

# **The United Kingdom Report on the Re-use of Public Sector Information 2013**

# Ten Years On – a review of progress

2013 marks ten years since the UK adopted the European Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information. Even before this the UK had led the way in improving access to, and re-using, public sector information (PSI). The impact of this new approach to encouraging re-use has been reinforced by other initiatives, including the Open Government Licence, the launch of [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk) and the regulation of government information traders under the Information Fair Trader Scheme.

The World Wide Web fundamentally changed the way we access, use and share information. The public sector produces vast amounts of information, including valuable datasets. Enabled by the web, the re-use of this information has driven innovation and the development of new products and services in our expanding information economy. At the same time this has increased openness and transparency in government and the wider public sector.

Over the past ten years a number of studies have demonstrated the economic benefits that flow from public sector information. Public sector information underpins the provision of public services and by making more information available, it encourages more active involvement in local communities.

The last ten years have seen a large number of policy initiatives designed to promote the use and re-use of public sector information. The UK Government has developed new and simpler licence models; established a regulatory and complaints framework; and made more public sector data available on government websites via central portals.

Building on earlier reports, this report provides an overview of these initiatives, focussing particularly on developments over the past eighteen months. The timeline in this report shows the scale and level of activity since 2003 and highlights the progress and achievements of the UK.

The adoption of the amended European Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information in June 2013 is an important milestone. It provides an opportunity for us to take stock on what has been achieved to date, look at how we can accelerate progress against the public sector information agenda and measure the benefits.

To achieve these benefits government and the wider public sector will need to work closely together, share best practice with other governments and interact with a wide variety of users of public sector information. The challenges are not insignificant, but the prize is potentially huge.

# The UK Policy Landscape

The UK Government has continued to develop policies promoting the re-use of public sector information. A range of bodies, both government-sponsored and independent, have contributed to making the UK a major player in openness and re-use. A wide range of tools and resources are now available, promoting or exemplifying the potential of re-use. Some of the key developments since the last UK report are highlighted in this chapter.

## Government policy on open data and transparency

The UK recognises the key role that data plays in meeting the UK Government's Transparency Programme and promoting democratic engagement. In May 2010 the Prime Minister wrote to all government departments setting out his intention that information on the inner workings of government should be made available to the public. This would involve the release of data on finance, resources, procurement and the government estate. The Prime Minister sent a second letter on July 2011 which focussed on data concerning key public services including health, education, crime and justice, and transport.

In June 2010 the Government created the Public Sector Transparency Board, an expert group to advise on, and drive forward, its transparency agenda. Its work began with the publication of 14 public data principles - since adopted as government policy.

The public data principles can be grouped under five main themes:

- the proactive release of public data in a timely and consistent way
- making public data available from one simple, easy to find access point ([www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk))
- public data to be re-used under open licences
- making public data available in open standard formats
- the production of inventories with supporting metadata.

The Transparency Board is chaired by Francis Maude, the Minister for the Cabinet Office. Founding members include Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web; Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt from Southampton University, an expert on open data; Andrew Stott, former Director of Digital Engagement at the Cabinet Office; and Dr Rufus Pollock from Cambridge University, an economist and co-founder of the Open Knowledge Foundation.

The move to greater transparency and increasingly open data informed an important strand of the Government's Plan for Growth, published in 2011. In this Green Paper the government set out its plans to release more aggregate data and explore the commercial value of open data. The term 'open data' describes information which is accessible, available in digital machine-readable form and which can be re-used under open licence terms. The independent Open Data Institute (ODI), under the chairmanship of Sir Tim Berners Lee and Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, was specifically established to look at demonstrating the commercial value of open data. World-class experts have been convened to collaborate, incubate, nurture and mentor new ideas and promote innovation. The Government has provided the ODI with £10 million in funding.

The importance of openness and transparency was further emphasised in the UK Government's White Paper Unleashing the Potential, published in June 2012. This spelt out how open data contributes to increased transparency and openness and highlighted the need to get more data into the public domain and to make sure that data is reliable and easy to use. The paper has led to a culture change across the public sector, best exemplified by the establishment of dedicated sector boards, which challenge government departments and other public sector bodies to publish more data.

