What is Cyber Essentials and why should I have it?

The Cyber Essentials Scheme is a Government backed standard in cyber security enabling businesses to demonstrate that they both understand and address the cyber risks.

As part of the implementation of the Scottish Government's Cyber Resilience Strategy, consideration is being given to adding cyber accreditation to certain procurement conditions. The aim of these grants is to help third sector organisations achieve accreditation, as well as assessing barriers and enablers for the sector to achieve accreditation.

How do I get Cyber Essentials?

You must apply through a 'certification body' to achieve Cyber Essentials accreditation. The process involves a self-assessment questionnaire (which your IT support will need to complete) and external remote testing of your systems. The cost for accreditation is around £300, although your IT supplier may charge you for completing the self-assessment and/or putting in place recommended measures to achieve accreditation.

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre provide a list of their trusted partners who can accredit you.