



## Status report of the Subgroup on Identity Governance; December 2010

### Why world-class Identity Governance is central to UK economic performance

**Identity governance in the UK needs urgent attention from policy-makers.** Government is under pressure to rationalise the many systems that it uses to identify its employees and contractors, and for its dealings with citizens, residents and visitors, in order to cut costs, reduce fraud and improve national security. There are large-scale, well-established and trusted identity governance systems in the private sector from which Government can learn much.

**Trusted, reliable identities are a prerequisite for security and accountability in the online world.** Globalisation and the Internet have made identity and identification unnecessarily complex and weak, to the detriment of security. And “once security is challenged, it is difficult to establish or re-establish trust”<sup>1</sup>.

The Minister of State for Security has stressed the importance of having governance regimes that make the UK a location of choice for internationally trusted operations. **The failure to create and enforce such governance regimes will lead to the UK becoming overly reliant on systems over which we have little or no serious influence.**

Managing highly reliable identity can cost hundreds of pounds per year per identity, with costs containable only through risk-based approaches. Identity data is transferred across organisational and international boundaries, raising questions about accountability, security, compliance and audit. **Assuring the quality of identity requires common policies and collaborative identity governance within and across three main user domains – Government, Business and Citizen (see figure) - and is achievable by learning from operational international networks of trust that already exist in the private sector.**

There are five roles for Government when developing policies for identity governance:

(1) as an identifier of citizens, maintaining trusted **voter registration** system

(2) as a deliverer of services, to minimise **wastage and fraud**

(3) as a guarantor of **standards, acceptance of accountability and risk**

(4) as an employer for **cost-effective** cross-departmental systems; and (5) as market-maker, driving credible and acceptable **interoperability rules**

Government needs cross-departmental identity governance policies that enable it to manage risk and interoperability across the full range of “proofs” of identity needed for public service delivery, private sector transactions and economic competitiveness. By working with industry to implement standards-based identity governance frameworks that support world-class trust models the costs can become affordable.

**Coherent policy frameworks for trusted collaborative identity governance are fundamental to the transformation of Government services, and to enable UK plc to continue to compete in the global economy. These can only be developed in full co-operation with the private sector, drawing on its experience of global as well as domestic interoperability.**



<sup>1</sup> quote from Stefan Jähnichen, president of the GI at the ISSE 2010 security conference in Berlin