

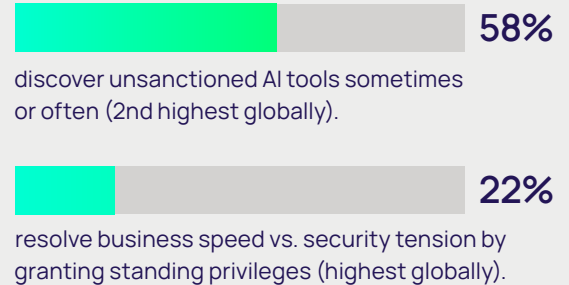
2026 Identity Security Report: UK Spotlight

Authorized AI risk: The UK's trade-off between speed and secure access

Shadow AI is on the rise, with **53% of global organizations regularly discovering unsanctioned tools connecting to their systems**, according to Delinea's 2026 Identity Security Report.

The UK is reporting an even higher incidence of unauthorized AI agents. With 92% of UK organizations experiencing pressure to loosen privilege access controls to support AI automation, many are responding by granting the access these tools need to operate. **It's turning shadow AI into sanctioned risk.**

Across British survey respondents*:



Takeaways for CISOs in the UK

► **High friction is driving risky identity decisions.**

UK organizations report above-average friction across nearly every identity workflow. This pressure can push them toward faster, riskier access decisions.

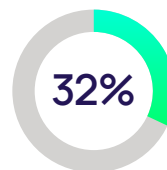
81% experience moderate-to-high friction deploying AI agents (2nd highest globally)

84% experience moderate-to-high friction with cloud/infrastructure provisioning (2nd highest globally)

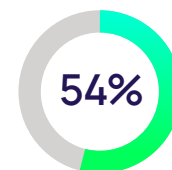
► **Detection without enforcement creates a false sense of security.** UK organizations are detecting shadow AI, but identity governance isn't following.

26% enforce security requirements when friction arises (lowest globally)

► **Standing access is becoming the default.** The combination of high detection, low enforcement, and standing privilege creates a concerning pattern.



rely on static, long-lived credentials for non-human identity (NHI) access



say AI-related environments are where identity gaps will persist (2nd highest globally)

► **DevOps velocity is still a strong risk driver.** Automation and cloud growth are fueling UK identity risk just as much as agentic AI. The lesson is that identity controls should account for all the use cases.

30% cite increased automation and CI/CD velocity as a top risk driver (tied highest globally)

30% cite growth in cloud-native workloads (tied highest globally)

Read the full [Delinea 2026 Identity Security Report](#) for global findings and expert recommendations on governing identity in the agentic AI era.

*January 2026 Censuswide data included 250 IT decision-makers actively using AI in their environments across the United Kingdom. All figures rounded to the nearest whole percent.