GUIDE • LEGACY IT

How Crown Hosting supports Legacy IT modernisation

A guide for public sector technology leaders. It explains where Crown Hosting fits in the government's Legacy IT Risk Assessment Framework, which risks it addresses, when to consider it and how to access it.

£150m

Annual savings DWP unlocked after moving its estate into Crown Hosting

99.999%

Availability, with independent A and B power paths and 72 hours of on-site fuel

75%

Typical reduction in power use compared with legacy on-premises estates



01

CROWN HOSTING AT A GLANCE

Crown Hosting provides modern, energy-efficient colocation facilities for the UK public sector. It gives you secure on-premises capacity for workloads where public cloud is not yet appropriate.

It is used by hundreds of public sector organisations, spanning central government, arm's length bodies and operators of Critical National Infrastructure. They use it at every stage of modernisation, from deeply embedded legacy estates to services already moving to the cloud.

Crown Hosting is the single supplier of GCA RM6262, the Crown Hosting II framework, and has served UK government since 2015. The Cabinet Office acts as the Buyer under the framework, and Crown Hosting is referenced in the government's Cloud First policy guidance.

COMMON STARTING POINTS

Local server rooms. Equipment housed in office buildings that were never designed to run it.

End-of-life or non-compliant facilities. Data centres that are ageing, out of contract or no longer meet standards.

Third-party data centres. Hosting arrangements that no longer meet your requirements.

In each case, Crown Hosting lets you separate hosting risk from application risk. You can deal with immediate estate and resilience concerns, keep services running, and plan longer-term transformation at the right pace.

02

SCALE AND RESILIENCE

As of 2026, Crown Hosting operates 97 data halls across 12 data centres, on three geographically separate UK sites. It can also expand into four further UK sites operated by Ark Data Centres.

97	12	3	+4
Data halls	Data centres	Separate UK sites	Further Ark sites for expansion

That scale supports everything from a single cabinet to estates of several megawatts, with the geographic diversity that services with higher resilience requirements need.

03

OUTCOMES IT SUPPORTS

Four outcomes matter most to organisations managing legacy estates.

Increase resilience

Independent A and B power paths, resilient UPS systems and on-site generators with at least 72 hours of fuel support 99.999% availability.

Improve sustainability

100% carbon-free electricity for utility supply contracts, with power use typically 75% lower than legacy on-premises estates.

Strengthen security

UK sovereign facilities, assured for the most sensitive workloads, including systems that support Critical National Infrastructure.

Reduce cost

Independent benchmarking on behalf of the Framework Authority shows Crown Hosting continues to deliver significant savings against colocation market rates.

04

KEY ASPECTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

Supports all workload types

Legacy infrastructure, private cloud platforms, AI and HPC workloads, and mission-critical systems.

Compliant direct award

Procure directly through GCA RM6262 without running a competition, which cuts procurement overhead and delivery time.

Government-assured security

Facilities are assured for the most sensitive workloads, including those supporting Critical National Infrastructure.

Flexibility built for transformation

Scale capacity up or down as requirements change, with the option to terminate for convenience. This supports iterative change and avoids vendor lock-in.

OPTIONAL SUPPORTING SERVICES

- ✓ Structured and secure migration
- ✓ Data hall fit-out and cabling
- ✓ High-diversity connectivity
- ✓ 24/7/365 on-site operational support

WHY THIS MATTERS

Taken together, these characteristics let Crown Hosting act as a stabilising layer within a wider modernisation strategy. It reduces immediate estate risk, improves resilience and gives your teams room to focus on application transformation, cloud adoption and service improvement.

05

WHEN TO CONSIDER CROWN HOSTING

Legacy estates show recognisable warning signs. Check your estate against the four groups below.

Physical environment risks

- Hosting in a server room or non-compliant data centre
- Issues with cooling, power, resilience or physical access
- Facility out of contract or end of life

Infrastructure risks

- Hardware out of support or hard to refresh
- Disaster recovery arrangements at risk
- Ageing infrastructure driving operational incidents

Transformation constraints

- Application modernisation planned but more than 12 months away
- Legacy systems blocking cloud adoption
- Major programmes that need a stable platform first

Strategic drivers

- Meeting sustainability commitments
- Reducing cost and closing inefficient estates
- Secure on-premises hosting without long-term lock-in

2+ If two or more of these apply to your estate, Crown Hosting is highly likely to be beneficial.