## Other bodies and initiatives

The Public Data Group (PDG) consists of four data-rich organisations (Ordnance Survey, the Met Office, Companies House and HM Land Registry) brought together to:

- improve access to public data
- drive best practice both within and beyond its member organisations
- develop new activities
- create efficiencies in its member organisations and the wider public sector

The response to the consultation on a data policy for a Public Data Corporation established a series of government commitments which included establishing a Data Strategy Board and an Open Data User Group. The PDG is also:

- identifying where the Open Government Licence (OGL) could be more widely used for data and information that is already made available for free
- refreshing, alongside The National Archives, the public task of each of the current members of the PDG
- exploring ways to make access to data easier and simpler.

The Data Strategy Board (DSB), chaired by Stephan Shakespeare, was a ministerial advisory board. Its purpose was to create maximum value from data held by the Public Data Group members and beyond. The DSB included data users from outside the public sector, including representatives of commercial re-users and the open data community. The board also incorporated existing public sector customer groups such as the Public Weather Service Customer Group, the Geographic Information Group and the Open Data User Group which became sub-committees of the DSB.

The DSB closed on 28 June 2013. The Government has created a new business-focused board from merging the Public Sector Transparency Board and the Data Strategy Board to lead delivery on opening up public sector information. The new Board will ensure that UK data businesses have an even stronger voice in exploiting the potential of public sector information.

The Open Data User Group (ODUG) was formed to help government understand the requirements

of people who are using, or could use, the datasets it collects. ODUG collects information on what datasets are required and seeks to help re-users obtain the information. Requests for complex dataset releases are prioritised and then championed within government.

In May 2013 Stephan Shakespeare, Chairman of the Data Strategy Board, published an independent review of public sector information. The review's aims were to explore the growth opportunities and how to widen access to information held by the public sector. The review was informed by an economic study undertaken by Deloitte and consultations and seminars from a wide range of interested parties.

The key recommendations made by the review were:

- Public sector information was derived from and paid for by citizens, and is therefore owned by them. All questions of what to do with it should be dealt with by the principle of giving the greatest economic and social value back to citizens
- Have a clear, visible, auditable plan for publishing high quality data as quickly as possible
- Implementation of the plan should be through a single channel with built-in feedback from citizens and business
- Data must be useful. We must invest so that we have more data scientists inside and outside of government
- The public must trust that all individual data is confidential.

Most of the recommendations were accepted in the government response.

## Tools and resources

In 2010 the UK Government launched data.gov.uk, a searchable portal to release public data. Over 9,000 datasets are available on the website, from all central government departments and a number of other public sector bodies and local government. This data can be used in a number of ways, such as building other applications or to see how government goes about its work.

To maximise the full benefits of public sector information it is essential to provide a licence

framework which facilitates use and re-use and makes the process as simple as possible. Accordingly, in 2010, building on the success of the Click-Use Licence, The National Archives launched the UK Government Licensing Framework (UKGLF). This benefitted significantly from input from key stakeholders, both overseas and domestically.

The UKGLF provides a policy and legal overview of the arrangements for licensing the use and re-use of public sector information, both in central government and the wider public sector. It sets out best practice and standardises the licensing principles for government information. Although it offers a range of licensing solutions the Open Government Licence (OGL) is at the heart of the framework and has been promoted as the default licence for public sector information.

Continuous review and dialogue with stakeholders ensures that work on licensing forms part of an ongoing process of development and improvement and reflects new and emerging thinking on the licensing of public sector information. Accordingly, in July 2013 The National Archives launched [OGL 2.0](#).

One of the key priorities for this launch was to emphasise the open nature of the OGL and the launch material made it clear that government was not seeking to restrict in any way the use of information. At the same time, The National Archives reinforced the message that using the OGL does not permit users and re-users to suggest that their versions of the information enjoy any official status or have government endorsement.

OGL 2.0 also introduced an OGL symbol; a simple visual identifier denoting when information can be used and re-used under the terms of the licence. The symbol was developed by The National Archives, working in partnership with the Government Digital Service.

The Open Knowledge Foundation, an international organisation that promotes open data and content, endorsed OGL 2.0. Jonathan Gray, Director of Policy and Ideas, stated that 'the Open Definition gives principles for what we mean by 'open' in 'open data' or 'open content'. This means that open material can be used and shared by anyone for any purpose,

and – crucially – that open material can be freely combined without legal issues. This relatively short bit of text helps to keep the digital commons interoperable, serving as a green light for reuse and remixing. The fact that the UK government's new default licence is now compliant with the definition, formally makes good on official commitments to make open the new default for public sector data.'

