

Licensing Forum, 30 April 2010
The National Archives, Kew, London

Speaking:

Faith Quigley	Shareholder Executive
Alison Cotterill	Home Office
Marcia Jackson	The National Archives
Jo Ellis	The National Archives

Present:

Robin Pudney	Ordnance Survey
Tony Jardine	Ordnance Survey
Howard Davies	The National Archives
Laura Simpson	The National Archives
Matthew Pearce	The National Archives
William Pope	Driving Standards Agency
Yvonne Parry	Driving Standards Agency
Sarah Scott	Driving Standards Agency
Anita Evans	HMRC
Camilla Lawrence	Met Police
Adrian Allen	Met Police
Mark Buckley	Companies House
Ela Ginalska	Department for Transport
Chris Luton	British Geological Survey
Gill Dredge	British Geological Survey
Will Spendlove	Environment Agency
Adrian Nuttall	Environment Agency
Jon Mitchell	Environment Agency
Tony Dent	UK Hydrographic Office
Neil Pirie	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
Ian Evans	Welsh Assembly Government
Margaret Fuller	Fire Service College
Jane Allen	Land Registry
Julie Letton	Met Office
Nick Benson	Met Office
Susan MacInnes	Registers of Scotland

1. **Results of Ordnance Survey Consultation**, Faith Quigley (Shareholder Executive)

- a. Faith began by explaining how the consultation followed on from a Prime Ministerial speech on 17 November 2009.
- b. The consultation regarded the release of free mapping data by Ordnance Survey, and how and what should be released.
- c. The premise for release being that location information is central to understanding other information as well as enabling a range of public services.
- d. Consequently wider availability of location information is seen as a spur to innovation in both areas, and as such will boost economic activity and improvement to public services.
- e. The consultation paper set out three options for releasing OS datasets:
 - i. Continuing the implementation of the Business Strategy laid out in Budget '09.
 - ii. Releasing all large-scale OS Data for free.
 - iii. A staged transition from current strategy to OS Free.
- f. The consultation enjoyed a very wide attention, with 441 responses.
- g. As different geo-data interested communities had differing priorities, ShEx did not see any clear preferred option.
- h. There was strong overall support however for the release of at least some datasets.
- i. Respondents were concerned that OS could sustainably maintain the quality of its products.
- j. Derived data was an issue in the minds of licensees and users.
- k. The consultation raised the need for a clear OS public task.

2. Differences between user communities included:

- a. Competitors preferring release of government datasets (boundaries, postcodes etc.)
- b. Local government favoured release of core reference geographies, and improvement of mechanisms to receive OS data.

- c. Individuals/interest groups tended to favour wide release of OS data.
- d. OS Partners nervous, but accepted need to release 'govt. data.'

3. Actions following the consultation:

- a. Release from 1 April 2010 of small and mid-scale mapping, postcodes, street names, administrative boundaries; mix of raster and vector data
- b. Work towards a Public Sector Mapping Agreement for the public sector, potentially including whole of England & Wales.
- c. Revised licensing policy, including review of derived data considerations.
- d. OS will be taking forward technical delivery of INSPIRE.

4. What the post-consultation approach will do:

- a. Provide a package of data that can be used and exploited by individuals, communities and businesses to improve transparency, accountability and increase growth
- b. Allow market participants and Ordnance Survey to add value, while reducing the impact of the proposals in the consultation
- c. Secure the sustainability of the provision of high-quality data from Ordnance Survey, and maintains a sustainable business model for Ordnance Survey
- d. Increase sharing of data across government and the whole public sector (subject to discussions)
- e. Reduce costs across the public sector associated with procurement and licensing issues
- f. Clarify and resolve some of the issues highlighted around licensing
- g. Support delivery of Britain's obligations under INSPIRE

5. **Justice and Home Affairs Rewired**, Alison Cotterill (Home Office)
6. Alison's presented on a Justice and Home Affairs Hack Day held on 11 March 2010.
7. Alison began by explaining the event's context:
 - a. Following the government response to the Power of Information report in February 2009 the Home Office began to marshal its datasets.
 - b. This was followed in July 2009 by the launch of data pages on the Home Office website.
 - c. The introduction of the developer beta data.gov.uk website in September 2009 gave Home Office confidence that the right approach had been taken.
 - d. Most current Home Office information was available in excel, however the department was looking to engage with The National Archives on making information available as Linked Data.
8. The hack day:
 - a. brought together 10 web developers, through the organisation Rewired State, with policy & data officers from Home Office and Ministry of Justice.
 - b. was also attended by Sir Tim Berners-Lee.
 - c. was intended to establish working prototypes of applications using topical information. In this case data from Home Office and MoJ.
 - d. Working prototypes would help demonstrate to policy makers and data holders the possibilities of opening up public information for presentation, analysis, engagement etc.
 - e. provided an outside perspective on what the appetite and tastes were for open government data, and uses tht could be made of this.
 - f. presented an opportunity for begin to build partnerships between government and developers.
9. The applications produced included:

- a. How's my town – A postcode based digest of statistics relating to crime, antisocial behaviour etc.
- b. Helicopttr – An application to tell the stories of police helicopter call outs.
- c. Asborometer – an iPhone application to find out about antisocial behaviour in the area. This went on to top the iPhone app charts.
- d. Note: link to Rewired State page list of [projects](#).

