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Dear David

**APPSI's response to the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on
*Policy options for geographic information from Ordnance Survey***

Thank you for your letter of 9 March and the copy of APPSI's response to the Communities and Local Government consultation on policy options for Ordnance Survey geographic information.

I read APPSI's expert and detailed analysis of the points raised in the consultation with interest. APPSI's response offers an informative consideration of a number of key issues and, as you rightly point out, there are particular challenges around each of the options identified in the consultation document. You should note, however, that the Prime Minister has confirmed in his speech on Building Britain's Digital Future today that, from 1 April the Government will be making a substantial package of information held by Ordnance Survey freely available to the public, without restrictions on re-use. Further details on the package and Government's response to the consultation will be published by the end of March.

I would highlight two particular areas covered in your response. First, I was interested in APPSI's observations on the need for clarity of the term 'public task'. As part of the continuing development of the Making Public Data Public initiative, I have charged my officials in The National Archives to take this matter forward in order to achieve a clearer definition of the 'public task' in relation to public sector information and its re-use. I would anticipate making a public announcement on this in the near future.

I also noted the concerns regarding the derived data issue and the new model for OS needs to ensure that both the use and re-use of OS datasets is enabled further down the information chain. This issue will, I feel sure, be considered as part of the government's assessment of the consultation responses and the policy decisions that flow from this work.

Yours ever

MICHAEL WILLS MP