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Colin Butler

Unitec: NIS 2.0 Directive

CYBER SECURITY EVENT

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NIS2: What It Is

NIS2 is the EU-wide cybersecurity law replacing NIS1.

- Strengthens security across critical sectors with stricter controls.
- Aims to harmonise cybersecurity maturity across EU member states.
- Adds management accountability and mandatory reporting timelines.



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Ireland's Status

Ireland missed the Oct 2024 EU transposition deadline.

- National Cyber Security Bill (NCSB) is the implementing vehicle.
- NCSC designated as lead authority with sectoral regulators.
- Draft RMM guidance + CyFun framework released to support readiness.



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Who Must Comply

Entities classified as Essential or Important based on sector + size.

- 18 sectors including energy, transport, digital infra, ICT providers, health.
- Size-cap: medium (≥50 staff/€10m+) & large (≥250 staff/€50m+).
- Some providers are automatically in scope regardless of size (DNS, trust).



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Management Duties

Boards must oversee cyber risk, approve frameworks, and receive training.

- Failure to comply may result in High Court actions against directors.
- Management must ensure evidence-based oversight & governance.
- Cybersecurity becomes a leadership KPI, not an IT-only task.



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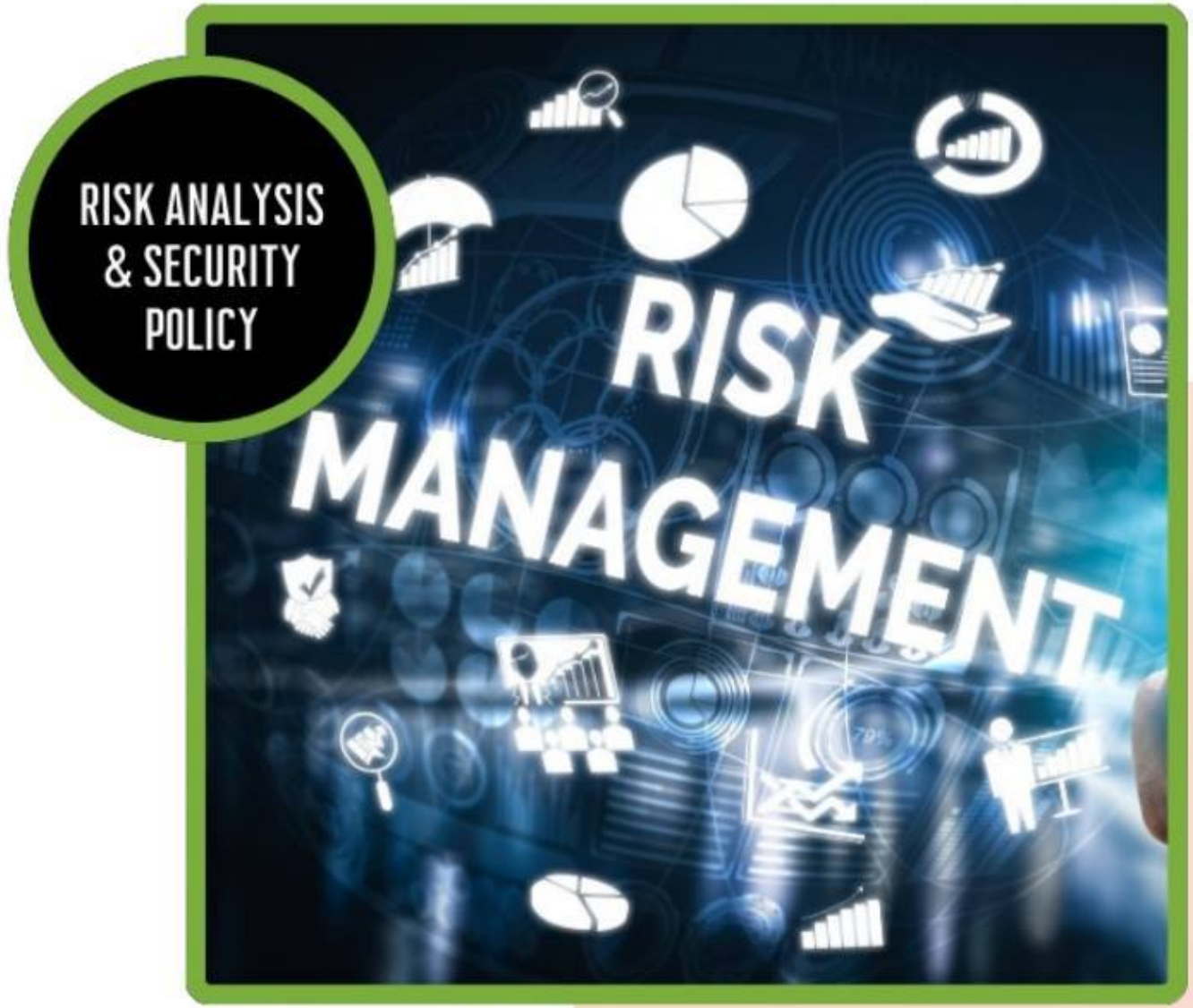
Security Measures (Art.21)

Risk analysis & security policy frameworks with continuous updates.