06

HOW TO ACCESS CROWN HOSTING

There are two routes, and both give you the same facilities, security and pricing.

DIRECT

Through GCA RM6262

A pre-approved, compliant route to procure colocation capacity and supporting services directly, so you can exit high-risk estates without running a full competition. Hundreds of organisations have used this route since 2015.

INDIRECT

Through the Industry Customer Pathway

Suppliers delivering services to the public sector can access Crown Hosting on your behalf. This supports higher-stack services such as private cloud and managed hosting, with the same security, cost and sustainability profile.

Both routes support disaggregation, prevent vendor lock-in and keep government in control of its IT estate. Our buyer's guides explain each route step by step.

07

MAPPING TO LEGACY RISK

Legacy IT increases operational, financial and cyber risk, and it delays modernisation. Crown Hosting addresses many of the environmental, infrastructure and operational risks in the Legacy IT Risk Assessment Framework.

Crown Hosting works alongside application modernisation. It gives you a safe, resilient and efficient environment, so you can modernise applications without rushing or putting service delivery at risk. DWP used this approach to unlock £150m of annual savings.

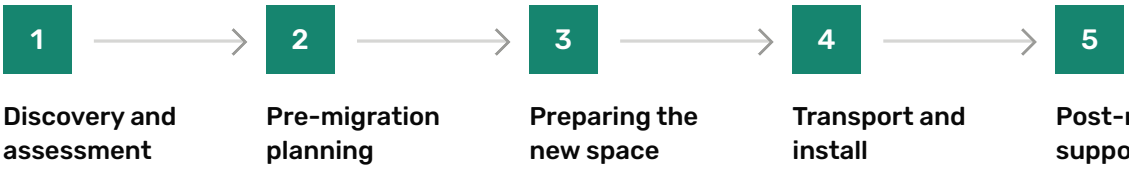
LEGACY RISK CATEGORY	HOW CROWN HOSTING HELPS
Unsuitable physical environment	Moves systems into modern, resilient, government-assured facilities, reducing risks related to cooling, power, physical access and environmental controls.
End-of-life infrastructure	Provides a stable environment for hardware refresh and stabilisation before migration to public cloud.
Historically recorded issues	Removes environmental causes of recurring failures by operating in a high-availability, professionally managed data centre.
Known security vulnerabilities	Hosts workloads in a secure, government-assured environment, improving physical and environmental security even where software vulnerabilities remain.
Lack of knowledge and skills	Reduces demand on in-house teams by removing the need to operate legacy facilities, with supporting services available where required.
Expired vendor contracts	Provides a vendor-agnostic hosting environment that maintains continuity while contractual or technical issues are resolved with suppliers.
Inability to meet current or future needs	Provides a scalable, modern foundation that separates estate risk from application constraints, so modernisation happens on a planned timetable.

08

HOW A SECURE MIGRATION WORKS

Migration out of legacy environments is one of the first questions organisations ask about. Migrations range from a single rack to estates of several hundred racks, and each follows the same structured methodology.

We scope the detail to your estate, applications, logistics and risk profile. This repeatable model has helped hundreds of organisations migrate securely out of legacy facilities.



1 Discovery and assessment

- Assign clear roles and responsibilities, and agree a Statement of Work.
- Define objectives and dependencies.
- Carry out a full IT audit, including equipment and cabling.
- Complete logistics site surveys at both locations.

2 Pre-migration planning

- Develop a detailed migration plan, including risk assessment and timelines.
- Design the new infrastructure layout and connectivity.

3 Preparing the new space

- Configure the space to meet project requirements.
- Install structured cabling and pre-cabling.
- Label equipment for migration tracking.
- Set up seed equipment and test connectivity.

4 Transport and install

- Decommission, pack and securely transport IT assets in specialist vehicles.
- Install equipment at the new site, then connect and dress all cabling.
- Provide handover support, including environment validation and troubleshooting.

5 Post-migration support

- Extend handover support if required.
- Decommission and clear the previous environment where required.

09

PRICING AND INDICATIVE COSTS

Pricing is catalogue-based under GCA RM6262. Prices are pre-agreed, index-capped and independently reviewed on behalf of the Framework Authority, so you get transparent, consistent pricing without bespoke negotiation.

