

HM Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales

- Crown body – independent of the National Assembly for Wales but funded by Welsh Government
- Inspects the quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales
- Provide advice and guidance to WG – publish thematic reports
- Promote the spread of best practice in education and training

- Annual budget of around £12m
- Approximately 120 staff in total
- Around 70 HMI (inspectors) who are home-based
- Around 400 core inspections and 100 follow-up inspections per annum
- Contract-in Additional Inspectors to help deliver inspection work (main sectors are primary schools and maintained nursery settings)
- Inspection teams include a Peer Inspector
- Inspections are managed through a Virtual Inspection Room (VIR) – an extranet system for file-sharing

Key factors for moving information systems to a data centre

- Aged on-site server estate requiring refresh
- Opportunity to consolidate systems already hosted externally with different suppliers
- Opportunity to consolidate IT support (main support already outsourced)
- Need for flexibility to meet number of system developments
- Office accommodation review
- Enhance business continuity – aligned with greater use of extranet systems and home-working

Why G-Cloud Framework?

- Good support and advice available from Government Procurement Services and Cabinet Office
- Removed the need for protracted procurement process
- Pricing transparency
- Pre-assured suppliers and security accreditation (choice of security level appropriate for organisation)
- Framework terms and conditions of contract – various options - providing flexibility and ease of transfer (exit)
- Opted for **Platform as a Service** (PaaS)

Benefits of hosting arrangement via the G-Cloud framework

- Speed of set-up and migration
- Flexibility – easy to scale-up/down to meet changing needs of the business
- Opportunity to ‘spin-up’ servers for testing/development purposes and only pay for usage required (cancel with one week notice)
- Risk management - managed service for back-ups and recovery
- Opportunity to learn by doing and evaluate value-for-money

Some lessons learned

- Clarify connection requirements to data centre – this can add significant costs and requires good project management
- Clarify business continuity/disaster recovery requirements – implications for storage and processing power (costs)
- Involve all relevant IT suppliers at the outset – gain clear understanding of implications, responsibilities and potential costs for moving, accessing and supporting systems
- Identify and agree options to meet any required changes to the standard hosting configurations, e.g. firewall security
- Customer/Supplier liaison - ensure you have a number of reliable contacts

Thank You

Any Questions?