IT Continuity Planning in Government

As at: August 2012
Released: 29 April 2010
1st Follow-up: April 2011   2nd Follow-up: October 2011   3rd Follow-up: March 2012
Discussed by the Public Accounts Committee: 9 February 2011

Self-assessment conducted by the Provincial Emergency Program, Ministry of Justice

Comments:

EMBC & SSBC continue to address the recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General and are pleased to report on our status.

Work on recommendations 2 and 3 is currently under way with an anticipated conclusion in the fall of 2012. Please see below for details.

Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS FOLLOW-UP REPORT(S):	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
Recommendation 1: Preparation of a business impact analysis and risk assessments annually, as outlined in government policy.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 2: Prioritization of the recovery of mission-critical applications at the ministry level and across government.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 4: Assessment of risk associated with alternate arrangements being in the same geographical area as the primary operations and data centre facility, and feasibility of relocation.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 5: Finalization of business continuity plans for all mission-critical business functions.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 6: Preparation of disaster recovery plans to support the availability of significant operating environments and network infrastructures within the timelines required.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 7: Inclusion, in contracts with third-party providers of critical services, of provisions regarding both the preparation and testing of business and IT continuity plans and the assessment of risks where inclusion of these provisions is not feasible.	**Fully or substantially implemented**
Recommendation 9: Updating of business continuity plans for all mission-critical business functions annually.	**Fully or substantially implemented**

Page 1 of 2

Auditor General of British Columbia | 2012 Report 6
Follow-up Report: Updates on the implementation of recommendations from recent reports

Recommendations (Cont.)

Outstanding Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	SELF-ASSESSED STATUS
Recommendation 3: Establishment of realistic and achievable recovery timelines for shared systems and program applications.	**Partially implemented**

Actions taken, results and/or actions planned

The joint SSBC and EMBC Information Sessions designed to assist Ministries with the development of realistic and achievable recovery timelines will conclude this fall.

SSBC has established and communicated recovery times to assist Ministries to clarify their own.

Recommendation 8: Regular testing of continuity plans and restoration procedures for all mission-critical applications and supporting systems.	**Partially implemented**

Actions taken, results and/or actions planned

Testing of supporting systems (SSBC managed infrastructure) is dealt with through existing contract language for DRP. Ministries are responsible for the testing of their own managed applications and data sets.

The cross government Business Continuity Scorecard will be adjusted to collect information on the number of mission applications owned by each Ministry and the status of annual DR tests.

Page 2 of 2

Auditor General of British Columbia | 2012 Report 6
Follow-up Report: Updates on the implementation of recommendations from recent reports