



Board Meeting: 25 January 2013

PAPER TO NOTE

Title of paper:	Changes to Government Protective Marking System
Purpose of paper:	The purpose of this paper is to give advance notice of changes being introduced by Cabinet Office to the Protective Marking System.
Action required by the Board:	No decision needed. The paper is for the Board's information only.
Official presenting the paper:	N/A
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1. Background

- 1.1 Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office, announced last year that he would introduce changes to the Government Protective Marking system. A new and simpler three tier system is proposed (OFFICIAL, SECRET AND TOP SECRET) and the new framework is now being finalised with business and technical industry partners.
- 1.2 Sir Bob Kerslake wrote to Permanent Secretaries on 1st November 2012 outlining the changes. The Departmental Security Unit has maintained a dialogue with Government Security Secretariat (GSS) colleagues in Cabinet Office to plan for the implementation.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 GSS are developing a toolkit to assist in implementation which will include awareness and training material. This material will be released in stages in the run up to implementation. Departmental Security Officers will meet regularly to share experiences and develop pragmatic solutions to any common challenges.
- 2.2 There is no direct correlation to the current protective marking system. Much of the Welsh Government's business will be managed at OFFICIAL marking. Sensitive personal information and that shared on a need to know basis may require an OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE caveat. The details will be provided in the training material.

3. Resource implications

- 3.1 The implementation will be handled within business as usual activities within the Departmental Security Unit. Training material will be provided by GSS although some bilingual translation may be needed. Security policy documents will be reviewed and adapted.

Financial Implications

- 3.2 There are no immediate financial implications although all ICT systems will need to be reviewed to accommodate the changes. ICT systems can be refreshed as part of the normal business planning cycle, immediate changes will not be necessary.

Implications for staff

- 3.3 Staff will need to make themselves aware of the new markings prior to implementation and complete any training. Changes will need to be shared with sponsored bodies and third party suppliers. iShare markings will be changed.

4. Risks

- 4.1 There is a risk that staff will continue to use the old markings if training and awareness sessions are not adequate. There may be confusion during the transition period as changes to markings will not be retrospective.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Implementation planning has begun. Cabinet Office need to finalise their consultation process with ICT technical staff before an agreed implementation date is set but further meetings are planned on the 30th January to discuss the changes.

6. General Compliance Issues

- 6.1 There are no compliance issues. Cabinet Office is responsible for the Government Protective Marking System and the Welsh Government has no devolved responsibilities for physical or protective security.

Publication

The paper is suitable for publication.

Date submitted to Secretariat: 17th January 2013