10. Policy and Initiatives Update, Marcia Jackson (The National Archives)

11. Marcia began by explaining The National Archives' role in current public data initiatives:

- a. Licensing (details from Jo Ellis later)
- b. Release of data from departments
- c. Linked Data
- d. Planning public task consultation
- e. 'Domesday book of data'

12. These specific actions fit within its remit to lead and transform information management.

- a. Develop policy and advise on PSI re-use
- b. Lead compliance, regulate and set standards with respect to PSI
- c. Innovate through e-services to facilitate and encourage re-use

13. Marcia then recapped the sequence of events which had led to the current agenda.

- a. In June 2009 the government announced a plan to increase the availability of non-personal public data for re-use.
- b. Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Professor Nigel Shadbolt were to lead the initiative.
- c. The first piece of work involved the creation of a hub for online access to public data – data.gov.uk

14. In December 2009 the government published a paper entitled 'Smarter Government', this established the following principles for public data:

- a. re-usable, machine-readable form
- b. online access point
- c. open standards
- d. Linked Data format
- e. open licence
- f. published in machine readable form

- g. personal, classified, commercially sensitive and 3rd party data protected

15. 'Domesday book of data'

- a. The National Archives would be working towards an inventory of all non-personal government datasets.
- b. We would endeavour to arrange for the responsible team to present at the next forum.

16. Linked Data

- a. The National Archives had been central on a technical level to the successful implementation of Linked Data in the data.gov.uk project.
- b. In order to embed the approach within departments it would be contributing guidance for publishing data in re-usable formats.

17. Release of datasets

- a. TNA would be facilitating with the Cabinet Office the establishment of a practitioner panel for opening government data.
- b. This would bring together representatives from data holders to discuss strategy and support departmental actions.

18. Public Task

- a. The National Archives had been tasked with clarifying guidance on 'public task' by November 2010.
- b. The assistance of Licensing Forum members would be invaluable in that work considering the importance of case studies in forming an understanding which could take account of differences across organisations.

19. **Licensing Update**, Jo Ellis (The National Archives)

20. Jo set out the goal being worked towards in respect of licensing:

“We will establish a common licence to re-use data which is interoperable with the internationally recognised Creative Commons model.”

21. This followed on from work relating to the Power of Information, which had called for a radical simplification of Crown copyright licensing terms and conditions.

22. One of the key stipulations was that the licence must not be transactional and that there was a strong leaning towards incorporation of Creative Commons within the licence.

23. Advice and feedback had been sought from stakeholders including government departments, APPSI, the Improvement and Development Agency and publicly through the Perspectives.opsi.gov.uk blog.

24. The first iteration of the new licence was in use on data.gov.uk, and was also being applied to OS.

25. Comments on the licence included:

“We at CC are thrilled by this new development and congratulate the UK for this move...this shift will increase the UK’s capacity to foster reuse, collaboration, and innovation in government and the world... “

Jane Park at Creative Commons – [UK moves towards opening government data](#)

“This may seem quite unexciting, but is a big deal!”

Binary Law: Legal Information in the Digital Age – [Crown Commons](#)

“...it is reasonable to speculate that the uncovering and unlocking of so much information will drive improvements in public policy.”

Guardian 23/01/2010 – [Government Information: Creative Commons](#)

26. The current licence was not, however, the final version. It had not, for example, been applied to general departmental Crown copyright.
27. The next step was for the project to deliver a licence capable of more general application, while maintaining the simple, open approach used in the current version. The delivery date had not been confirmed, but internally the end of May was seen as a milestone.

28. Arrangements for the next meeting.

29. Matthew thanked the speakers for their presentations and for the input of members.

30. Following suggestions throughout the day it was agreed the next forum would include a slot on Public Task, where members could share work done within their organisation and feed into TNA thinking on the proposed consultation paper.

31. Matthew also noted the member's requests for further detail on the 'Domesday of data' project and associated activities, and would endeavour to arrange for relevant colleagues to speak at the next forum.

32. It was also noted that many members were interested in the work around Linked Data, but felt they would need support if they were to embed the approach within their organisations.

33. Matthew appealed for volunteers to host the next forum.