

System-wide interoperability review: Capgemini commission

The DCSF is looking to deliver a workable interoperability architecture to support the 14-19 reform agenda and other policy initiatives that require data sharing.

This piece of work requires knowledge of the cross government landscape and how similar central government departments have addressed the issues.

The business scope of this review will cover data sharing between:

- The ESCS [education, skills and children's services] system and other government departments
- Organisations within the ESCS system (National, Regional and Local Delivery Partners (including the Third Sector where applicable))

1. Geographic scope will focus on England but will need to take account of requirements, and capabilities for sharing data between the Education, Skills and Children's Systems of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland if necessary.

2. The scope will focus on the physical means of sharing data (such as networks, data centres, middleware and web services, and security) and any ongoing business service required. [Business data standards and information sharing protocols are therefore not within the scope of this review.]

The deliverable will be a final report that will include:

- business drivers and requirements for data exchange
- assessment of current ESCS sector capability (including SIF)
- assessment of UK government direction of travel and capability
- target conceptual architecture for the sharing / exchange of data
- solution options for delivering the target architecture and recommendations
- consideration of issues relating to the ongoing provision of any required business services, including options and recommendations
- high level investment case
- outline delivery roadmap

The objectives of the Interoperability Review are to:

- Confirm the requirements for the physical exchange of data across the Education, Skills and Children's System (ESCS) and out to other government departments;
- Review current physical data exchange capability (including SIF);
- Understand UK government thinking and "direction of travel" in sharing data across heterogeneous IT landscapes;
- Develop a target conceptual data sharing architecture (based on a high level understanding of likely capacity / scalability, security, disaster recovery requirements);
- Develop a high level investment case for establishing a data exchange shared service;
- Agree roles and responsibilities for data sharing and IT system interoperability across the ESCS;
- Define a roadmap and supporting plan;
- Identify the issues associated with delivering and supporting a shared service for the exchange of data across the ESCS including governance, capability, funding and charging.