The figures below are rough order of magnitude (ROM) estimates to help you sense-check affordability early. With 5 to 10 cabinets, or a known on-premises footprint of around 100kW, you can use them to form an initial view before detailed discovery. Final pricing is always confirmed in a tailored proposal, which we can provide quickly.

One 4kW cabinet

Annual cost

Rent	£6,176
Power estimate	£3,146
Total	**£9,322**

One 760kW dedicated data hall

195 cabinets • annual cost

Rent	£1,140,223
Power estimate	£597,884
Total	**£1,738,107**

Fit-out cost per 47U cabinet	£1,301

HOW THE ESTIMATES WORK

- Power is charged on actual consumption, so you never pay for capacity you do not use.
- The estimates assume 40% average utilisation, which is typical for many estates.
- Fit-out includes the cabinet, two basic PDUs and power tap-offs. Additional or non-standard requirements are reflected in a tailored proposal.

10

ITS ROLE IN YOUR ROADMAP

Crown Hosting gives you a modern, compliant and resilient foundation that reduces legacy risk while you design, modernise and migrate applications.

It is most effective alongside a clear application modernisation and cloud strategy, providing a stable platform while future-state architectures are developed and delivered. DWP's programme, in the case studies that follow, shows how this works in practice.

IT SUPPORTS

- Safe exit from non-compliant or high-risk estates
- Lower operational burden and cost
- Cloud adoption and hybrid architectures
- Delivery of departmental and cross-government digital strategies

CASE STUDY · CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Department for Work and Pensions

Moving one of Europe's largest IT estates into Crown Hosting gave DWP control of its systems and the savings to fund its move to cloud.

£150m
Saved each year, according to DWP

9 months
To pay back an investment of £108 million

70%
Of DWP services now delivered from cloud, with the other 30% in Crown Hosting

THE CHALLENGE

DWP runs one of the largest and most complex IT estates in Europe, supporting welfare, pensions and child maintenance services for over 20 million UK citizens. The estate was spread across multiple locations, heavily dependent on legacy systems and constrained by cyclical outsourcing arrangements.

DWP wanted to modernise and adopt public cloud, but a wholesale migration was not viable. Applications and data needed remediation before they were cloud-ready, so moving them as they were would have increased costs without delivering the expected benefits.

THE APPROACH

DWP relocated its data and applications to a consolidated IT infrastructure within Crown Hosting data centres, completing this first step of its remediation programme in 2018.

With the estate consolidated in one place, the department could understand how its systems and data depended on each other, then remediate and migrate them to cloud at its own pace.

THE OUTCOME

- ✓ £108m invested in the remediation programme, recovered in around nine months, with £150m saved every year.
- ✓ DWP regained full control of its services, putting it in a stronger position to continue its digital transformation.
- ✓ As of 2026, 70% of DWP services are delivered from public cloud and 30% are hosted in Crown Hosting, with transformation ongoing.

Read the full case study at crownhostingdc.co.uk

IN THEIR WORDS

> "One of the success factors for DWP (and really for any body or large organisation like us) is that if you truly want to transform, you need to understand what your systems are. Simply by placing ours in Crown Hosting facilities allowed us to do exactly that."
>
> Bryan Nelson, Lead Transformation Manager for Hybrid Cloud Services, DWP

CASE STUDY · LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Derby City Council

A hybrid approach let Derby move its remaining legacy systems into a resilient data centre while its cloud migration continued.

24 months
To break even, including the cost of migration

80%
Roughly the share of applications that could move to cloud. Crown Hosting took the legacy estate

No extra cost
To leave existing contracts, using a delayed start date to plan the exit

THE CHALLENGE

Derby City Council is a unitary authority serving around 251,400 residents, committed to the government's Cloud First policy. Detailed analysis of its IT estate found that around 80% of applications could move to the cloud.

The remaining legacy estate, tight delivery timescales and a complex supply chain meant an immediate full cloud migration was not feasible. The Council needed a hybrid approach that dealt with legacy infrastructure risk while transformation continued.

THE APPROACH

The Council adopted Crown Hosting to provide a secure, modern hosting environment for its remaining on-premises systems. It bought through a compliant government framework, so it could move quickly without adding procurement complexity.

Derby relocated its legacy systems into a resilient data centre while its cloud migration programme continued. The framework's commercial flexibility let capacity and contracts adapt as the Council's technology strategy evolved.

