60314 Software Based Data Destruction Assurance

Please provide the following recorded information held by your department regarding assurance processes for software-based data erasure of end-of-life IT equipment.

For clarity, this request relates solely to software-based data destruction. Please exclude physical destruction methods such as shredding, crushing, degaussing or disintegration.

Please confirm whether departmental policy, contractual terms or internal procedures require an explicit outcome-based warranty or guarantee confirming that personal data has been rendered irretrievable through software-based erasure, whether carried out internally or by an external provider.

The destruction of hardware encompasses data and software that is installed within the hardware. These destructions are carried out in line with Industry Standards as part of our CGI outsourced ICT contract. CGI provide the City of Edinburgh Council with the necessary destruction certificates.

Where software-based data destruction is performed internally, what recorded evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that the final data state is irretrievable?

Not applicable. The destructions are carried out as part of our CGI outsourced ICT contract.

Where software-based data destruction is performed by a third-party provider, does the department hold recorded information demonstrating that any warranty or assurance provided explicitly extends to the software erasure method used and its claimed effectiveness?

If so, please confirm the recorded nature of that verification.

Yes, as set out above, these destructions are carried out in line with Industry Standards for Data Erasure and Software Destruction, as part of our CGI outsourced ICT contract. CGI provide the City of Edinburgh Council with the necessary destruction certificates.

Where no explicit outcome-based warranty is required or provided, what recorded form of evidential assurance does the department rely upon to conclude that software-based erasure has rendered personal data irretrievable?

Data Erasure and Software Destruction is explicitly certified within the destruction certificates provided by CGI.