[Legislation.gov.uk](#) has transformed public access to legislation. Since its launch in 2011, the world-leading innovative platform at its heart has been a springboard for considerable further rapid innovation, including:

- new tools enabling commercial publishers and government departments to help update the official statute book at no extra cost to the taxpayer
- new partnerships connecting the people who write legislation with the people who use it, helping to change legislative drafting practice
- new publishing systems that have completely rewired Government's and Parliament's processes for registering, laying and publishing Statutory Instruments – a process that had not essentially changed in more than 50 years.

It has also shaped work across Europe to establish the European Legislation Identifier that will make it easier to find EU legislation that affects the UK.

'Public task' is a key concept in the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. It determines what information is within scope and also therefore subject to a complaint. Recognising that there was not a clear understanding or consistency of approach in determining public task, in August 2011 The National Archives produced [guiding principles and criteria](#) for public sector bodies to help them draw up a statement of public task. It is a requirement of the Information Fair Trader Scheme that members have a published statement.

# International Perspective

UK initiatives, such as the Open Government Licence, [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk) and the UK regulatory framework, have directly influenced activities in other jurisdictions. The last ten years has seen a growing recognition that information crosses all boundaries and there is huge scope for learning from the experiences gained by other countries in order to open up information and make it available for re-use. The UK continues to focus primarily on Europe, as member states approach the transposition of the revised European Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information. However, the UK has also worked hard to establish links with other countries which have a track record of innovation in the world of information. For this reason, we regularly share best practice with Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

In this chapter we track some of the cross-border activity on PSI.

## Amended Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information

In 2010 the European Commission undertook a [public consultation](#) to measure the effect of the existing PSI Directive. The responses to the consultation indicated that although considerable progress had been made in certain member states, notably in the UK, barriers remained preventing the full potential of PSI from being realised. The Commission concluded that further work was needed and it published proposals for amendments in December 2011. Negotiations between member states took place during 2012–13 culminating in the adoption and publication of the [amended Directive](#) in June 2013.

The main changes in the amended directive:

- require public sector bodies to allow the re-use of existing and generally accessible information they create, collect or hold
- extend the scope of the Directive to cover PSI held by public sector museums, libraries (including university libraries) and archives
- introduce the general principle that charges for re-use should normally be set at marginal cost, with exceptions in certain circumstances

- introduce a redress mechanism for complaints by re-users operated by an impartial review body with the power to make binding decisions.

The UK negotiating team was led by The National Archives. The final text balanced the need to maintain momentum in opening up information for re-use, with flexibility, particularly in charging and redress mechanisms.

In many respects these changes bring the amended Directive into line with the approach in operation in the UK since 2005. Member states are required to implement the amended Directive no later than July 2015. The National Archives is currently leading on the UK transposition and consultation during 2014 will support transposition of the Directive into UK law as soon as is practicable.

## PSI Group

In 2002, the European Commission formed an expert group on Public Sector Information (the PSI Group) to:

- Exchange good practices and initiatives supporting public sector information re-use
- Discuss and recommend solutions to challenges such as charging, exclusive agreements, development indicators for measuring public sector information and technology.

The membership of the PSI Group, which meets every six months, is drawn from government representatives of each of the 27 member states. In addition, private sector organisations and PSI experts are regularly invited to attend and give presentations. During 2013–14 the focus of these meetings will shift to tracking progress being made across the member states in the transposition of the revised PSI Directive.

## European Data Portal

The European Commission is keen to promote cross-border activity and innovation. Work is underway to develop a European data portal. In December 2011 the Commission adopted a [Communication on Open Data](#). In this

communication the Commission proposed:

- To create a portal site for Commission-held information in a first phase in 2012 aiming at an expansion to other EU institutions, bodies and agencies at a later stage
- To work with the member states on data formats and interoperability between existing sites
- To create a pan-European umbrella site linking information held by EU institutions, bodies and agencies and by member states.

The Commission called for tenders to take forward this work.

### LAPSI 2.0

Legal Aspects of Public Sector Information 2.0 (LAPSI 2.0) is a thematic network funded by the European Commission. LAPSI 2.0's objective is to identify the remaining legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use of public sector information on the European content market, and to propose measures and tools to stimulate the progress of the European market towards open data. The first meetings took place in 2013.

