From: **Inga Sileryte**
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Subject: Digital identity update: what we've been up to and how you can contribute
To:

Hi all,

We're writing to give you an update on our progress towards creating a shared set of standards and rules for digital identity. This work supports our goal to enable the growth of digital identity across the UK, in collaboration with government stakeholders and the private sector.

The guidance being produced will support the development of both:

- a trust framework for identity and attributes
- a government-approved digital identity and attribute scheme

Trust framework

The trust framework will establish common standards for digital identity, irrespective of sector. Having a shared set of standards and rules will help organisations check identities and share attributes in a secure and consistent way.

Two documents related to the trust framework are now published on GOV.UK:

- Using authenticators to protect an online service (GPG 44)
- How to prove and verify someone's identity (GPG 45)

A group of organisations might agree to follow the trust framework standards and work together under a common set of rules. This is known as a scheme.

The trust framework will allow different schemes to work together across sectors and borders.

For example, GOV.UK Verify and NemID are separate schemes that are both part of the eIDAS trust framework. This means a digital identity created by NemID can be reused to access a service that's part of GOV.UK Verify.

Identity and Attributes Exchange (IAX)

The government-approved digital identity and attribute scheme is called the **Identity and Attributes Exchange (IAX**).

This scheme is designed to allow public sector organisations to easily use identity and attributes in their services. Private sector organisations may also take part in this scheme.

Members of the IAX scheme will be certified against a set of government-approved scheme rules that follow the trust framework standards.

I've attached three introductory documents that set out the vision and value proposition for the IAX:

- The Identity and Attributes Exchange (IAX)
- Roles in the IAX
- What you get from being part of the IAX

There will be a government commercial framework for buying digital identities from the IAX, which will sit outside of both the trust framework and the scheme. The government commercial framework is still being developed.

Providing feedback on draft documentation

We already released for feedback several draft documents on both the trust framework and the scheme. Over the next few months we'll share the following drafts:

- Identity providers in the identity and attributes exchange (IAX): what you must do *(revised version)*
- How certification works
- Standards and rules you must follow
- How to manage your records
- Set up your OpenID Connect profile
- Describe your service
- Get certified to be part of the IAX
- Certification profiles
- How you will be audited
- How to become an approved auditor for the IAX
- Apply to join the IAX
- Enrolling in the IAX directory

Thank you to everyone once again for your active engagement in this work and for the feedback you already provided. So far, from face-to-face meetings, emails, video calls and online contributions we've received over 400 comments on the drafts. It has helped us shape the trust framework and the first iterations of the IAX. We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Best regards,
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