements.
Commercial tension	Separate the supplier's delivery narrative from the authority's assurance judgement.
Limited retained capability	Provide senior assurance capacity without creating a permanent internal function.

Typical commissions

- Programme health check before a major approval or funding decision.
- Independent test and quality assurance across a strategic supplier.
- Migration and cutover readiness review.
- Recovery-plan validation for a red or amber-red programme.
- Ongoing independent board reporting through delivery and transition.

Evidence-to-decision model

Phase	Purpose
1. Mandate	Agree the decision, scope, authority and independence boundary.
2. Baseline	Establish claims, tolerances, obligations and evidence sources.
3. Examine	Test artefacts, data, controls, behaviours and cross-supplier dependencies.
4. Conclude	State confidence, consequences and the decisions required.
5. Verify	Confirm that agreed actions resolve the underlying risk.

A multidisciplinary view

Enigma draws on Programme Directors, Programme Managers, Heads of Test, Senior QA practitioners, Scrum Masters and Technical Architects. The mix is selected around the assurance question, with clear separation between delivery ownership and independent judgement.

Procurement and mobilisation

A commission should define the decision to be supported, scope boundaries, access to evidence, reporting recipients, conflict safeguards and the authority to raise material concerns. Commercial route, security requirements and organisation-specific controls are agreed before mobilisation.

PUBLICATION CHECK

Organisation details, insurance values, certifications and framework participation must be verified before this brief is published.