The focus to date has been on enforcement and licensing interoperability. In the second year, the project will address access, privacy and other fundamental rights; and intellectual property rights and competition issues. Existing good practice from member states and other regions has been collected. This will be used to create guidelines and position papers on the shaping of the regulatory framework on PSI. The National Archives has presented at several of the LAPSI 2.0 conferences, outlining its work on the Open Government Licence and its regulatory framework.

### EPSIplatform

The European Public Sector Information Platform (EPSIplatform) was set up under contract to the European Commission. It was created to stimulate action, report developments and monitor progress towards a stronger and more transparent environment for the growth of national and European PSI re-use markets.

The EPSIplatform provides a number of channels to facilitate re-use. These include:

- News about European and international PSI re-use developments

- A platform to share emerging good practice
- Examples of new PSI re-use products and services
- Information about legal cases on PSI re-use
- Discussion, communication and information sharing across the European PSI community
- Expert PSI community meetings (two meetings per year). The UK is represented at these meetings
- PSI topic reports - analytical briefings on PSI re-use, across sectors and issues

The EPSIplatform also compiles a scoreboard to measure the status of Open Data and PSI re-use throughout the EU. The UK is number one on the scoreboard. Performance is tracked through a number of criteria, including implementation of the PSI Directive, the practice of re-use and events and activities.

Martin Alvarez-Espinar of the ePSIplatform team wrote 'I personally would like to congratulate you for the activity you are doing in UK, very inspiring for the rest of Europe.'

### Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The UK is a founding member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multinational initiative that aims to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The OGP was launched in September 2011 and now has 59 members.

The UK is currently co-chairing the OGP. The theme of the chairmanship is 'Transparency Drives Prosperity' which demonstrates the value of open governance to economic growth, inclusive development and improved citizen engagement and empowerment.

The UK OGP National Action Plan was published on 30 October 2013 to coincide with the start of the Open Government Partnership summit 2013 in London.

### European Forum of Official Gazettes

The European Forum of Official Gazettes was created in 2004 by the organisations responsible for publishing the official gazettes of the European Union member states and the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. Since 2005, the Forum also invites legal gazettes of countries outside the European Union to participate in its work. The purpose of the Forum is to give

official publishers the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on publication processes, technology and best practice.

### Other International Work

As a result of the success of the UK Government Licensing Framework and the Open Government Licence, representatives from the Federal Government of Canada, teamed with a number of state governments across Canada, requested The National Archives' assistance with the development of their own government open data licence, based on the OGL. The Federal government launched the 'Open Government License, Canada 2.0' in July 2013, following on from the success of their first open licence, which has been taken up by municipalities across Canada.

The National Archives' Information Policy team was approached by members of a team of researchers and academics to assist with a study to be presented to the Japanese Government, considering open data policy issues for PSI re-use in Japan. The team from NTT Data Corporation and the Centre for Global Communications (GLOCOM) – an independent research institute of the International University of Japan working closely with the Japanese Government's Electronic Government Task Force, visited the UK in Autumn 2012. The analysis and conclusions of the study will be presented to the Task Force in Japan at the end of 2013.

In April 2012, The National Archives hosted a workshop for representatives of the French public sector organisation Direction de l'information légale et administrative Française (DILA). The workshop provided an opportunity to share best practice on a range of information issues, including PSI and the publication of legislation.

# Governance and Regulatory Framework

A robust regulatory framework is essential to ensure compliance with obligations and also to provide assurance to re-users that standards are being met. The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), part of The National Archives, regulates the re-use of public sector information through a number of channels.

## Information Fair Trader Scheme (IFTS)

IFTS is an administrative scheme that sets and assesses information trading standards for public sector bodies. IFTS was originally introduced to regulate the information trading activities of the government trading funds, which operate under a delegation of authority from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. IFTS ensures that the terms of the delegation are met. IFTS is now open to all public-sector information traders, and also bodies that work with the public sector to allow the re-use of public sector information. Members include Ordnance Survey, the Met Office, the Coal Authority and the Environment Agency.

