

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME DEFINITIONS

Criteria for assessing CONFIDENTIAL assets:

- materially damage diplomatic relations (i.e. cause formal protest or other sanction);
- prejudice individual security or liberty;
- cause damage to the operational effectiveness or security of United Kingdom or allied forces or the effectiveness of valuable security or intelligence operations;
- work substantially against national finances or economic and commercial interests;
- substantially to undermine the financial viability of major organisations;
- impede the investigation or facilitate the commission of serious crime;
- impede seriously the development or operation of major government policies;
- shut down or otherwise substantially disrupt significant national operations.

Criteria for assessing RESTRICTED assets:

- affect diplomatic relations adversely;
- cause substantial distress to individuals;
- make it more difficult to maintain the operational effectiveness or security of United Kingdom or allied forces;
- cause financial loss or loss of earning potential or to facilitate improper gain or advantage for individuals or companies;
- prejudice the investigation or facilitate the commission of crime;
- breach proper undertakings to maintain the confidence of information provided by third parties;
- impede the effective development or operation of government policies;
- to breach statutory restrictions on disclosure of information;
- disadvantage government in commercial or policy negotiations with others;
- undermine the proper management of the public sector and its operations.