THE OUTCOME

- ✓ A mixed cloud and legacy migration programme, with prior contracts exited in a managed way and without unnecessary cost.
- ✓ Significant savings from highly efficient data centres.
- ✓ Contractual flexibility to keep examining and resizing the IT estate, leading to further savings.

Read the full case study at crownhostingdc.co.uk

IN THEIR WORDS

> "We also recognise that any short term costs involved in migrating to Crown Hosting are far outweighed by the significant revenue savings that result from highly efficient data centre provision, as well as the contractual flexibility that will enable us to continually examine our IT estate."
>
> Alistair Taylor, Senior Project Manager, Derby City Council

CASE STUDY · CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

UK Shared Business Services

A tightly planned relocation moved UKSBS's critical systems into Crown Hosting in 55 hours, with live services kept running throughout.

55 hours
From the start of work to go live for the whole relocation

No tender
Pre-agreed pricing allowed an immediate cost check and a quick transaction

First
Public sector organisation to realise the benefits of Framework II

THE CHALLENGE

UK Shared Business Services (UKSBS) provides shared services to central government organisations, including procurement and finance functions. Availability, resilience and continuity are paramount.

UKSBS needed to migrate its systems away from legacy facilities while keeping live services available throughout the transition.

THE APPROACH

UKSBS used Crown Hosting to access a secure, government-assured data centre environment. A structured migration plan was developed with Crown Hosting and delivery partners, covering application dependencies, connectivity, rack layout, sequencing and validation.

The migration ran within a tightly controlled delivery window, with systems fully tested and validated in the new environment before cutover.

THE OUTCOME

- ✓ Critical systems relocated into a modern, resilient hosting environment, with service continuity maintained throughout.
- ✓ Infrastructure risk associated with legacy facilities significantly reduced.
- ✓ A stable platform established to support future change.

Read the full case study at crownhostingdc.co.uk

IN THEIR WORDS

> "The attention to detail and vigilance from our own team, supported by Crown Hosting, Sunspeed and BT, was frankly, as good as it gets. With the combined Crown Hosting alliances, we were good to go from the moment we began work through to go live, the relocation took a total of 55 hours."
>
> Steve Tomlin, Head of Back Office, UKSBS

CASE STUDY · BLUE LIGHTS

British Transport Police

Served notice by its data centre provider, BTP needed compliant replacement capacity fast. Crown Hosting delivered it without disruption to live policing systems.

3 months
To recover the full cost of migration

£600,000
Forecast savings over the contract

On time
Critical systems moved within the required timescales

THE CHALLENGE

British Transport Police (BTP) was served notice by its existing data centre provider. The hosting arrangement had worked well operationally, but BTP had to vacate the facility within aggressive timescales, creating immediate risk to the continuity of critical policing systems.

The priority was to secure a new, compliant hosting environment quickly, without disruption to live services.

THE APPROACH

BTP adopted Crown Hosting as a rapid, assured route to replacement data centre capacity. Under tight delivery constraints, infrastructure was relocated using a structured and controlled migration approach, supported by delivery partners.

The framework-based model let BTP move at pace without compromising governance, assurance or security, keeping services running throughout the transition.

THE OUTCOME

- ✓ The cost of migration was fully recovered within three months of relocation.
- ✓ BTP forecasts £600,000 of savings over the lifetime of its Crown Hosting contract.
- ✓ Critical systems moved within the required timescales, with service continuity maintained despite the forced exit.

IN THEIR WORDS

> "An amazing team that managed a demanding customer, with brilliance and expertise."
>
> Ray Wilson, Senior Program Director, British Transport Police

TALK TO US

Get in touch

To find out how Crown Hosting can support your Legacy IT programme, speak to our team. We can provide a tailored proposal quickly.

CALL 0333 207 0703 >

INFO@CROWNHOSTINGDC.CO.UK >

Single supplier of GCA RM6262

Secure, resilient data centre capacity for the UK public sector since 2015, bought by direct award.

UK sovereign facilities

UK-owned and UK-operated, under UK jurisdiction, and assured for the most sensitive workloads.

Pay for what you use

Flexible, transparent pricing with no minimum volume commitment.

ALSO AVAILABLE AT CROWNHOSTINGDC.CO.UK

- Crown Hosting Implementation Guide
- Sustainability Overview
- Public sector buyer's guide and guide for providers
- Case studies from across the public sector