- Incident detection & response procedures with logging & monitoring.
- Business continuity, disaster recovery & crisis mgmt expectations.
- Supply chain & vendor security controls essential for compliance.
- Access control, MFA, cryptography, secure systems development.



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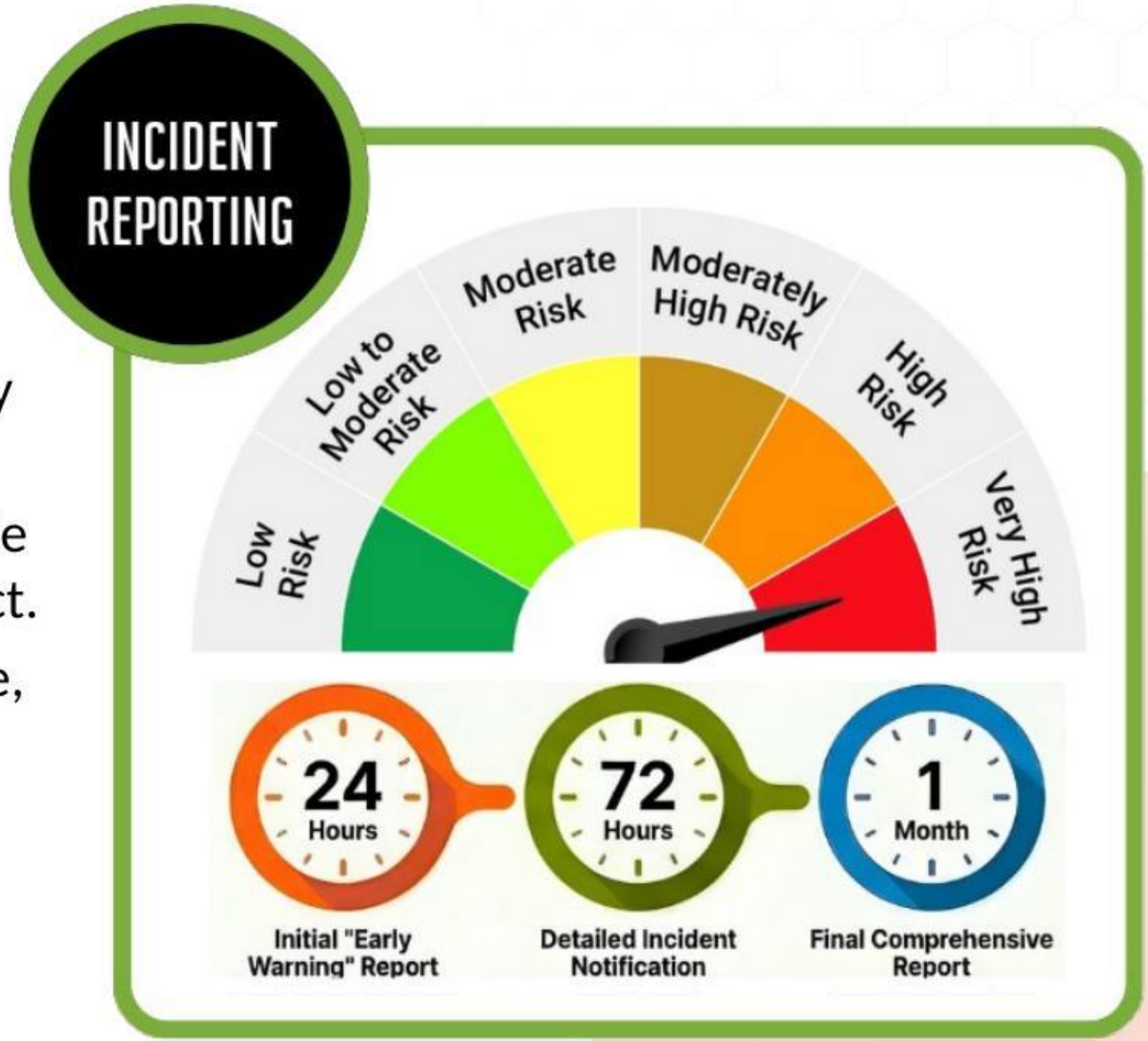
Incident Reporting

24h early warning: notify authority of likely significant incident.

- 72h incident notification: include severity, indicators, initial impact.
- 1-month final report: root cause, lessons learned, remediation.
- Need tested IR playbooks integrated with suppliers & internal teams.



