

# Risk Management in the Public Sector

**Speakers:**

Gerard Joyce, CTO, CalQRisk

Aidan Horan, Director, IPA

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Outline

1. Introductions
2. Why Do Risk Management?
3. What is Risk Management?
4. Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies
5. The Risk Management Process
6. Risk Criteria / Risk Appetite
7. Roles and Responsibilities
8. Contemporary Topics – Aidan Horan
9. Q &A



**CalQRisk:** Develop and supply software to support Governance, Risk and Compliance activity across many sectors.

**Gerard Joyce:** Co-Founder and CTO of CalQRisk

- Participated in the development of ISO 31000: International Risk Management Standard.
- Chairman of the Irish Risk Management Mirror Committee

**Aidan Horan:** Director with IPA

- Director in the consultancy, training and development directorate at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) specialising in governance, risk and related services.
- Nominated as a non-executive member of a number of boards / committees.

# Why Do Risk Management?

## **Because:**

- Objectives / Desired Outcomes
- Focus
- Forward Looking
- Process Identifies Opportunities
- Better / Informed Decision Making
- Improved Performance
- Effective Governance Demands It

# What is Risk Management?

- Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk (ISO 31000 Standard)

# What is Risk?

- The Effect of Uncertainty on Objectives (ISO 31000 / Guide 73)

**Public sector entities face a wide range of uncertain internal and external factors that may affect the achievement of their objectives. The effect of this uncertainty on their objectives is called risk**

**IFAC**

**Risks are not Events!**

# Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

- First published in 1992, updated in 2001, 2009 and 2016 (DPER)
  - Role of the Board
  - Role of the Chairperson
  - Role of Board Members
  - Board Effectiveness
  - Codes of Conduct, Ethics,..
  - Business and Financial Reporting
  - **Risk Management, Internal Control, Internal Audit and Audit and Risk Committees**
  - Relations with the Oireachtas, Minister and parent Department
  - Remuneration and Superannuation
  - Quality Customer Service

# Risk Management

## Key Elements of Board's Oversight of RM:

- Have Risk Management as a “Standing agenda item”
- Approve the Risk Management policy (including setting risk appetite)
- Review / approve management reporting on risk management
- Require external review of effectiveness of RM framework
- Confirmation in annual report of assessment / mitigation.
- Establish an Audit and Risk Committee
- Appoint a CRO

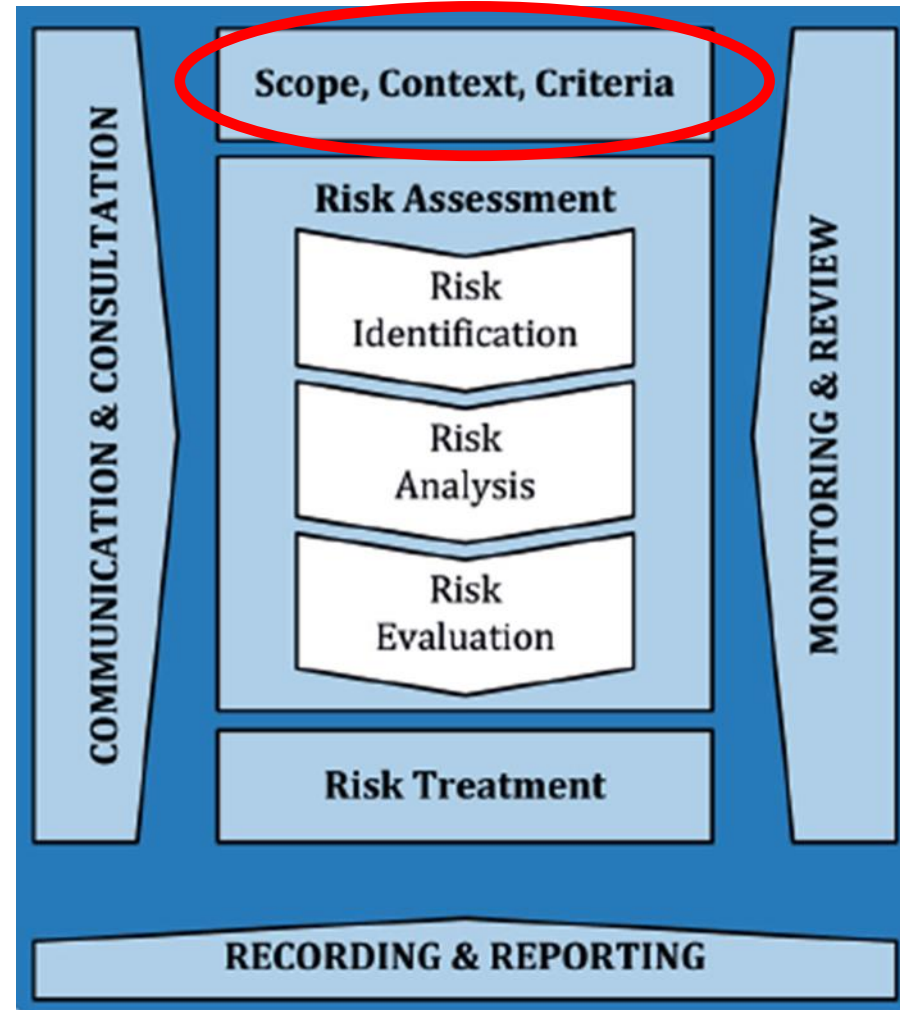


# Internal Control

## **Board is responsible for ensuring:**

- Clearly defined management responsibilities
- Risk identification process and evaluation of financial implications
- A budgeting system and means to compare actual with budget
- Procedures and practices to mitigate risks, e.g. segregation of duties
- Procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of controls
- Confirmation in annual report of review of effectiveness of the system of internal control

