



OPSI

Office of Public Sector Information

Part of The National Archives



Enhanced Oversight and Governance

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Overview

1. The OEP
2. Revised IFTS
3. Tests
4. Complaints and Mediation
5. Ordnance Survey
6. Further Work
7. Future Plans

Operational Efficiency Programme 2009

“The Office of Public Sector Information will provide enhanced oversight and governance to ensure application of these principles across the Trading Funds that create significant amounts of information.”

The Principles

- Information easily available – where possible at low or marginal cost
- Clear and transparent pricing structures for the information, with different parts of the business accounted for separately
- Simple and transparent licences to facilitate the re-use of information
- Clearly and independently defined – with input from customers and stakeholders – core purposes (public tasks) or the organisations

Information Fair Trader Scheme

- Audit process based on verification of an organisation's published commitment to the IFTS principles
- Includes authority to investigate complaints
- 17 members to date, with 3 due to join
- Self assessment model, IFTS online, available for use by wider public sector. 48 members



IFTS Enhancements

- New principles added to raise the bar on IFTS
- Checks on public task
- Introduction of performance management framework, giving greater transparency and accountability
- Customer views
- Spot audits
- Work with audit bodies
- Stakeholder communication
- Flexible resourcing and wider expertise

IFTS Principles

- *Maximisation – an obligation to allow re-use*
- *Simplicity – of processes, policies and licences*
- *Transparency – of licence terms and conditions and charging information*
- *Fairness – the public sector information holder should not use its market power to compete unfairly. All customers to be treated the same for the same type of re-use.*
- *Challenge – a robust complaints process in place to reconsider licensing decisions. OPSI can investigate public sector information holder's decisions if they appear to be wrong.*
- *Innovation – the public sector information holder explores new methods to help re-users innovate*

Further IFTS Tests

- Exclusive arrangements
- Public Task
- Upstream/downstream separation
- Licensing Exceptions
- Website review
- Licence review
- Guidance, policies, training

Exceptions to Marginal Cost Pricing

- Most government information should be available at marginal cost
- Where departments wish to charge, they will be assessed by OPSI to ensure they meet certain criteria
- If OPSI decides that charging is appropriate, the department must join IFTS
- Trading funds are exempt from these tests although they are subject to IFTS
- OPSI has now written to all departments stating that it will no longer licence any content that involves payments
- Draft criteria available for comment on PSI Perspectives

Exceptions criteria - examples

- Is the information embedded within a commercial product? If so, is it an integral part of the product?
- Is the information competing in the market place against similar information products?
- Is it essential to produce the information as part of a government's core duties?
- How will charging affect the maximisation of re-use?
- Can the information only be made available if charging is allowed?
- Will charging for re-use be in the public interest?

Complaints and Mediation

- OPSI has statutory role in the investigation of complaints under the PSI Regulations
- OPSI can also investigate complaints brought under IFTS
- Disputes resolution procedures reviewed 2008
- Mediation service as an alternative to complaints investigation
- Quite lively at present!

Supervision of Ordnance Survey

- OPSI has been working with OFT to supervise Ordnance Survey's licensing and pricing review
- Draft measures and expected outcomes have been developed to assess the effectiveness and delivery of the Ordnance Survey licensing and pricing review, which is part of the wider business strategy.
- Feedback on these draft measures is invited on the PSI blog, Perspectives

Ordnance Survey – progress so far

- Progress to date:
 - Reduction in number of specific use licences
 - Framework direct licence
 - Derived data policy
 - More permissive terms OpenSpace and PGA
 - Removal of minimum royalty in first 2 years (not MasterMap)
 - Distribution of all data products

Future Plans

- Local government – property search information
- Licensing Forum – best practice forum
- Derived data policy
- Official publishing policy
- UK Public Data initiative
- Work with Ordnance Survey