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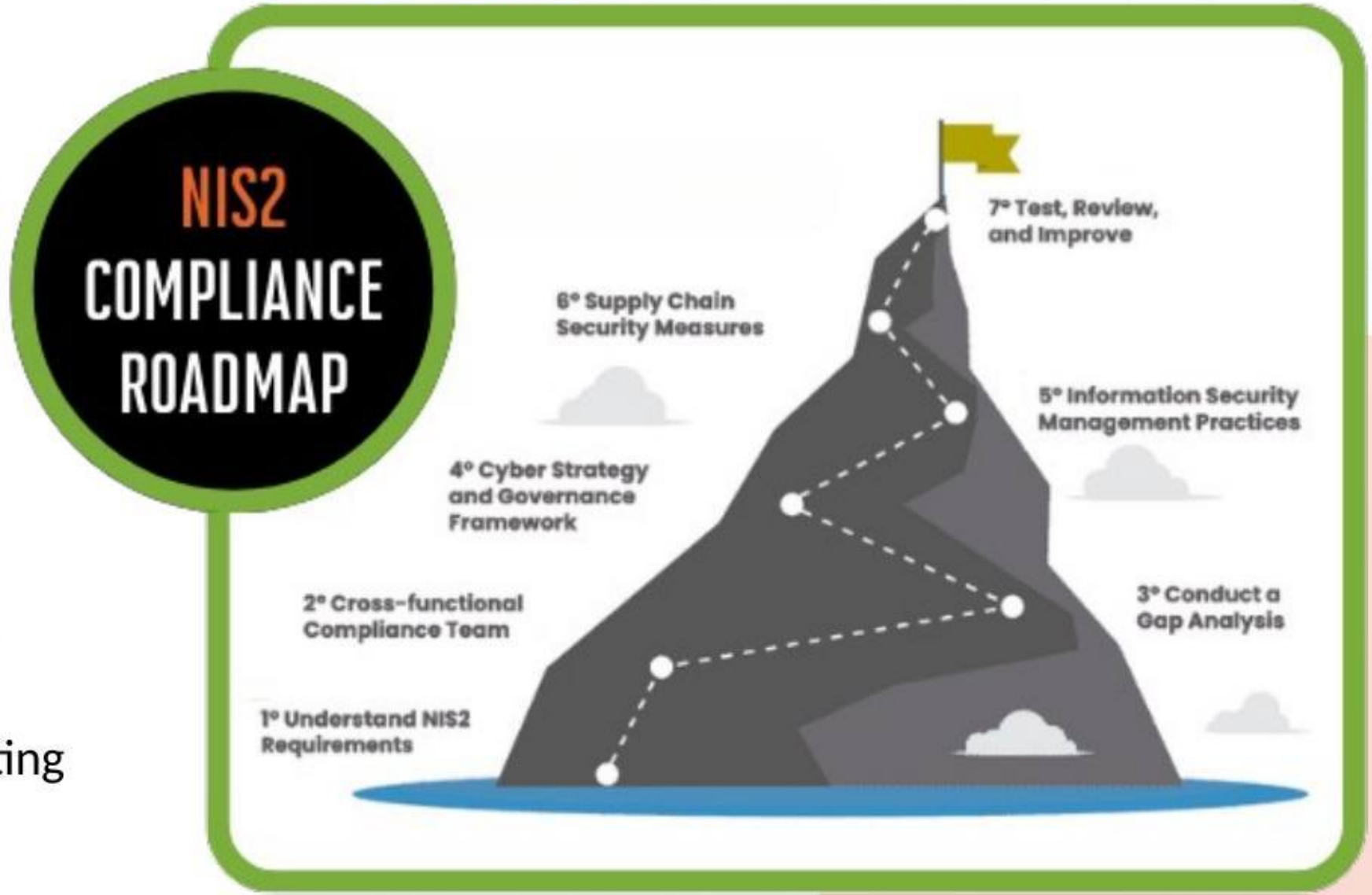
Enforcement

Essential entities face proactive audits; Important entities reactive.

- Fines: up to €10m/2% turnover (Essential) & €7m/1.4% (Important).
- Expect evidence: asset inventory, vuln mgmt, logging, training records.
- Supervision intensity increases for poor reporting or repeated issues.



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Impact on Irish Businesses

Significant increase in in-scope orgs incl. MSPs and digital providers.

- Procurement & supplier due diligence will require NIS2-aligned evidence.
- Compliance becomes a competitive differentiator in bids.
- Public sector supply chains will mandate stronger cyber governance.



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Readiness Plan

Determine scope (Essential/Important) & assign NIS2 readiness lead.

- Conduct a gap assessment vs NCSC RMM & ENISA guidance.
- Engage board: approve frameworks, training, reporting cadence.
- Run IR drills to meet 24h/72h timelines; document everything.
- Prepare an evidence pack: assets, logs, BCP/DR tests, supplier controls.



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Target State 2026

Registered & audit-ready once portals go live.

- Measured controls with KPIs & automated reporting.
- Integrated supplier security evidence flows.
- Continuous improvement based on incidents, audits & metrics.