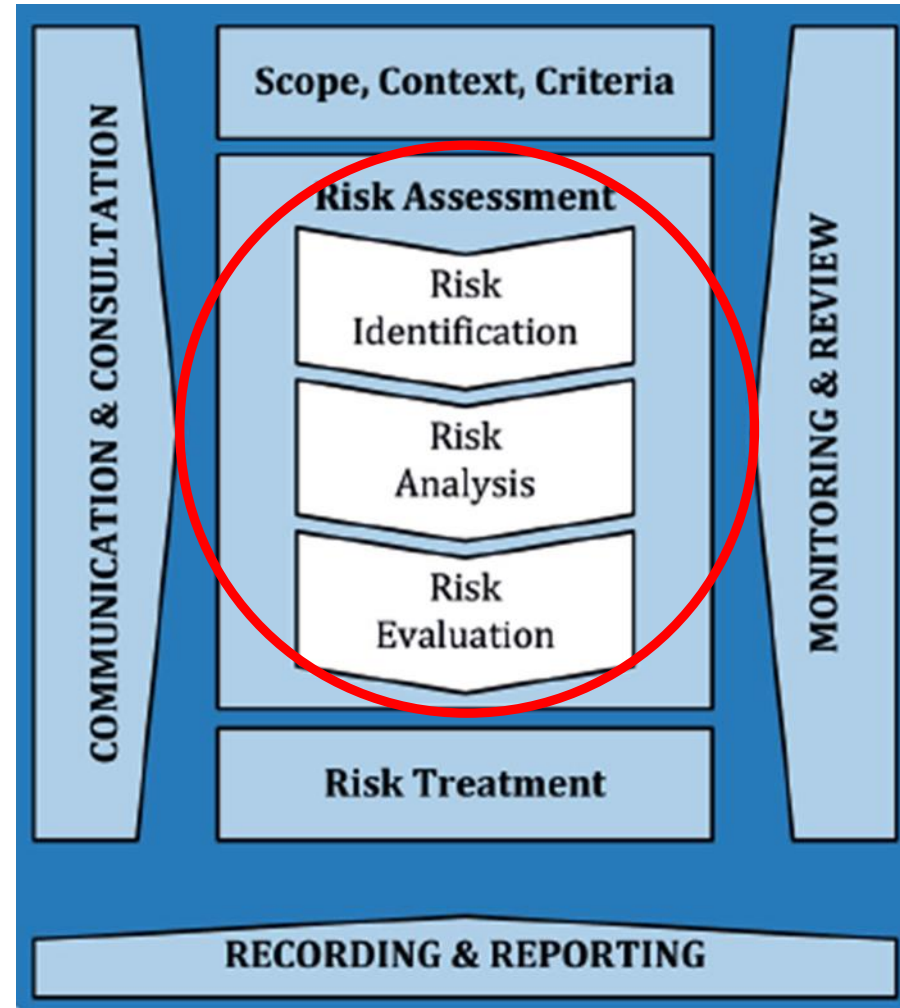
# The Risk Management Process



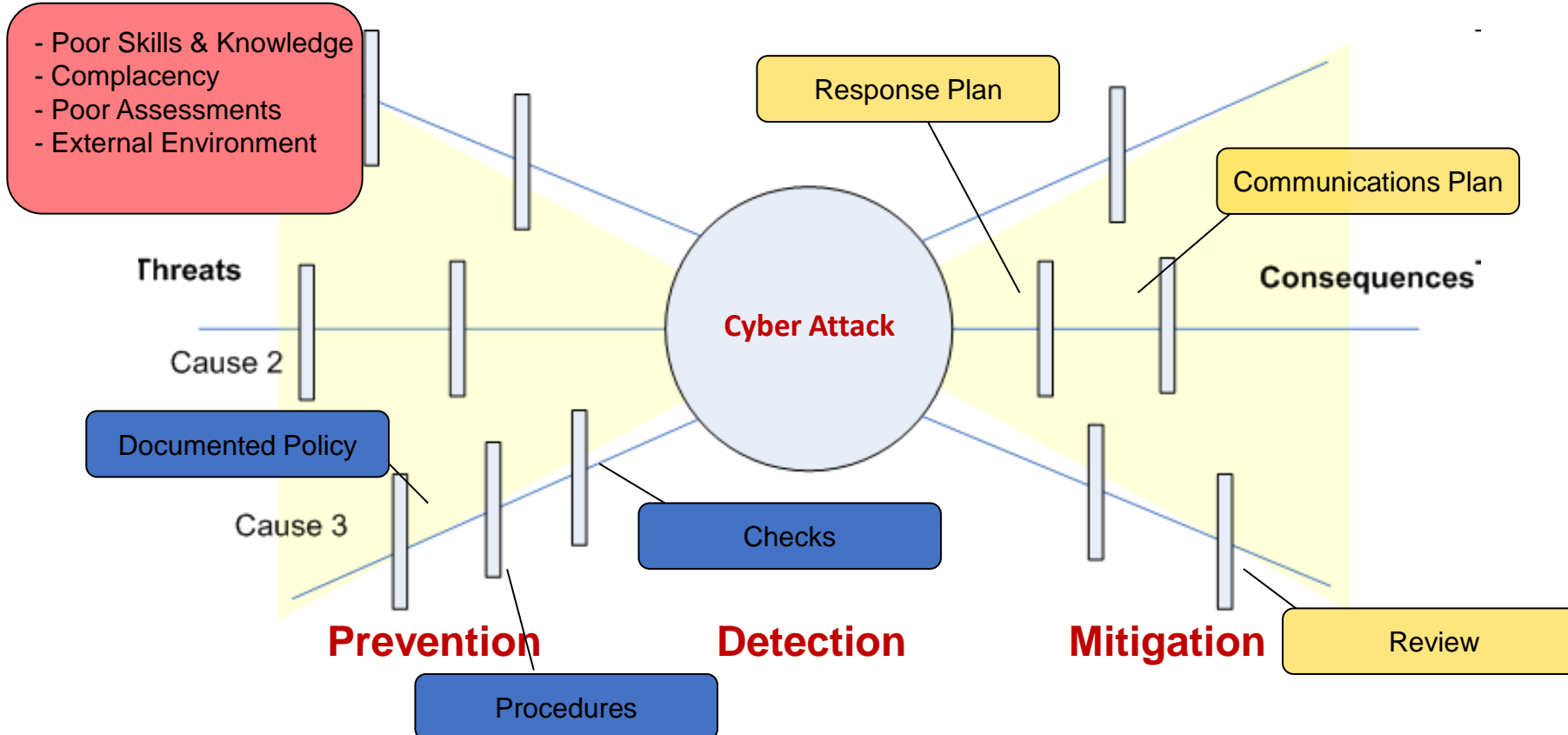
# Establishing the Context

- the intended outcomes of the organisation
- the internal and external environment (structure, key third parties, standards and legal & regulatory requirements)
- the Risk Criteria used to evaluate the significance of risks
- the Risk Appetite as defined by the Board of Directors
- the stakeholders
- the scope of the risk assessment (Risk Assessment Framework)
- the Key Risk Indicators (KRIs)

