

*APM – Project Assurance – what could it do for you?*

**Workshop C: Chris Scudamore: 14.00  
– 14.45**

**How to enhance perceptions of the value and benefits of Project Assurance?**

# *Introduction*

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## *Session Purpose*



Explore the challenges we all face in demonstrating the value and benefits of assurance



Bring together leading practice examples and lessons learned from other practitioners



Equip you with some practical examples to take back and apply on your projects / at your organisations

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# *Agenda*

## **1. Discuss perceptions of Project Assurance and its value and benefits:**

- Where has Project Assurance added value; examples of good practice; why was it successful (10 minutes)
- Where have we struggled to deliver value or make an impact; what are the root causes of why it didn't work (10 minutes)

## **2. Discussion around the management/audit cycle**

- Discuss opportunities and barriers in context of the management cycle (10 minutes)

## **3. Conclusion**

- Key Takeaways / Recommendations to enhance perceptions of assurance (10 minutes)

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***Discuss perceptions of Project Assurance and its value and benefits:***

***Where has Project Assurance added value; examples of good practice?***

***Why was it successful?  
What techniques were used?***



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## ***Typical symptoms of High perceptions of value / benefits from Assurance / Project Assurance***

- Broad, extensive budgets with access to specialist resources, allowing coverage of both core and specialist risk areas
- Audit schedule is on time and reported to Audit Committee as such
- Management actively a) request reviews in a particular area and/or b) make requests of areas of scope they would value feedback (e.g “I would value your feedback on the effectiveness of project controls”)
- Strong engagement on recommendations and action plans – actions closed out before report is final
- Management happy to provide formal feedback/questionnaires

***Discuss perceptions of Project Assurance and its value and benefits:***

***Where have we struggled to deliver value or make an impact?***

***What are the root causes of why it didn't work?***



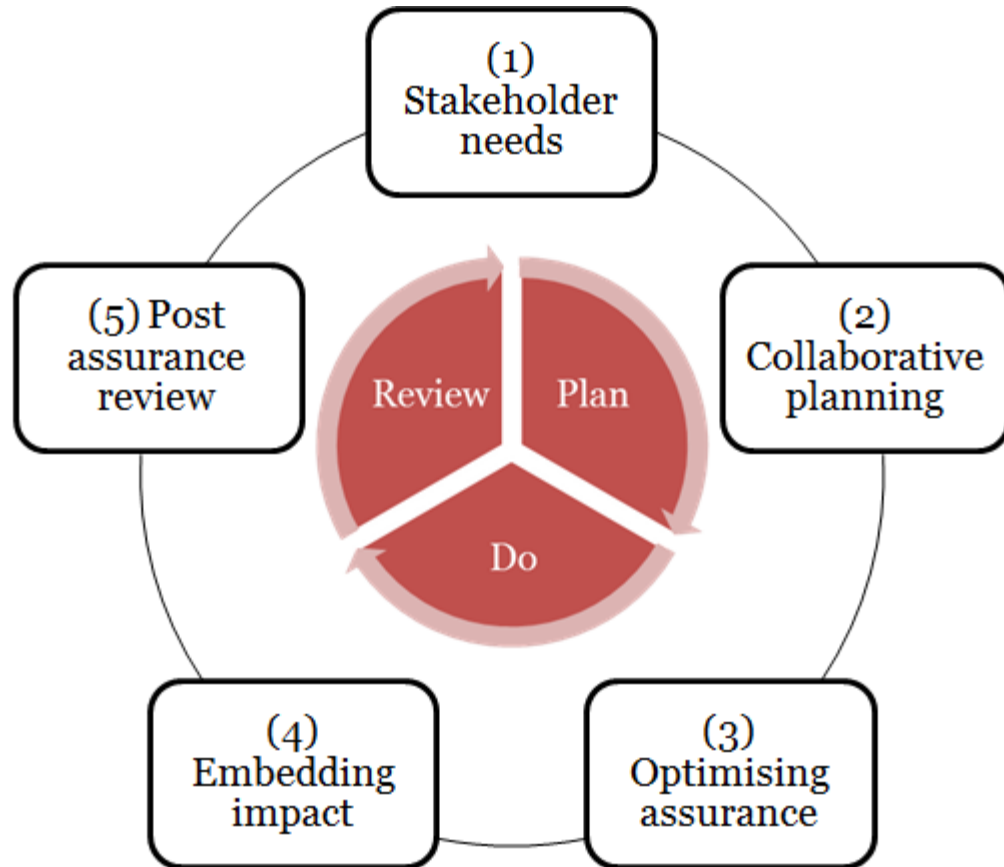
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## ***Typical symptoms of low perceptions of value / benefits from Assurance / Project Assurance***

- Limited/restricted budgets for assurance work – either impacting total man hours or ability to use specialists
- Audits always delayed due to push back from management due to other priorities
- Limited engagement from management on the scope of the reviews (e.g “I would value your feedback on the effectiveness of project controls”)
- Rejection of recommendations / multiple drafts to reach final report / OR straight acceptance
- Management actions that are never implemented / always late



## *Discussion around Management / Audit cycle*



- Lets think through and discuss what we need to get right at each stage – based on the discussion so far
- What are the important activities at each stage in the process that will enhance the value add/benefits AND the perception of assurance?

Source – National Audit Office

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## ***Conclusion – Key Takeaways/action points***

Actions to enhance **value and benefits** of Project Assurance:

Actions to enhance **perception** of Project Assurance:

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# Conclusion

Re-cap on session objectives:



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