



# TICKING THE 2FA BOX FOR PSN COCO COMPLIANCE A CASE STUDY OF PRESTON CITY COUNCIL'S FUTURE PROOF AUTHENTICATION SOLUTION

The Public Services Network (PSN), led by the Cabinet Office, is a government initiative aimed at reducing the cost of communication services across UK government and enabling new, joined-up and shared public services for the benefit of citizens. One of the essential requirements for PSN compliance is 2FA and Preston City Council found a solution that gave them a lot more than just regulatory compliance.



**Customer:** Preston City Council

**Partner:** Enforce Technologies

**Industry:** Government

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Challenge:** Implement a 2FA system that met Central Government requirements

**Solution:** Freja virtual appliance providing 2FA and Freja Self-Service Portal for easy provisioning and user enrollment

**Results:** A cost-effective, user friendly authentication solution that was easy to integrate into existing systems

## The challenge

Preston City Council did not have a 2FA system in place, and so the challenge was not only to find a future proof solution that met the Central Government requirements in a cost effective way, it was also to implement a new element in their internal workflow. Ease of use was therefore an equally important requirement.

## The solution

When Verisec and Enforce Technologies presented the concept of Freja for Andy Heywood at Preston City Council, he could see that the proposed solution matched what he had specified in all areas, and the decision was made to go with Freja. The solution was built on two components from the Freja family; the Freja virtual appliance providing 2FA and the Freja Self-Service Portal in order for easy provisioning and user enrollment. The installation was smooth and simple and in less than a day the system was up and running. The purchasing process was equally easy, as Preston placed an order through one of Verisec's accredited partners, Enforce Technologies.

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“The Freja appliance and Self-Service portal have enabled us to deliver a cost-effective, user friendly authentication solution that has been easy to integrate with our existing systems. Being able to utilize the free Google Authenticator on smart phones has saved us a lot of time and money.”

**Andy Heywood, ICT Infrastructure Team Leader, Preston City Council**

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#### **ABOUT PRESTON CITY COUNCIL**

Vibrant and exciting, Preston is England's newest city, located at the heart of the North West. Preston City Council is a district council, working alongside Lancashire County Council as part of a two-tier local government system. The council spends more than £100million a year providing a range of public services. It is one of the largest employers in the area with 996 employees.

[www.preston.gov.uk](http://www.preston.gov.uk)

The total cost was below the £50k threshold, hence no need to go to tender. As Preston initially had 248 users, they could get the SMB-license of Freja, allowing them to add up to 500 users in the system. If they exceed that number they can easily upgrade to an enterprise license and get the freedom to add an unlimited number of users.

#### **The results**

From day one the solution has worked well and continues to be developed. As the Freja concept allows customers to add an unlimited number of applications to the system, Preston is now planning to expand the solution. The initial need was to add 2FA to remote access services but the flexibility of the system have enabled Preston City council to plan for an extension adding authentication for users accessing a virtual desktop environment.

#### **About Verisec**

Verisec is an international IT security company that provides innovative security solutions for banking, government and medium to large corporations worldwide. For more information about the Preston City Council case study, please contact [sales@verisec.com](mailto:sales@verisec.com)