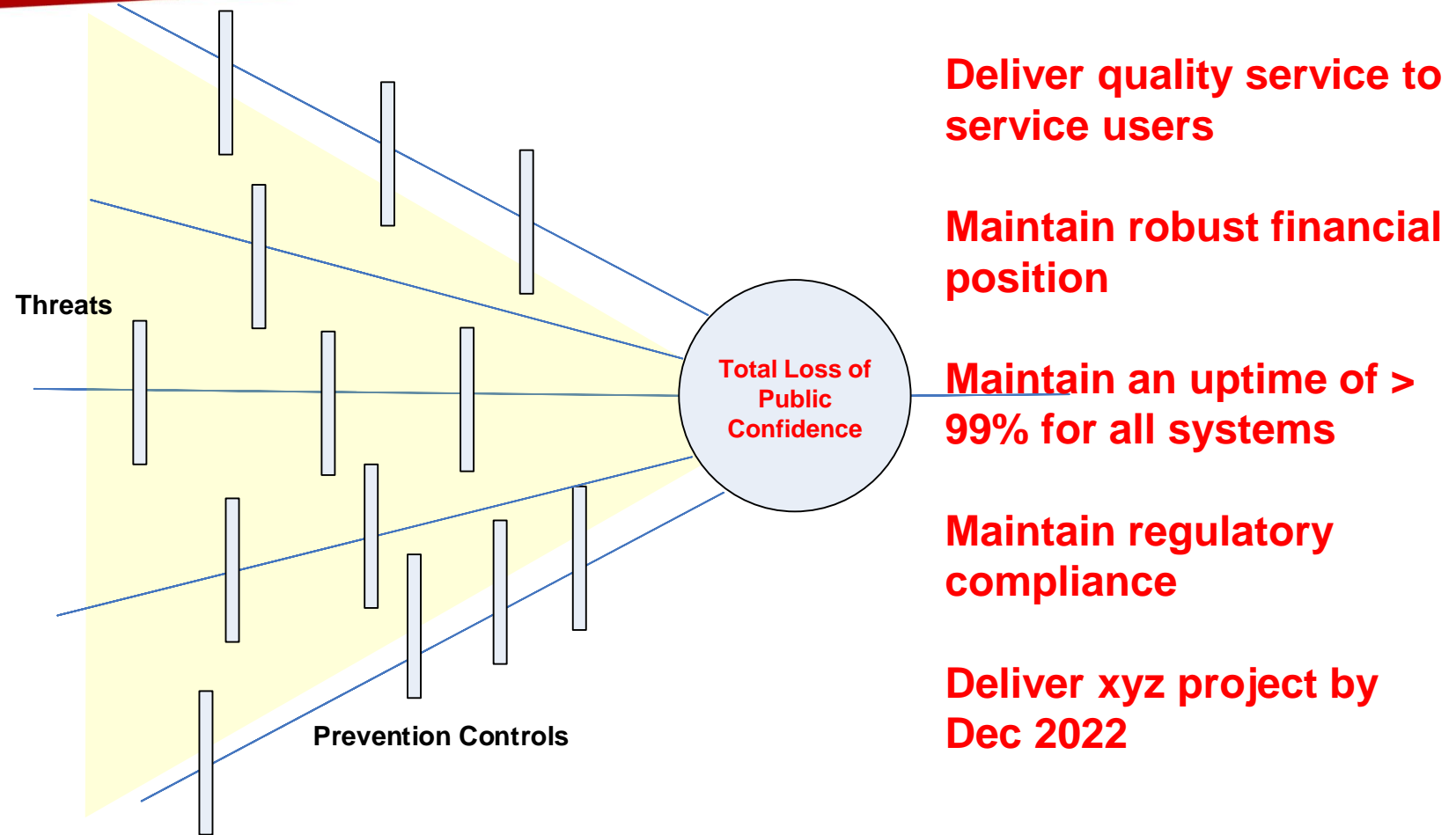
# The Risk Management Process



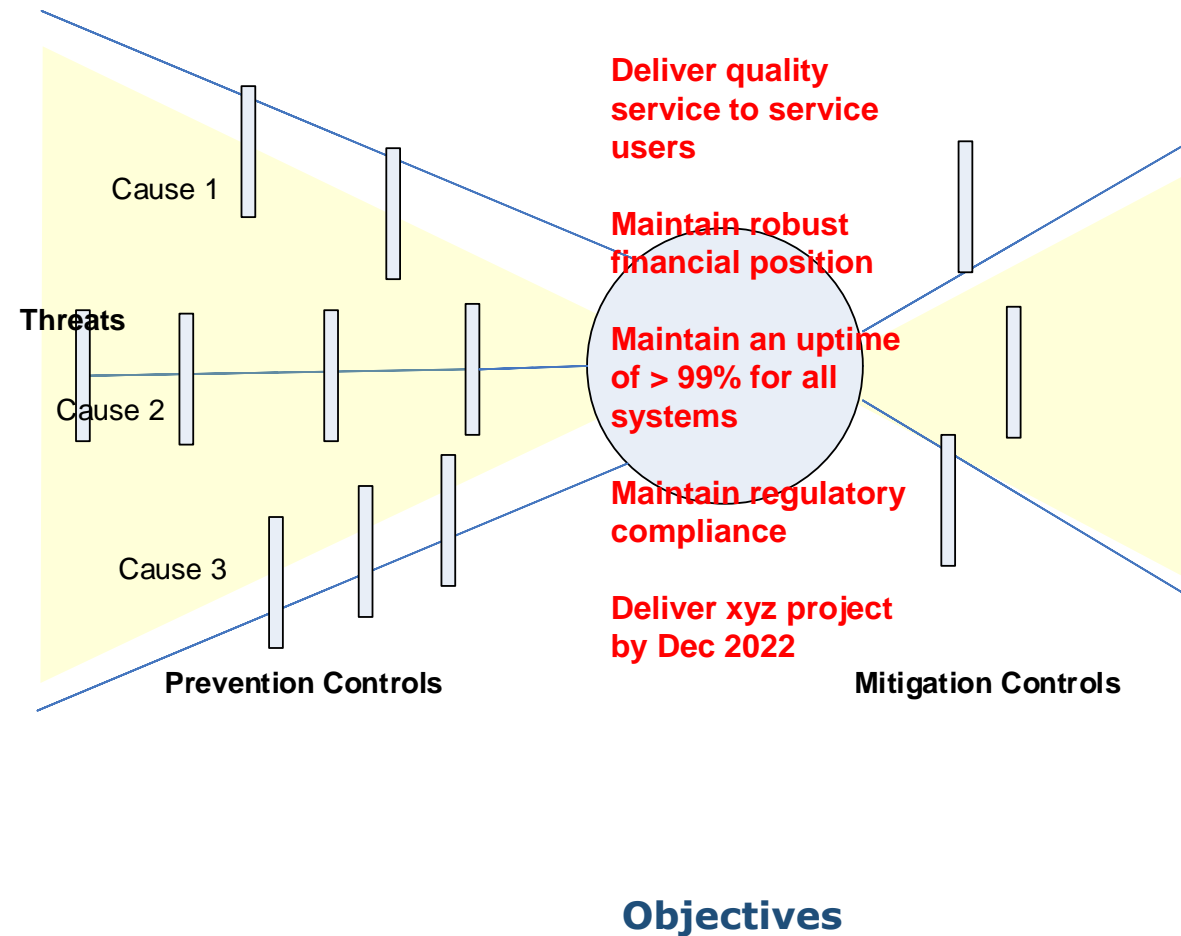
# Risk Assessment – Bow-Tie



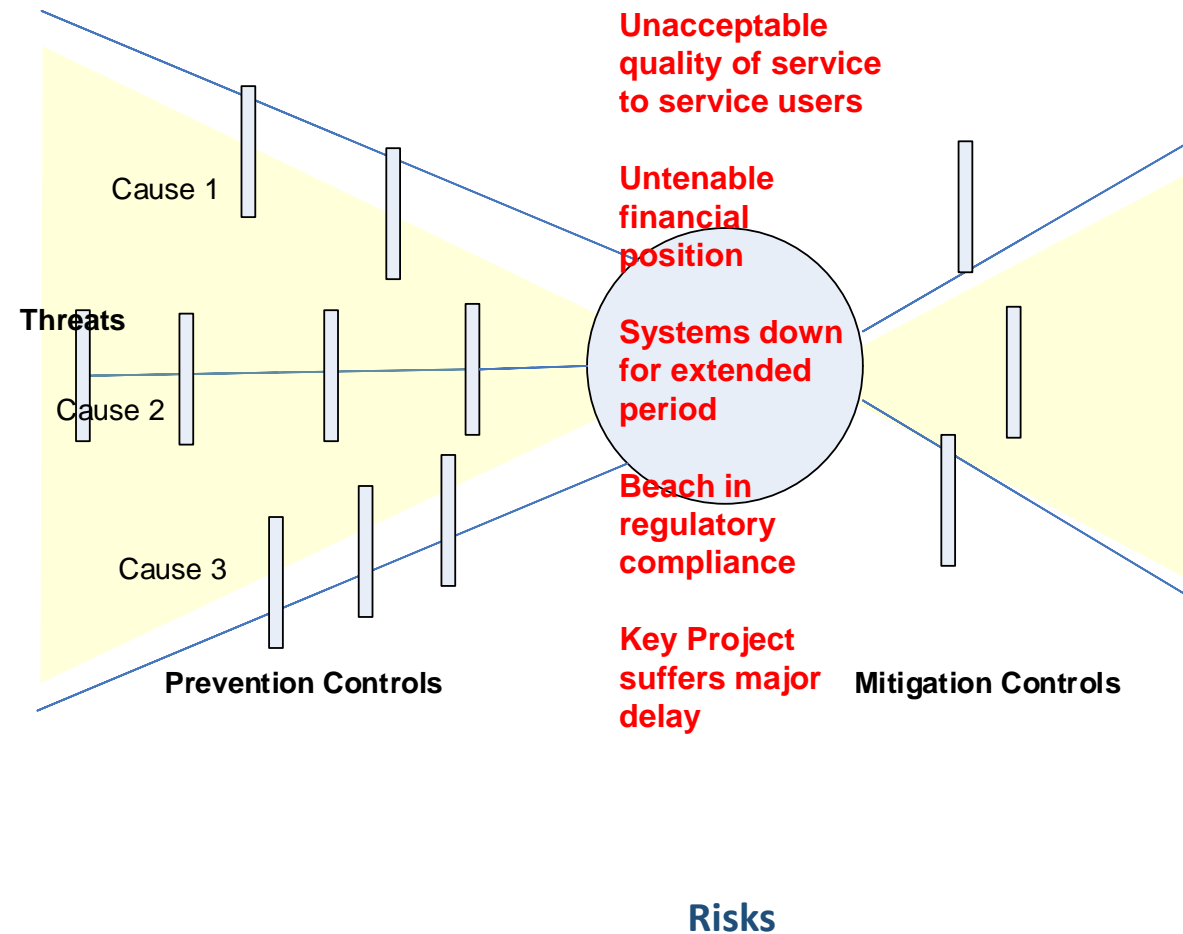
# From Objectives to Risks



# From Objectives to Risks

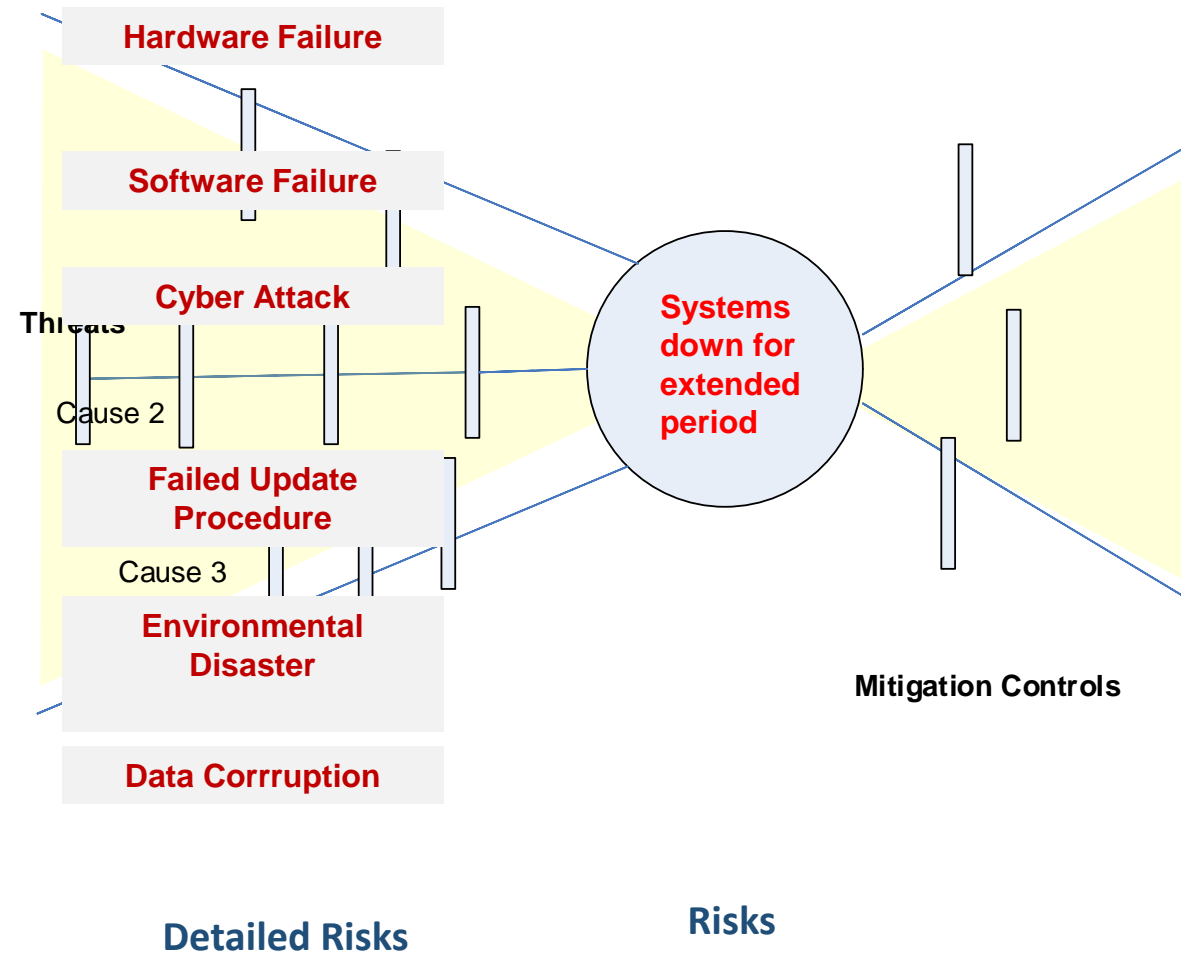


# From Objectives to Risks

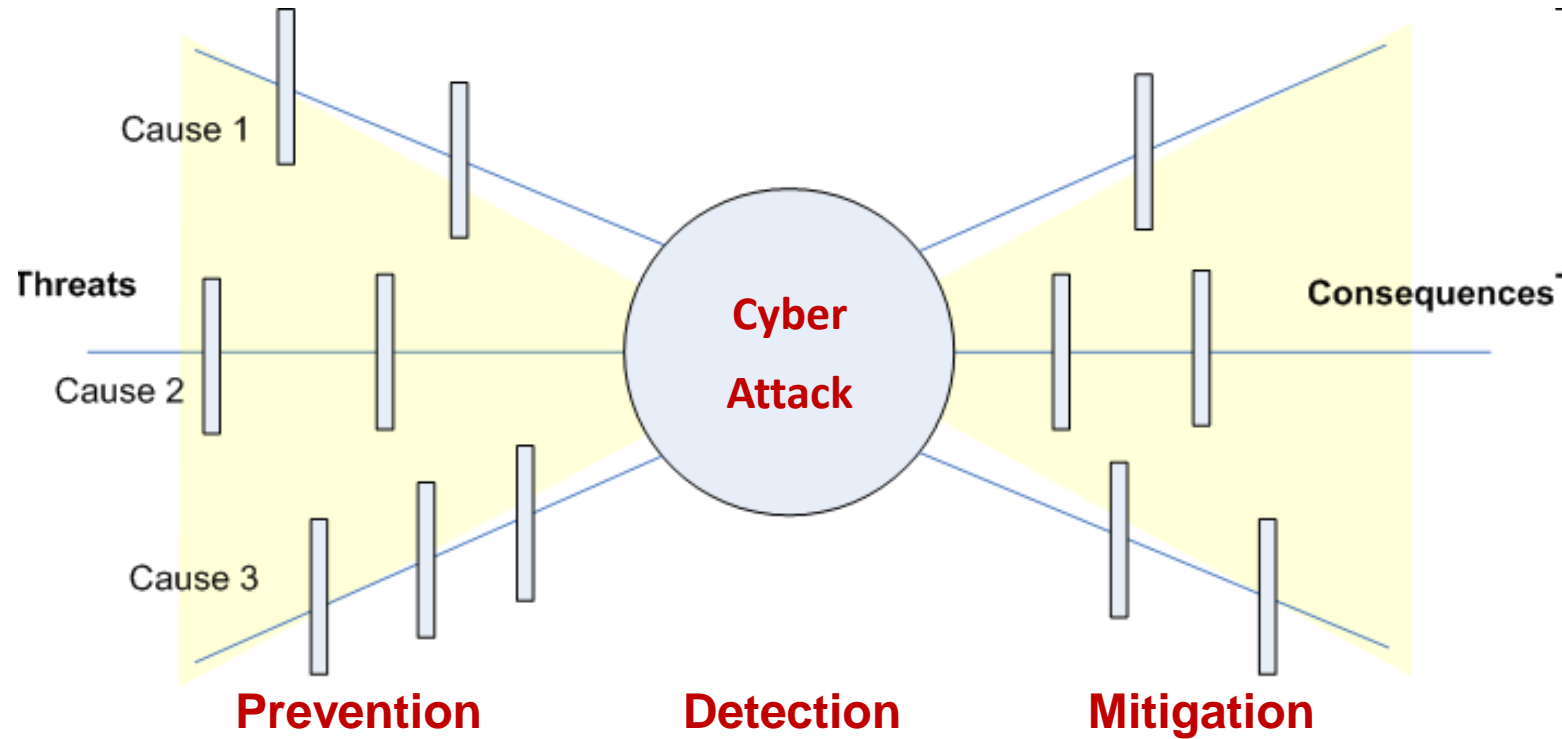




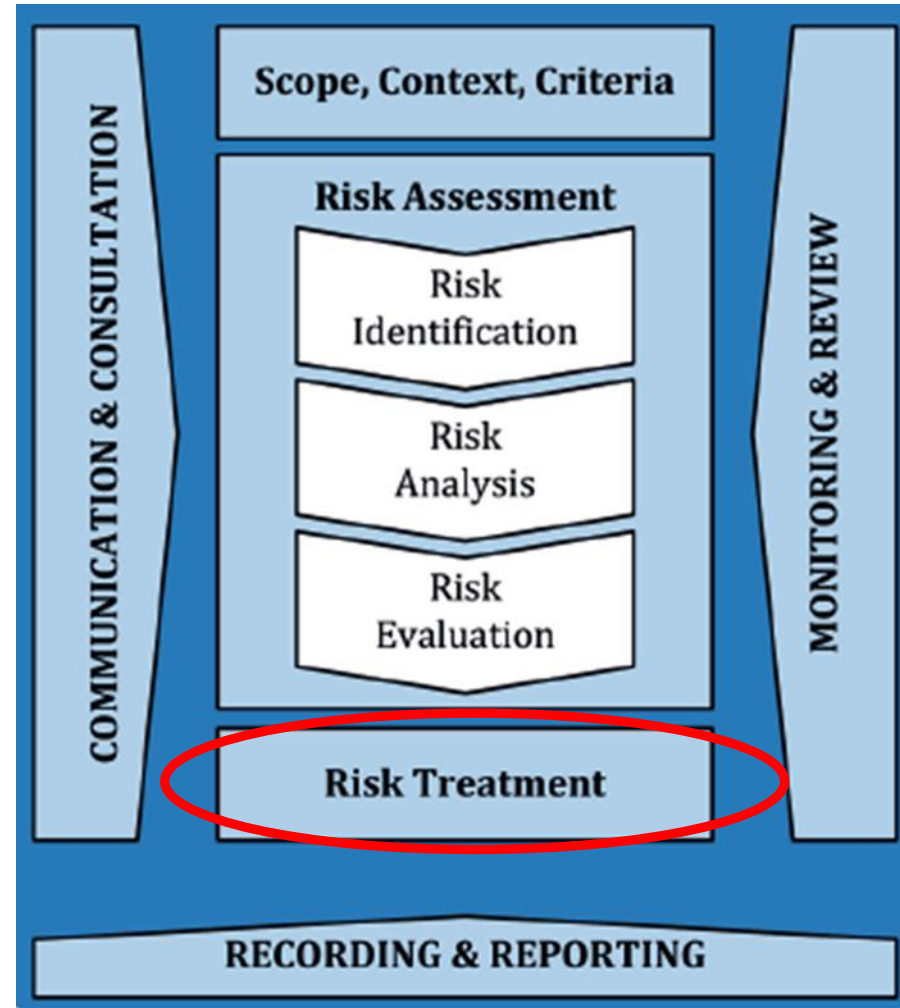
# From Objectives to Risks



# Risk Assessment – Bow-Tie



# Risk Treatment



# Brakes Allow a Car to go Fast



## **Risk Control** (Minimise Exposure)

- Terminate (Avoid)
- Treat (Reduce)
  - Pre-loss (Prevention)
  - Post-loss (Mitigation)

## **Risk Financing** (Fund Losses)

- Tolerate (Retain)
- Transfer
  - Insurance
  - Contract

*Amount and type of risk that an organization is prepared to pursue, retain or take. (ISO Guide 73)*

- Set by the Board of Directors
