



Gateway Policy

Gateways provide cyber security protections to organisations between security domains. This policy covers Australian Government gateways and the boundary between the internet and government networks.

What is a Gateway?

A gateway is a collection of capabilities that reside at the boundary between different security domains. A common example of this is between an organisation's internal network and the internet. It is designed to protect entities from malicious cyber attacks, through the enforcement of an organisation's security policy.

Principles

Unless an appropriate exemption is granted:

- Government entities must defend their perimeters using better practice principles for gateways during the transition to a new policy framework addressing gateway services.
- The Lead Agency Gateway model remains in place, in line with the list of lead agency gateways, to reduce the proliferation of gateways across government.
- Government assets are not developed in a way that creates inefficiencies, nor in conflict with the transition to new policy framework addressing gateway services or other approaches to shared infrastructure.
- The Department of Home Affairs must be notified of all new gateway arrangements, including the extension of existing arrangements, at rdif@homeaffairs.gov.au, in line with the gateway policy requirements below.

Gateway Policy Requirements

Until such time as a new policy framework addressing gateway services is released, entities must adhere to the policy requirements below:

- Gateway Lead Agencies **must** maintain responsibility for coordinating entity gateways and any associated contractual arrangements until new gateway arrangements are implemented.
- The Department of Home Affairs **must** be notified of all new gateway arrangements, including the extension of existing arrangements.
- Any change to entities' gateway **must** be discussed with the Department of Home Affairs.
- An exemption from the Department of Home Affairs **must** be sought where an entity currently operating under a Lead Agency Gateway wants to move to a new gateway. Exemption can be sought at rdif@homeaffairs.gov.au

- New contracts and extensions to existing contracts for gateway services **must**:
 - not exceed two years, with up to an additional one year extension
 - include clear, robust, and actionable release provisions to support transition to new policy framework addressing gateway services, and
 - include provisions for data, including logs, managed by a gateway to be provided to the Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre.

Note: An exemption from the Department of Home Affairs **must** be sought where an entity wishes to source outside of these conditions. Proposed exemptions should be for systems which undergo an Australian Signals Directorate Infosec Registered Assessors Program (IRAP) assessment. Exemption can be sought at rdif@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Lead Agency Gateways

The current lead gateway agencies remain in place:

- Australian Federal Police
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Defence
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Home Affairs
- Services Australia

Background

The Australian Signals Directorate's Certified Gateways list ceased operation on 29 July 2022. The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) was reviewed and updated accordingly – PSPF Policy 11 refers.

The Australian Signals Directorate has also developed security guidance to assist entities in making informed risk-based decisions when consuming gateway services.

On 1 May 2023, responsibility for the Gateway Policy moved from the Digital Transformation Agency to the Department of Home Affairs as part of a machinery-of-government change. In mid-2023, the Cyber hubs program was ceased in order to align the cyber security uplift of the Australian Government with the [2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy](#). This policy was originally developed to support the transition to new gateway arrangements to be developed by Cyber Hubs. Work is currently underway to develop a new policy framework addressing gateway services. Until such time as that work is completed, this policy will remain in place.

Get in touch

For general enquiries, please contact rdif@homeaffairs.gov.au.