



The National Archives

Press release

23 April 2009

Office of Public Sector Information to guide Ordnance Survey's new business strategy

Following the publication of the new Ordnance Survey (OS) business strategy, as part of the Trading Funds Assessment, Michael Wills, Minister with responsibility for The National Archives, welcomed the opportunity for the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), operating from within The National Archives, to work closely with the Shareholder Executive and OS in reviewing and developing the business model over the coming months. OPSI, in consultation with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), will track and monitor progress on a regular basis, to ensure the strategy delivers its aim to provide users easier and simpler access to geographic information.

A key challenge under the new model will be to develop a licence framework that will make licensing simpler, fairer and more transparent for business and other customers. OPSI will work with Shareholder Executive and OS to develop a new licensing framework. This is part of an evolutionary cycle in facilitating the re-use of geospatial information.

OPSI is committed to maintaining a high level of momentum on this work and, in consultation with OFT, will review progress of the new OS business model on a regular on-going basis, producing progress reports in October 2009 and April 2010. If necessary, OPSI and OFT, will, as part of its review, recommend further changes to the business strategy in order to ensure a fairer and more transparent model.

Michael Wills, Minister with responsibility for The National Archives, said:

“Geographic data, as part of public sector information is immensely important and underpins a huge number of activities both commercial and social. It is therefore imperative that we have an effective framework in place that encourages and facilitates use of this vitally important national asset to drive innovation.”

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For further information, please contact Séverine Gould-Chanroux, senior press officer at The National Archives (020 8392 5277).

Notes to editors

- The new strategy was announced in the Budget 2009 report, following the completion of the first phase of the Trading Funds Assessment, which identified key principles of good practice relating to information produced by all Trading Funds, including OS. The interactive strategy is available for comments on the OS [website](#).
- OPSI, as regulator of the information trading activities of public sector bodies, will oversee and govern the application of these principles.
- The Shareholder Executive have published a statement on the new business strategy and the outcome of their Assessment, which can be found at www.shareholderexecutive.gov.uk

About OPSI

The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), www.opsi.gov.uk, operates from within The National Archives.

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a government department; and also an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

The National Archives is at the heart of information policy – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record.