- For all who make decisions in the organisation
- For those stakeholders who need assurance

**The limits for risk taking**

# Risk Appetite – The What

- **Reputational risks:** We have adopted a cautious stance for reputational risks, with a preference for safer delivery options, tolerating a cautious degree of residual risk and choosing the option most likely to result in successful delivery, thereby enhancing our reputation for delivering high quality, cost-effective services to the public.
- **Financial risks:** We have adopted a cautious stance for financial risks with reference to core running costs, seeking safe delivery options with little residual risk that only yield some upside opportunities. The Board will receive ongoing assurance through the annual governance statement that policies and procedures are in place in line with guidance

Source: Risk\_Appetite Guidance Note Aug 2021

# Risk Appetite – The How

*We only allow Finance department staff to use the company credit card*

## Statements

- Start with each risk category or objective
- For each Objective clarify Primacy and Flexibility
- Will Do / Will not do
- State what you will tolerate / not-tolerate

## Limits

- Disaggregation of overall appetite
- Constraints
- Probably expressed in many policies already

*We will cancel any events or activities that we cannot deliver in compliance with our safeguarding obligations*

*Members of the Board may only serve for x Terms*

*Any expenditure greater than €5,000 will require Board approval*

*We will apply full public procurement compliance to all suppliers/third party providers*

*Meeting our legal and regulatory obligations will take priority over other business objectives.*