IFTS is a principles based scheme that requires its members to maximise the re-use of the information they hold while ensuring they meet standards of fairness and transparency. Members' commitment to the principles is assessed periodically according to risk. The six principles are: maximisation, transparency, fairness, simplicity, innovation and challenge. Reports are published <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/ifts.htm>

It is also possible to bring a complaint against IFTS members which OPSI will investigate. Some elements of the IFTS commitment fall outside the scope of the PSI Regulations. For example, IFTS requires members to maximise the re-use of all information, unless there is a very good reason to justify refusal, whereas the Regulations state that a public sector body may permit re-use. IFTS complaints reports are also published <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/ifts.htm>

## IFTS Online

Recognising the need for other options, OPSI offers

an online version of IFTS for smaller public sector information traders. This involves answering a series of questions which are assessed by way of a desk audit. This year, IFTS Online welcomed its first non-public sector body, Elgin. Elgin is a steward of important public sector data resources, so we welcome this voluntary assessment.

## Exceptions to Marginal Cost Pricing

The National Archives' Exceptions to Marginal Cost Pricing (EMCP) scheme was introduced as part of the government response to the Power of Information review. It was set up to act as a gateway for those government departments that wished to charge above marginal cost for the Crown copyright material they hold. The default model for Crown information is marginal cost.

Where departments and agencies wish to charge above marginal cost, they must submit a business case to The National Archives, which will assess it against certain criteria. The tests are there to ensure that government does not limit or restrict re-use. See the [Exception to marginal cost pricing application guidelines](#). If a business case is approved, the public sector body is granted a delegation of authority that allows it to trade in information. These information trading activities are regulated under the Information Fair Trader Scheme.

In June 2013, an independent report was published into the first three years of the scheme. The review was carried out by Chris Corbin, a former member of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information with expertise in public sector information. The [EMCP report](#) found the scheme to be 'objective, transparent, verifiable and open'. A number of recommendations, particularly concerning transparency, were made and are being taken forward as part of an action plan.

## Delegations of Authority

Delegations of authority are granted from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) to government departments to enable them to license the re-use of Crown copyright material which they produce. In addition, a licence may also be offered to non-Crown bodies allowing

them to sub-license the Crown copyright material which they hold. Most of the organisations with a delegation of authority have their activities regulated under IFTS.

### Disputes resolution

OPSI, through a team of qualified mediators, offers a number of channels to assist re-users of public sector information to settle disputes with public sector information holders. These range from informal policy interventions through to a statutory complaints process. At the start of the process OPSI will explore with the complainant what channel best meets their needs. In each case, the complainant must attempt to resolve the issue with the public sector information holder in the first instance.

- **Policy interventions**

Where the complaint relates to a simple query relating to Crown copyright, the best way forward may be for The National Archives to contact the Crown body directly. Such examples can often be resolved quickly and easily. Examples include clarification of copyright status, how published reports could be re-used and whether a body has the authority to license Crown material.

- **Facilitated discussions**

In a situation where parties have to continue to work together often the best way to resolve a dispute is to bring the parties together for informal, facilitated discussions. Often having a neutral, expert third party can lead to a positive outcome. One example related to alleged competition restrictions. The discussion clarified the situation and the complaint was resolved.

- **Mediation**

OPSI introduced its formal mediation service a number of years ago. OPSI has trained mediators accredited with the Centre for Effective Disputes Resolution (CEDR). OPSI is also an affiliate member of CEDR Exchange. Affiliate membership is an informal alliance between organisations and CEDR – a statement of commitment to work together to promote best use in mediation and ADR. Over the last three years, OPSI has successfully led a number of mediations leading to signed settlements, agreed in confidence.

- **IFTS complaints**

It is open to re-users to complain if they consider that an IFTS member is not acting in accordance

with the IFTS principles. OPSI will investigate once the IFTS members' internal process is exhausted. One complaint, made against the Coal Authority, was brought under both IFTS and the PSI Regulations. The published [complaint report](#) (October 2011) set out a number of recommendations which were taken forward by the Coal Authority in their action plan.

- **Statutory complaints Investigation**

OPSI has published a number of formal complaints investigation reports and progress reports since the last report. One such complaint investigation involved Falkirk Council and the re-use of contaminated land information on a development site. The onward use of this information had been refused as the accuracy of the information could not be guaranteed. OPSI partially upheld the complaint and recommendations to improve the Council's compliance with the PSI regulations were made. Suggestions for best practice improvements were also made in the [Falkirk report](#).

### Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information

The Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI) provides expert advice to Ministers and the Director of OPSI, an official of The National Archives. APPSI also has a role in reviewing OPSI's handling of complaints under the PSI Regulations and advising on the impact of the complaints procedures under those regulations. As part of this role, APPSI carried out an independent review into OPSI's handling of its statutory complaints procedure in March 2011. The report was written by Phillip Webb, a member of APPSI. OPSI has recently completed all of the recommendations made in [the report](#).

