



CabinetOffice

Making real the “right to data”

**Making
government
work better**

May 2011

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Our ambition

“Greater transparency across government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account; to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending; and to realise significant economic benefits by enabling businesses and non-profit organisations to build innovative applications and websites using public data.”

Prime Minister David Cameron, May 2010

“We will extend the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to provide greater transparency.”

“We will create a new ‘right to data’ so that government-held datasets can be requested and used by the public, and then published on a regular basis.”

Coalition Programme for Government, May 2010

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Why Transparency?



What have we achieved so far?



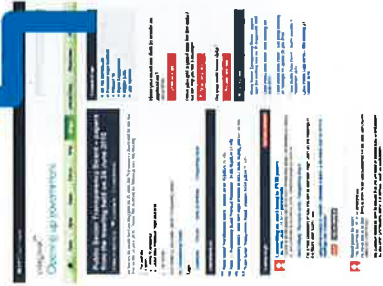
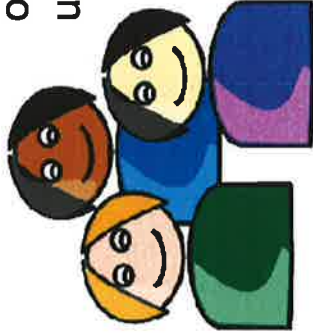
data.gov.uk
– pushing out data



Changes to FOI Act
to extend the scope
of the Act and push
out datasets for re-
use



Public Data
Principles



Open
Government
Licence

Public Data
Principles



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Key public data principles

- Public data policy and practice will be clearly driven by the public and businesses who want and use the data, including what data is released when and in what form
- Public data will be published in reusable machine readable form
- Public data will be released under the same open licence which enables free re-use, including commercial re-use
- Public data will be published using open standards

What kind of data?

The data that lays under statistics and analysis – information that hasn't been “spun” to tell a story or interpreted.

The original data - open to armchair analysis.

Data that can be manipulated and put together in creative ways to develop innovative applications. So -

- raw
- source
- factual
- unmanipulated.

Information collected and used by public bodies to run services and inform policy decisions.

Not statistics.

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Policy objectives

- To deliver a new right to data in line with the Coalition Agreement and the public data principles so that data is published as available for re-use and in a re-usable format
- publication driven by public and businesses – “pull”
 - appropriate data is published – e.g. not personal data
 - proactive publication is encouraged – “push”
 - embed culture change
 - fit with current regulatory framework – FOI, EIRs, DPA, Re-use regs, INSPIRE

Delivering the right to data

Amending FOI so that when datasets are published, in response to individual requests or through the publication scheme, –

- it is mandatory for them to be available for re-use at the point of release – under the Open Government Licence or other licence as prescribed by the Controller of HMSO; and
- where reasonably practicable, they will be published in a re-useable format.

This creates a one-stop shop – people will be able to receive a dataset and immediately know that they can re-use it and on what terms.

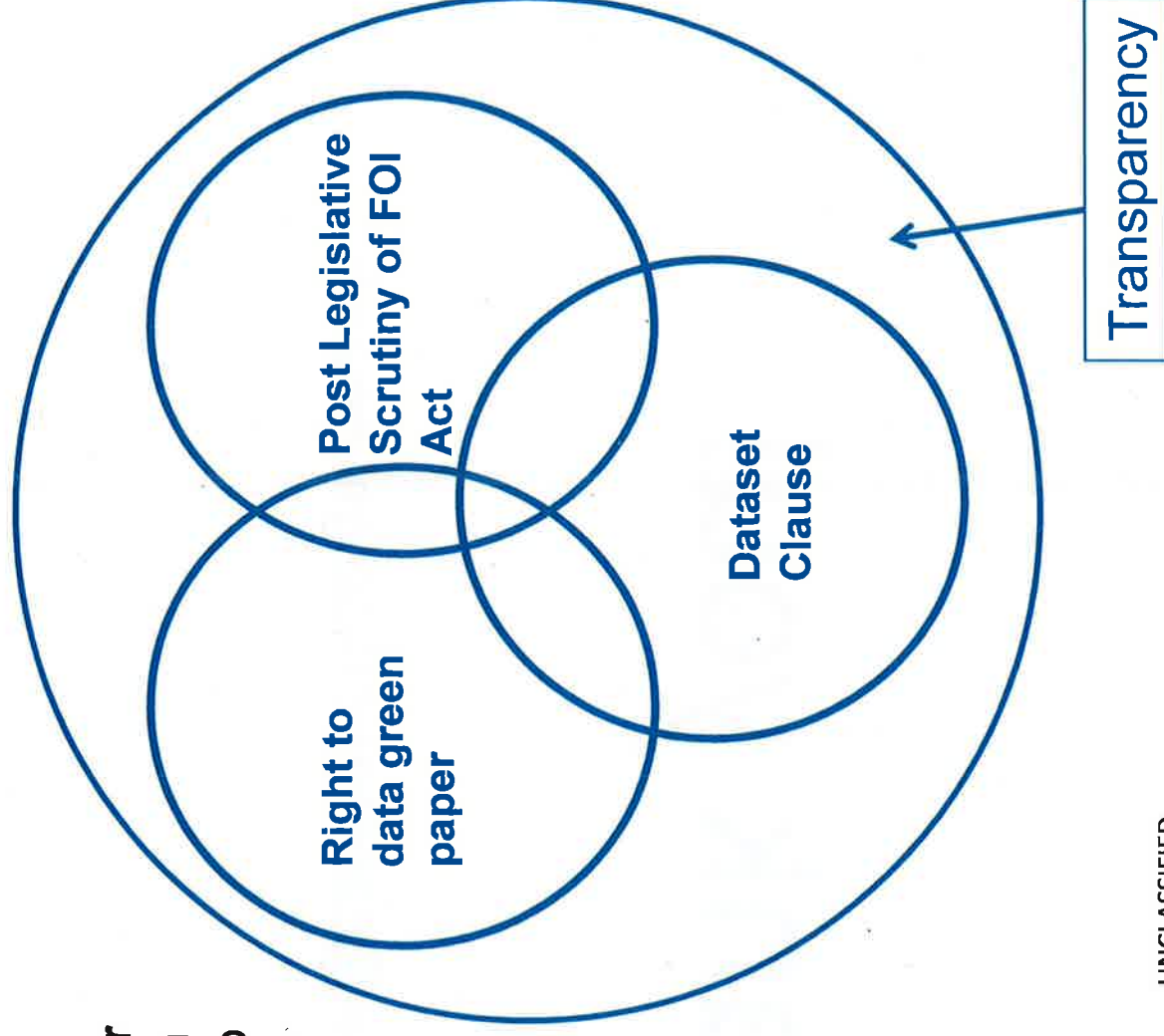
A dataset will be – a collection of information held in an electronic format; information that was obtained/used by public authorities to run services and inform policy decisions; and it will be factual information.

S45 Code of Practice will be revised to provide guidance on provisions.

Administrative Guidance will set out the process for central government and set an example for all public authorities.

Next steps – the bigger picture

- **“Right to Data” green paper**
– a programme of work which trumpets our achievements to date, embeds culture change and sets out next steps
- **Dataset clause** – making changes to the FOI Act to make datasets available for re-use and in a re-useable format
- **Post Legislative Scrutiny** - to see how well the Act is working in practice and whether there are further changes to be made





Thank you!

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