*Our core systems will have a minimum uptime of 99.5% during operating hours (7 x 12). (Implies max 25 min downtime in any one week)*

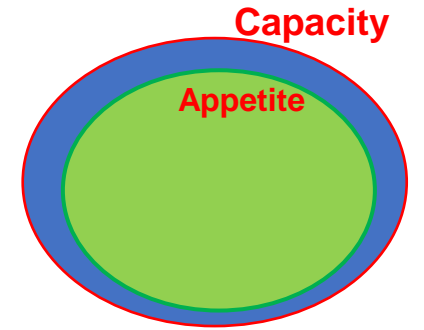
**If you have zero-tolerance of non-compliance with legal obligations: Say it!**



# Risk Appetite – The How

## Risk Capacity

is the maximum amount of risk which the organisation is technically able to assume before breaching constraints determined by capital, liquidity, borrowing capacity, regulations, reputation and operational environment.

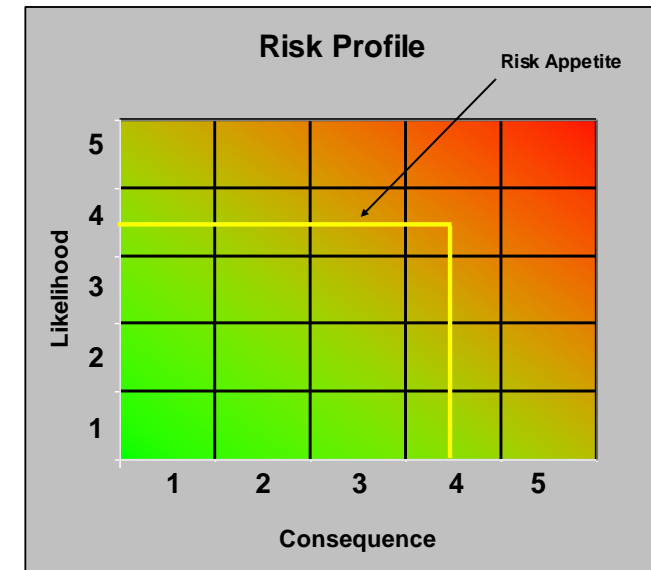


## Risk Management Capability

the ability to manage risk exposures within desired risk limits.  
(Understanding, measurement, skills & knowledge, controls and oversight, culture..)

Terms of reference against which the significance of a risk is evaluated. (ISO Guide 73)

- Defined by the Risk Officer
- Approved by the Board of Directors
- Must be consistent with the Risk Appetite