### Cooperation agreements

OPSI has a collaborative working relationship with its regulatory partners, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner. A number of agreements and protocols set out how the regulators will cooperate on complaints and other issues, by sharing information, seeking expert advice and providing assistance as required.

In January 2013, an [Agreement on Cooperation](#) was signed between The National Archives and the ICO. This sets out the basis of how the organisations will cooperate on the investigation of statutory complaints. This is particularly important as the ICO has a new responsibility for investigating complaints

relating to the re-use of certain datasets brought under Freedom of Information Act.

### **Information Management Assessment programme**

The National Archives' Information Management Assessment (IMA) programme was set up in 2008 to deliver measurable improvements across government. It provides robust, independent validation of the standards and integrity of the information management processes and capability within departments. Since its inception, the IMA programme has evolved to place a greater emphasis on digital information and information risk. It is aligned with the Information Principles for the UK Public Sector.

To date, most central government departments and key agencies have been assessed and a programme is underway to assess the remainder during 2013-14. A total of 19 IMAs have now been conducted across Whitehall and the programme is about to begin the first of a series of ongoing reassessments. Published reports highlight good practice in information and records management and make targeted, pragmatic recommendations for improvement. Following publication, The National Archives works with organisations to develop an action plan to address identified risks and issues.

### **Revised Directive**

The UK's strategic objective during the negotiations on the proposal to amend the PSI Directive was to maintain the current effective, proportionate and low-cost regulatory regime. By establishing a complaints process for re-users of PSI in 2005, the UK had in fact gone further than the original Directive. It was the UK approach to regulation that the Commission considered when revising the Directive. Various options will be considered as the transposition of the PSI Directive takes place.

# Information sharing

Learning is important to ensure that progress is made in removing barriers and constraints to the re-use of PSI. Players in the field of PSI actively collaborate, challenge and share information which helps drive the agenda forward.

APPSI has published a discussion paper on [A National Information Framework for Public Sector Information and Open Data](#). This calls for a contemporary National Information Framework (NIF) which includes (at least) all of the data sets required to meet currently anticipated needs in governments and other key sectors of the economy. Another key piece of work is its [Open Data and PSI glossary](#). APPSI has also responded to a number of consultations since the last PSI report. These include responses to the Cabinet Office Open Data and Public Data Corporation consultations and the Postcode Address File Advisory Board consultation.

## Licensing Forum

The Licensing Forum is made up of practitioners from across the public sector who are involved in licensing and copyright. The forum provides an opportunity for them to share best practice and problems and to discuss developments in information policy.

Meetings are held quarterly. Topics since the last UK report include the Open Data Institute, the Right to Data amendments to the Freedom of Information Act, the local government Transparency Code of Practice and the Shakespeare Review of public sector information.

## Seminars and Conferences

The increasing number of seminars and conferences on the subject of open data and re-use illustrates the extent to which these issues are now becoming important priorities for public sector organisations. Equally, the continuing growth of the internet underlines what key resources information and data are to a 21st-century economy. Many private sector organisations, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are alive to the business opportunities this offers. The National Archives and other public sector organisations take the opportunity of attending and participating in seminars and conferences in order to encourage debate about the importance of PSI.

## Looking forward

The adoption of the amended Directive on the re-use of public sector information will set the agenda in the field of PSI over the next period. The challenge is to transpose successfully the revised Directive into UK legislation. The European Commission's deadline is 2015 though earlier transposition is being considered in order to complement the delivery of the UK Government's open data and transparency strategy.

The National Archives, which has the UK wide policy lead for PSI, will, in taking on the transposition of the amended Directive, focus on the following issues:

- How the Directive can best be transposed into legislation across the UK;
- The nature of the enhanced regulatory framework that underpins the amended Directive
- The costs and burdens of compliance
- Working with stakeholders across the public sector to ensure that they have the tools in place to meet their legal obligations and responsibilities
- Ensuring that the tools such as licensing models, regulatory structures and guidance are fit for purpose to deliver UK commitments.

