

Cyber Essentials Readiness Checklist

The five technical controls — are you ready to certify?

Cyber Essentials is the UK government-backed scheme that protects organisations against the most common cyber attacks. Work through the five control areas below and tick everything you already have in place. Anything left unticked is a gap to close before certification — and exactly where a managed IT partner can help.

01 Firewalls

- A boundary firewall is in place at every internet connection
- Default administrator passwords on firewalls have been changed
- Inbound connections are blocked by default unless documented and approved
- Firewall rules are reviewed regularly and unused rules removed
- A software firewall is enabled on devices used on untrusted networks (e.g. public Wi-Fi)

02 Secure Configuration

- Unnecessary user accounts are removed or disabled
- Default or easily guessed passwords are changed on all devices and software
- Unnecessary software, services and applications are removed or disabled
- Auto-run / auto-play is disabled on removable media
- Devices lock after a period of inactivity and require authentication to unlock

03 User Access Control

- Every user has their own account — no shared logins
- Administrator accounts are used only for admin tasks, not day-to-day work
- There is a formal process to approve, track and review who has access
- Access is removed promptly when staff leave or change role
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is enabled on email and cloud services

04 Malware Protection

- Anti-malware / EDR is installed and kept up to date on all devices
- Automatic malware scanning is enabled
- Web filtering or malicious-site blocking is in place
- Only approved applications can be installed (application allow-listing)

05 Security Update Management

- All operating systems and software are still supported by the vendor
- Automatic updates are enabled wherever possible
- Security updates are applied within 14 days of release
- Unsupported / end-of-life software has been removed
- An up-to-date register of devices and software is maintained

Found some gaps? Let's close them together.

Foresight helps businesses across Greater Manchester achieve and maintain Cyber Essentials certification — and stay protected long after. Book a free readiness review: **0161 738 1399** or www.foresightuk.com.