



AUDITOR GENERAL

Halifax Regional Municipality



Halifax Regional Police
Information Technology Audit
Public AFSC Presentation
February 11, 2021

Audit Scope

- Systems HRP IT solely responsible for
 - Exclude HRM ICT/ HRP shared responsibilities
- Semi-covert and covert networks
- Looked at consultant recommendations reported as complete to Board
 - Did not look at all consultant recommendations
- Looked at whether HRP appropriately manages risks to its IT systems



Audit Overview

- HRP not effectively managing risks to IT systems
- Limited progress with changes from 2016-17 consultant report
- IT policies outdated
- Lack of documented processes
 - To update systems
 - For system backups
- Board of Police Commissioners did not get adequate information on IT security
- Majority of the recommendations do not require an investment in IT infrastructure

Oversight – Summary

- Limited progress on 2016-17 security risk assessment
- HRP's existing IT policies outdated, do not cover key IT security risks
- Board of Police did not get adequate information on IT security consultant report



Oversight – Detailed Results

- HRP management did not adequately brief Board of Police Commissioners in 2017
- July 2019 – HRP IT management gave update on semi-covert system recommendations
 - Board told 13 of 67 recommendations complete
 - Only five recommendations complete
 - Board not briefed on covert system recommendations
- Management’s responsibility to provide the Board with sufficient, accurate information



Oversight – Detailed Results

- Insufficient oversight of covert system
 - One staff member responsible
 - Not supervised by someone with IT background
 - No reporting relationship with HRP’s Chief Information Security Officer
- CISO was not aware of covert section of the 2016-17 consultant report
 - Until we asked for during audit



Oversight – Detailed Results

- Need better risk management processes to protect information
- Information security risk assessment not refreshed since 2016-17
- No plan detailing how risks will be mitigated
- Have draft IT policies
 - Not implemented
 - No detailed plans to finalize and implement
 - Substantial work needed to operationalize policies for HRP
- Key risks not addressed in existing policies
 - Access control
 - Encrypting storage devices

Policies 

Security of Information & Assets – Summary

- Aspects of physical security adequate but gaps should be addressed
 - Assess HRM policies to ensure suitable for HRP
 - Need to identify which physical areas and information are more sensitive
 - Lack of policies for removable media
 - IT inventory list needs updating

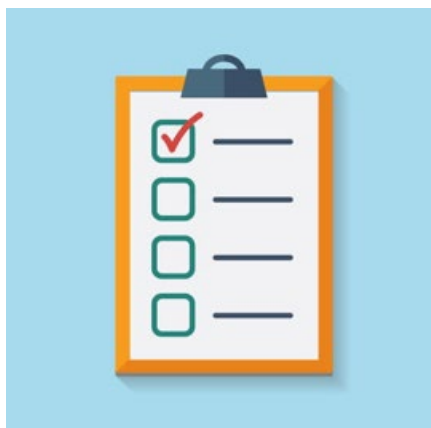


Security of Information & Assets – Detailed Results

- No policy on teleworking
- Which physical areas or information are sensitive
 - Determine for HRP facilities
- Datacentres have backup power
 - Management did not know maintenance contract was current
- Lack policies around secure data destruction
- No policies that address management of removable media, such as USB devices

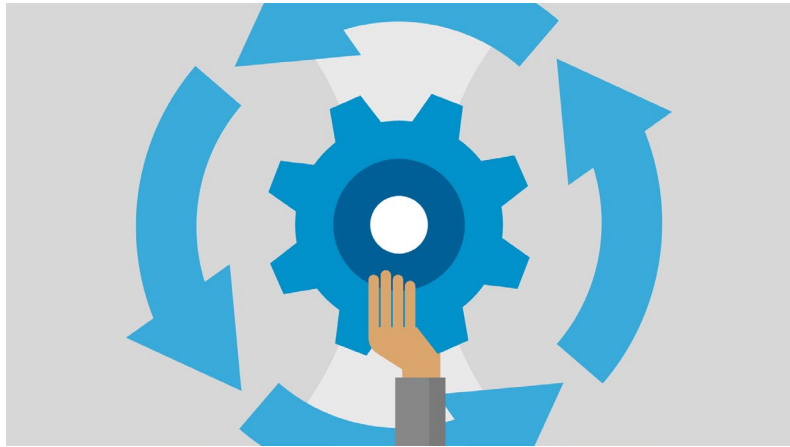
Security of Information & Assets – Detailed Results

- Inaccurate inventory lists
 - HRP did not have complete, accurate inventory lists
 - Incomplete and inaccurate information on mobile data terminals in police vehicles



Information Technology System Operations – Detailed Results

- No documented operating procedures to maintain two systems
 - Patch management
 - Change management
 - Backup procedures



Wrap Up

12 Recommendations

All accepted by management

Recommendation completion
dates set by HRP management

Follow up in 18 months



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Questions?