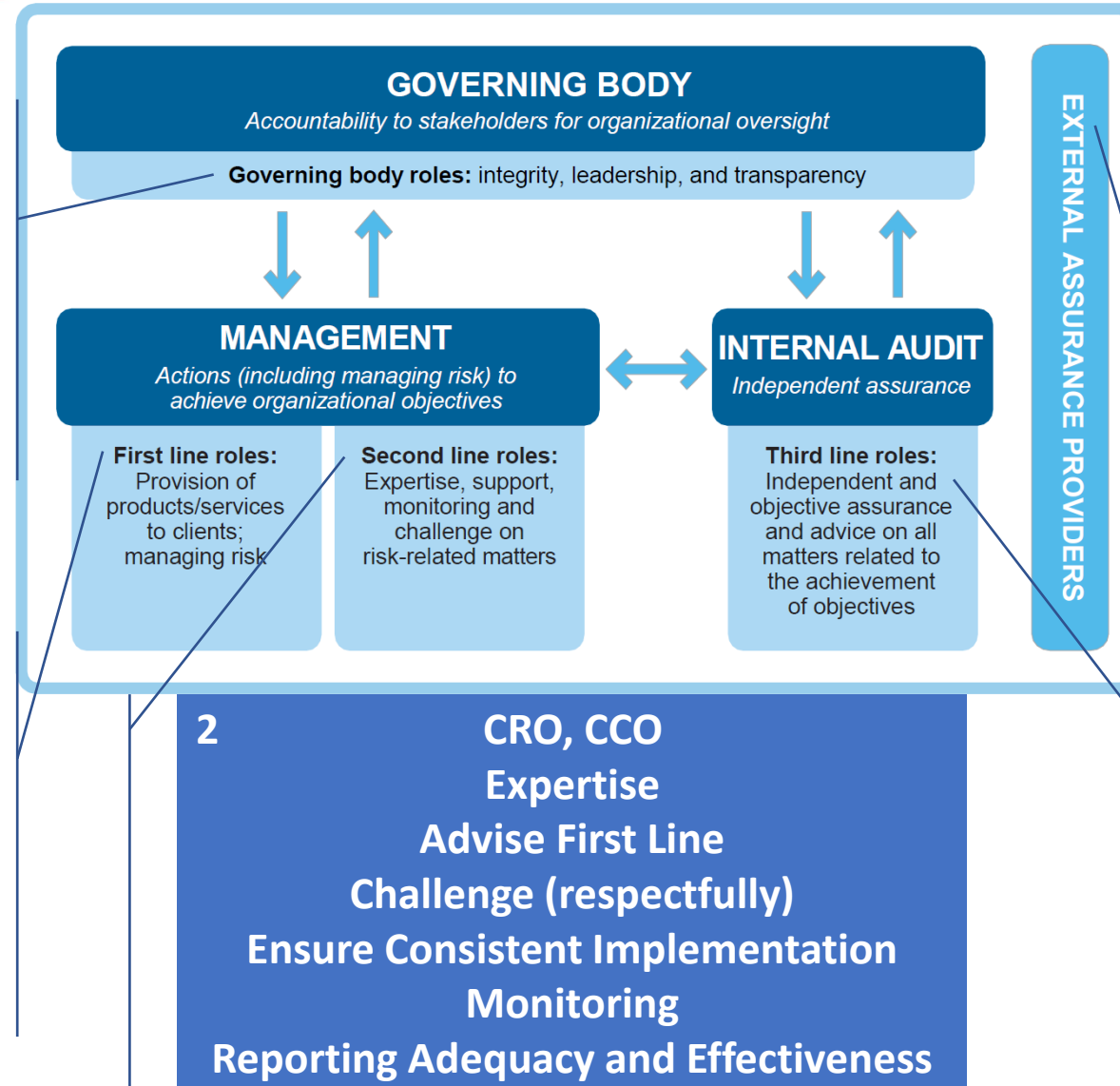


# Risk Criteria

## Risk Criteria

CONSEQUENCES					
Criteria	5 Substantial	4 Significant	3 Moderate	2 Minor	1 Negligible
Governance	3 significant Audit Findings and several Directors departing				
Approvals / Compliance	Breach of 3 compliance obligations				
Reputation	Sustained National and Local Multi-Media adverse publicity	Sustained Local Media adverse publicity	Once-off National multi-media adverse publicity	Once-off Local Multi-media adverse publicity	A single complaint
Operations	Unable to provide any service for 1 week				
People	Departure of 6 key managers in one month				
LIKELIHOOD					
	5 Very High	4 High	3 Medium	2 Low	1 Very Low
	Once per quarter or more often	Once in a year	Once in 3 years	Once in 10 years	Once in 30 years, or less frequent

# Roles and Responsibilities



Thank You

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## Our Guest Speaker

Aidan Horan, IPA

# Risk Management in the Public Sector

## Contemporary Topics

**Aidan Horan**  
**Governance Team @IPA**  
[ahoran@ipa.ie](mailto:ahoran@ipa.ie)

## Governance – Risk – Assurance

A sound system of internal control provides **assurance** that an organisation will not be hindered in **achieving its objectives** or in the orderly and legitimate conduct of its business, by circumstances which may be **reasonably foreseen**.



