

# Questions Before You Hire a Dev Agency

12 questions that reveal fit, risk, and ownership

LM-14 | Build | Discovery call

Before you sign a build contract - questions on IP ownership, production readiness, security review, handover, and what happens after launch.

## Scope & delivery

- Who owns the code, credentials, and cloud accounts on day one?
- Is production deployment in scope or only a staging demo?
- What is the test plan before go-live - automated and manual?
- How are change requests priced after the fixed quote?
- Who maintains the app after launch and at what monthly cost?

## Security & ops

- Will row-level security and auth be reviewed before launch?
- Where are secrets stored - never in the repo or client bundle?
- Is backup/restore tested, not just configured?
- What monitoring and alerting is included?
- Can you export all data if you change vendors?

## Commercial

What triggers final payment - demo or production acceptance?

Are third-party API costs (AI, email, maps) estimated separately?

Is there a warranty period for production defects?

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