

A 12-person architecture firm sent MSI an AI policy that looked thorough on paper. **The problem was the org chart it assumed.**

The Challenge

The firm designs public-sector facilities with a staff of about 12. In spring 2026 it sent MSI version 0.8 of its draft AI policy for review.

The draft read well and covered a lot of ground, but it described oversight roles and review steps that assume dedicated staff a dozen-person practice doesn't have. A policy people can't follow ends up as a document in a folder.

In IBM's 2025 breach research, **63%** of breached organizations had no AI governance policy or were still writing one.¹

The Solution

MSI's advice: keep what's specific to the firm and right-size everything else. Governance should shrink to what a dozen people can run, with ownership tied to job titles instead of names so the policy survives turnover.

MSI reviewed the draft against its AI Policy Creation Guide and kept the architecture-specific sections: AI rules around life-safety and code-compliance decisions, BIM workflows, a ban on passing off AI imagery as built work, IP provenance, and a short client disclosure for public-sector contracts.

The review also flagged gaps against MSI's baseline, including how the policy should handle agentic AI that can take actions on its own instead of only generating text.

Engagement Snapshot

CLIENT	Architecture Firm, ~12 Staff
INDUSTRY	Public-Sector Architecture
RELATIONSHIP	AI Policy Review (Advisory)
DELIVERED IN	Spring 2026

By the Numbers

63% of breached organizations had no AI governance policy or were still developing one.¹

12 people on staff: the size the governance sections had to fit, not the other way around.

The Results

The firm came away with a review that protected the sections only an architecture practice would think to write, and a clear path to governance that points at roles it actually has. That's what makes a small-firm policy enforceable.

"A long policy isn't the same as a usable one. If yours assumes staff you don't have, MSI can review it against your real org chart."

¹ IBM, Cost of a Data Breach Report 2025, research conducted by Ponemon Institute; IBM press release, July 30, 2025.