

Open Government Licence

Guidance for users

This guidance explains how the Open Government Licence works for users.

The Open Government Licence (OGL) is a simple set of terms and conditions under which information providers in the public sector can license the use and re-use of their information. Provided that you comply with the terms you have permission to use information anywhere in the world. The licence is also non-exclusive which means that you will not be the only person able to make use of it. The Open Government Licence enables you to use information for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Using information under the Open Government Licence

There is no need to register or formally apply for the Open Government Licence and no charges or fees are involved for using information under the licence. Users simply need to ensure that their use of information complies with the terms.

What information can I use under the Open Government Licence?

If you come across an information resource that says it is made available under an Open Government Licence, you are authorised by the information provider to use it consistent with those licence terms. Much of this information will be accessible on public sector web sites, online portals or printed publications.

For more detailed information about the scope of Crown copyright and database right offered under the Open Government Licence please see What the Open Government Licence covers at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/government-licensing/what-ogl-covers.htm>.

Is there information I cannot use under the Open Government Licence?

You cannot use information which has not been offered for use expressly under the Open Government Licence. You will need to contact the relevant rights owner of the information if no licence or re-use details are given.

The Open Government Licence has been developed to allow the use of as much information as possible, however, there are certain types information it does not cover. These are:

- information which includes personal data, for example, the names and addresses of individuals
- information which has neither been published nor disclosed under information access legislation (including the Freedom of Information Acts for the UK and Scotland) by or with the consent of the information provider

- logos which identify a government departmental or a public sector organisation, Coats of Arms or Crests, and the Royal Arms , unless they form an integral part of a dataset or document (and are shown accurately in their context in that dataset or document)
- military insignia
- third party rights the information provider is not authorised to license
- information subject to other intellectual property rights, including patents, trademarks, and design rights
- identity documents such as the British Passport.

How can I use information licensed under the Open Government Licence?

Information made available under the Open Government Licence can be used both commercially and non-commercially. This includes but is not limited to using the information in print, on the web/internet or in a mobile application.

You are also able to use information licensed under the Open Government Licence with information from other sources which has been licensed under a Creative Commons v3.0 Attribution Licence or Open Data Commons Attribution Licence.

However, when using information under the Open Government Licence, you must:

- make sure that your use of the information does not in any way suggest that your product or service has any official status or is endorsed by an information provider (for example: *Elsewhere County Council recommends A.N. Office Supplies for all their stationery requirements*).
- make sure that you do not mislead others with your use of the information (for example, by presenting out of date information as current) or misrepresent it or its source;
- make sure that you do not breach the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 in the way you use the information.
- make sure you acknowledge the source of the information by including any attribution statement suggested by the owner or author of the information and, where possible, provide a link to this Open Government Licence.

Attributions and acknowledgments

Attribution

The Open Government Licence requires you to attribute the information provider and/or source of the information. Attribution statements usually include the title of the information resource, if applicable, its owner and/or creator and the date it was published or created. Where possible, you should also provide a link to the information used, if it is available online, and to the Open Government Licence.

Information providers are advised to specify an attribution statement for users where they offer information under the Open Government Licence. If the information provider has not specified a particular attribution statement and where to insert this particular attribution statement and where to insert this statement in your product or application, this does not mean that you do not have to give attribution. It means that you will have to give attribution to the best of your ability with the information you do have. If the information contains any copyright or database right notices, you must leave those notices intact.

Multiple attributions

If you are using information from several information providers and multiple attributions are not practical in your product or application, you may use the following:

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0

If it is not practical to cite all sources and attributions in your product prominently it is good practice to maintain a record or list of sources and attributions in another file. This should be easily accessible or retrievable, so that all sources and rights owners are acknowledged properly and there is a clear trail of provenance should anyone ask.

You should also provide a link back to or the Open Government Licence URI , where possible.

Why is an “attribution statement” necessary?

An attribution statement identifies the name, creator, and date of the information, and acknowledges them appropriately. It also means it can be identified and accessed easily by others wishing to use the same information. The attribution statement demonstrates further the source of the information and its use under the Open Government Licence.

Example attribution statements

Example 1: Standard publication acknowledgement

[Insert title, author department/organisation, year of publication, any applicable copyright or database right notice]. This information is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>).

Example 2: If document accessed through a website

[Insert title, author department/organisation, year of publication, any applicable copyright or database right notice]. This information is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence> . (www.department.gov.uk/document, accessed DD/MM/YY).

Example 3: Information from multiple sources

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0.

It is good practice to maintain a record or list of sources and attributions in another file or location, if it is not practical to include these prominently within your product.

Frequently asked questions can be found at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/government-licensing/faqs.htm>