# 2022

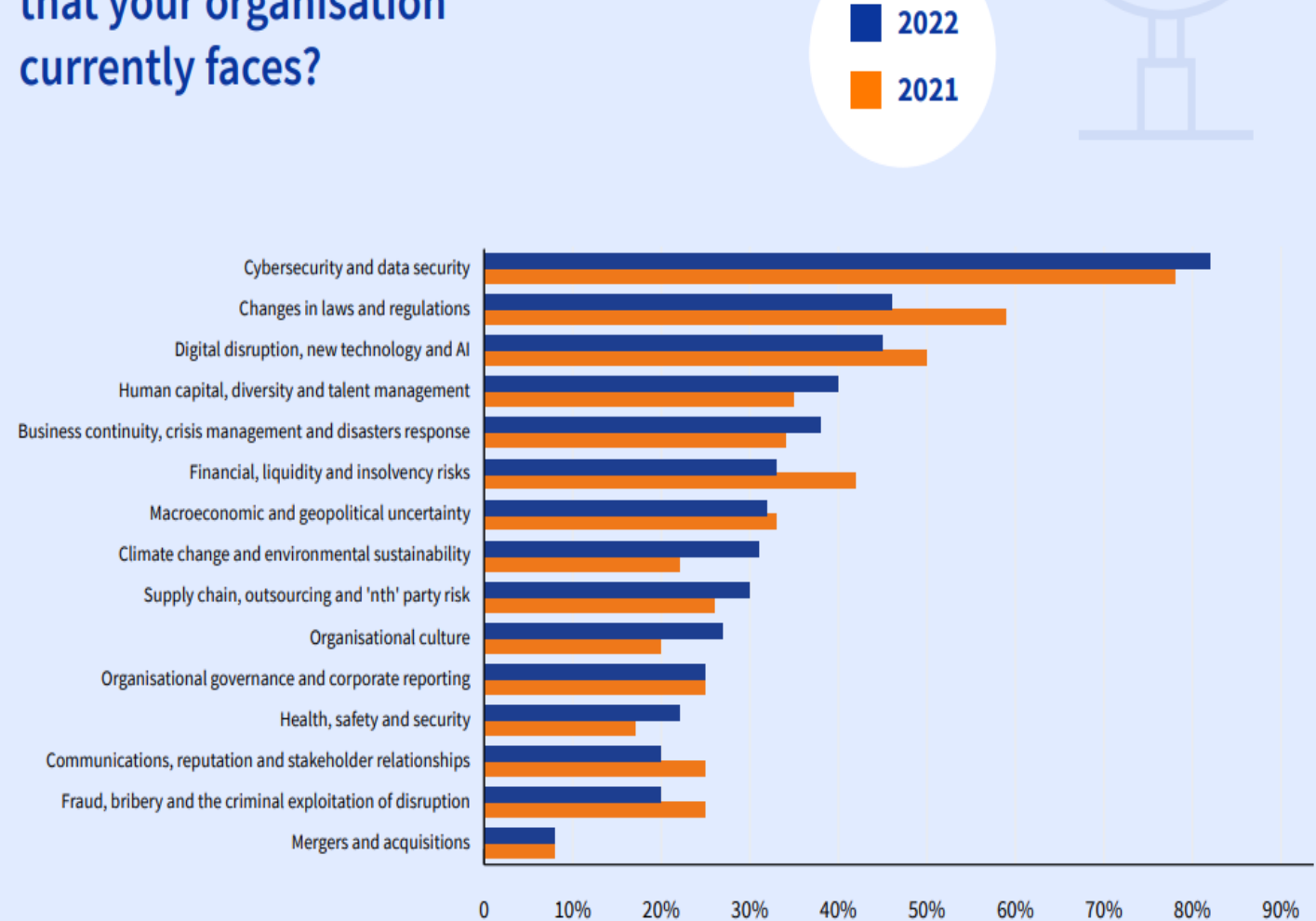
## RISK FOCUS

Hot topics  
for internal  
auditors

[Read more](#)



### What are the top five risks that your organisation currently faces?





An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

## Public Sector Cyber Security Baseline Standards

November 2021



### Baseline Cyber Security Standards align with the NIST Framework<sup>2</sup>

NIST Cyber Security Framework				
Identify	Protect	Detect	Respond	Recover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset Management</li> <li>Business Environment</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Risk Assessment</li> <li>Risk Management Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access Control</li> <li>Awareness and Training</li> <li>Data Security</li> <li>Info protection Processes and Procedures</li> <li>Maintenance</li> <li>Protective Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anomalies and events</li> <li>Security Continuous Monitoring</li> <li>Detection Processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response Planning</li> <li>Communications</li> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovery Planning</li> <li>Improvements</li> <li>Communications</li> </ul>

The NIST 1.1 CSF is a framework of cyber security guidance published by the U.S. National of Institute of Standards and Technology and is available to download from their website.

It is designed as a comprehensive framework for businesses and organisations to identify, assess and address the cyber security risks they face. NIST encourages any organisation or sector to review and consider the Framework as a helpful tool in managing cybersecurity risks.



An Roinn Caiteachais  
Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe  
Department of Public  
Expenditure and Reform

## Blended Working Policy Framework for Civil Service Organisations



Prepared by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform  
gov.ie

March 2022

I am delighted to present to you the *Blended Working Policy Framework* for the Civil Service.

Over the last couple of years, the pandemic brought about a sudden and seismic change in the working arrangements for everyone. Despite the challenges, civil servants adapted swiftly and with great success to this new working environment which required so many to work remotely. In doing so, their efforts have helped to ensure the continuity in the provision of key services to the public.

Many lessons were learned around how remote and blended working applied in practice, often in very difficult circumstances. This Framework harnesses those lessons and provides guidance to Departments and Offices which will bring a level of consistency and transparency while allowing organisations the flexibility to tailor their policy to meet their business needs.

The Government has mandated public sector employers to move to 20% remote working and this Framework supports that commitment by providing for a longer term approach to blended working across the Civil Service. This move to blended working also supports commitments in the National Remote Working Strategy, Our Rural Future, the Climate Action Plan and the National Planning Framework.

I fully support the principles set out in the Framework which aim to address opportunities and risks for both employers and employees:

1. Support the Business Needs of the Organisation
2. Leadership and Management
3. Be an Employer of Choice
4. Transparency and Consistency
5. Health and Safety





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## National Risk Assessment 2019

Overview of Strategic Risks



Prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach  
gov.ie

### 1.2. List of Risks 2019



#### Strategic Geopolitical Risks

1. Departure of the UK from the EU
2. Instability in Northern Ireland
3. Future direction and stability of the EU
4. Changing distribution of global influence and move away from a rules-based system
5. Terrorist incidents and armed conflicts

6. Economic Impact of Brexit
7. Risk of Overheating
8. Public Expenditure Pressures
9. Global Slowdown, including changes to international trading environment
10. International Tax changes
11. Reliance on multinational corporations and sectoral concentration



#### Strategic Economic Risks



#### Strategic Social Risks

12. Capacity of Higher and Further Education System
13. Skilled Labour Shortages
14. An Ageing Population including pensions and health system challenges
15. Impact of Social Media on Public Debate
16. Social cohesion including perceptions of Regional and Rural imbalances
17. Migration and Integration

18. Climate Change & Biodiversity
19. Ensuring an affordable, sustainable and diverse energy supply
20. Delivery of Public Infrastructure
21. Food safety
22. Supply and Affordability of Housing



#### Strategic Environmental Risks



#### Strategic Technological Risks

23. Cyber security
24. Disruptive technology trends
25. Anti-Microbial Resistance
26. Major Pandemics
27. Nuclear contamination





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## National Risk Assessment 2021/2022

### Overview of Strategic Risks



Table 1: Strategic risks – 2021/2022

Geopolitical Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rise of a multipolar world</li> <li>Future direction of the European Union</li> <li>Ireland's relationship, post-Brexit, with the United Kingdom</li> <li>Armed conflict, terrorism and hybrid threats</li> </ul>
Economic Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic scarring</li> <li>Public finances and the financial system</li> <li>Labour shortages, supply chain and capacity constraints</li> <li>Inflation</li> <li>Vulnerabilities arising from Ireland's enterprise mix</li> <li>Changes to international trading relationships</li> <li>Disruption to a secure and sustainable energy supply</li> </ul>
Social Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social cohesion</li> <li>Housing and sustainable development</li> <li>Migration and integration</li> <li>Demographic change</li> <li>Digital exclusion</li> </ul>
Environmental Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Biodiversity loss</li> <li>Extreme weather events and other natural disasters</li> <li>Pandemics</li> <li>Antimicrobial resistance</li> </ul>
Technological Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food safety</li> <li>Data flows, storage and security</li> <li>Disruptive technology</li> <li>Cybersecurity</li> <li>Nuclear contamination</li> </ul>

Unacceptable to  
Take risk

Willing to pursue opportunity

	Low		Cautious		Open		Willing		Eager	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Risk Category /Activity / Function										
1 Financial ( performance & stewardship)										
2 Collaboration/Joint ventures										
3 Compliance ( Legal, regulatory and governance)										
4 New Technology / approaches to online service provision										
5 Stakeholder engagement and consultation										
6 Personnel / Talent Management										
7 Major change initiatives supporting excellence/ quality										

# Risk Management in the Public Sector

## Contemporary Topics

# Thank you

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## Questions & Answers



# CalQRisk Platform

