

Information Security Management Policy

Owned and maintained by:	Digital Services / Head of Digital Services
Date checked/ created:	Audit Scotland Board approved May 2026
Next review date:	May 2027

Introduction – What information security means to Audit Scotland

1. This policy sets out that in respect of the information Audit Scotland holds and processes, it will have arrangements in place to:
 - protect and maintain the confidentiality, integrity, quality, and availability of all the information it holds and processes
 - manage all the information it holds and processes to meet its contractual, legal, and regulatory obligations.
2. This policy aligns to the Audit Scotland Corporate and Business Plans.
3. This policy is supported by the Information Security Management System documentation shown in the diagram at Appendix 1.

Scope

4. This policy is mandatory for all employees, contractors and consultants employed by Audit Scotland. Failure to comply with this policy and supporting information security policies may result in disciplinary action.
5. This policy covers all regulations, legislation and contracts that affect Audit Scotland's information security and the commitment to satisfy applicable requirements related to information security.
6. This policy is made available to all interested parties.
7. Where appropriate and necessary individual policies state the requirements and processes for handling exemptions and exceptions.

Information sensitivity classifications

8. Information will be managed in accordance with the Audit Scotland Information classifications as below:
 - Public – Information already published or that would be released via a Freedom of Information (FOI) request.

- Controlled – Unpublished information requiring review before disclosure.
- Personal – Basic personal identifiable information such as a name, office telephone number, work email, job title and office location that are necessary for normal work interactions.
- Protected – Personal Information that includes UK GDPR “special categories of personal data” including Race, ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health data, sex life or sexual orientation. Together with specific biographic information such as date of birth and financial information, such as salary or pension, and personal identifiers like mobile number, NI number, passport, or driving licence numbers.

Information Security Objectives

9. Audit Scotland will:

- treat information security as business critical, whether that be for Audit Scotland information or client data managed by Audit Scotland and meet legislative and regulatory requirements (including intellectual property rights)
- seek to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Audit Scotland’s and client owned information, held by, and managed by Audit Scotland
- produce, maintain, and test business continuity plans to ensure the availability of its information and information systems
- ensure that wherever possible its information is open, not restricted by financial or legal agreements
- comply with all relevant data protection regulations and develop privacy by design and zero trust security in all information systems
- identify and implement appropriate controls for information assets proportionate to levels of risk
- manage information security risks to an acceptable level, as defined in the Risk Framework
- minimise risk as much as possible when evaluating new suppliers, taking into consideration Audit Scotland information classifications and the potential impact of climate change as required in the Digital Services Strategy 2025-28
- communicate all appropriate information security policies to all employees, contractors, consultants, clients and other stakeholders
- allocate individual accountability for compliance with all appropriate information security policies, standards, guidance and procedures

- report and investigate all information security breaches, whether actual or suspected and ensure they are reported and investigated in line with approved policies.
- continue to improve information security management and training, raising awareness of the importance of information security regularly to our colleagues,
- maintain an Information Security Management System (ISMS) in accordance with guidance contained within the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 standard.

Information Security Management Roles & Responsibilities

10. Audit Scotland's Board through its Audit Committee has oversight of risks, including information risks.
11. Audit Scotland's Accountable Officer, with support from the Executive Team, has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy is effectively implemented and delivered.
12. Audit Scotland's Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) is the Chief Operating Officer, who is responsible for the overall management of the organisation's information risks.
13. The Digital Services Management Team (DSMT) ensures the latest updates are provided to Senior Management demonstrating leadership and commitment to ISO 27001.
14. A 6-monthly update on Digital Security is provided to Executive Team and then the Audit Committee.
15. Audit Scotland's Executive Team will implement and manage appropriate controls to enable conformance to information security policies within their own areas of responsibility and will ensure individual accountability for control performance.
16. The Information Governance Management Group (IGMG) will support the Accountable Officer, Senior Information Risk Officer and Executive Team by assessing and mitigating information security risks and threats through standing agenda items on Digital Security and Corporate Risk Register review, both providing assurance.
17. The IGMG will maintain this policy and associated information security policies ensuring they are communicated, reviewed, and updated in response to changes in risks faced by Audit Scotland, legislation, and internal operational working practices.
18. The IGMG will review and monitor all information security policies and our performance in meeting their requirements, monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.
19. The DSMT will maintain the Digital Services Strategy, information security standards, guidance and procedures ensuring they are communicated, reviewed, and updated in response to changes in risks faced by Audit Scotland, legislation, and internal operational working practice.
20. The Digital Services Team will deliver the Digital Services Strategy ensuring that all the Audit Scotland's digital systems and services provide an environment that is

independent of location, where colleagues can work safely, securely, and effectively, while supporting high quality audit work.

21. The Data Protection Officer for Audit Scotland is responsible for updating Audit Scotland's Data Protection Policy, managing data subject access requests, and providing governance and compliance advice to staff.
22. Information Asset Owners must understand what information is held by their business group/teams, and approve the permissions required to access it.
23. All Managers will be responsible for implementing and communicating appropriate information security policies, guidance, and procedures.
24. All employees, contractors and consultants employed by Audit Scotland are required to play an active role in the protection of Audit Scotland's assets and treat information security appropriately, in order that this purpose can be achieved.

Objectives Evaluation

25. Evaluation of our information security objectives in section 9 is reported through IGMG.

Change Log

Date	Author	Description
March 2024	Head of Digital Services	Annual review of policy by KITGG in March, then for review and approval by ET and the Board. Updates reflecting compliance with ISO 27001:2013 and the new standard ISO 27001:2022.
May 2024	Head of Digital Services	Approved by Executive Team 08/05/24 and the Audit Scotland Board 21/05/24.
May 2025	Head of Digital Services	Approved by the Audit Scotland Board 20/05/25.
May 2026	Head of Digital Services	Approved by the Audit Scotland Board 26/05/26.

Appendix 1