As this report demonstrates, the UK has made enormous progress since the original PSI Directive was implemented in 2005. In building on the progress made in recent years, The National Archives will:

- Extend the scope and take-up of the UK Government Licensing Framework across the public sector so that the transition to the new legislation will be as smooth as possible
- Continue stakeholder engagement to ensure that awareness of PSI is high;
- Build on the strong regulatory and standards framework already established in the UK
- Track best practice overseas and continue to learn from the experience of other governments
- Ensure that PSI policy and practice is aligned with other information based legislation, particularly on access legislation, so delivering a coherent approach
- Deliver new PSI Regulations and legislative framework that is effective for all parts of the UK.

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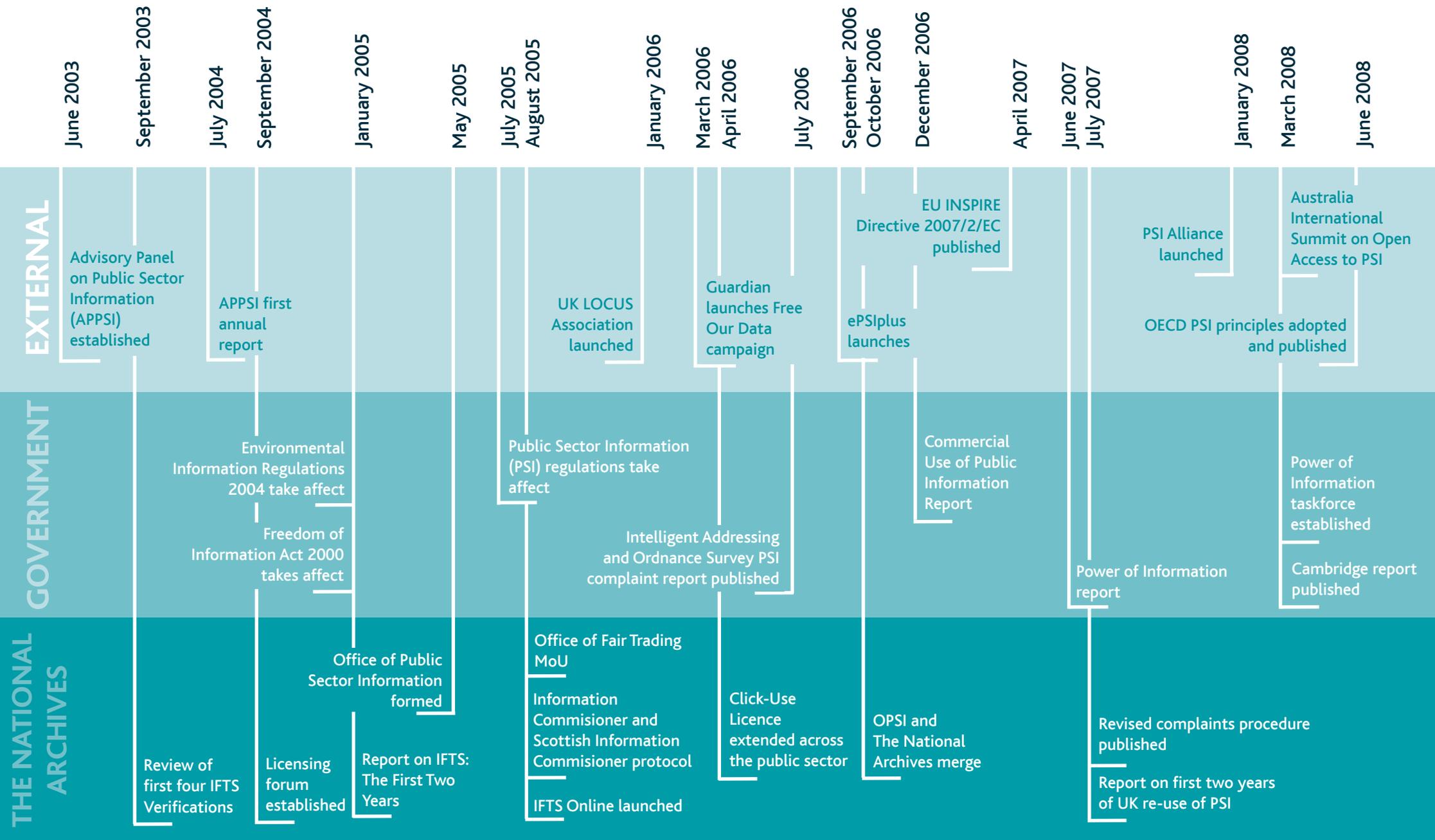
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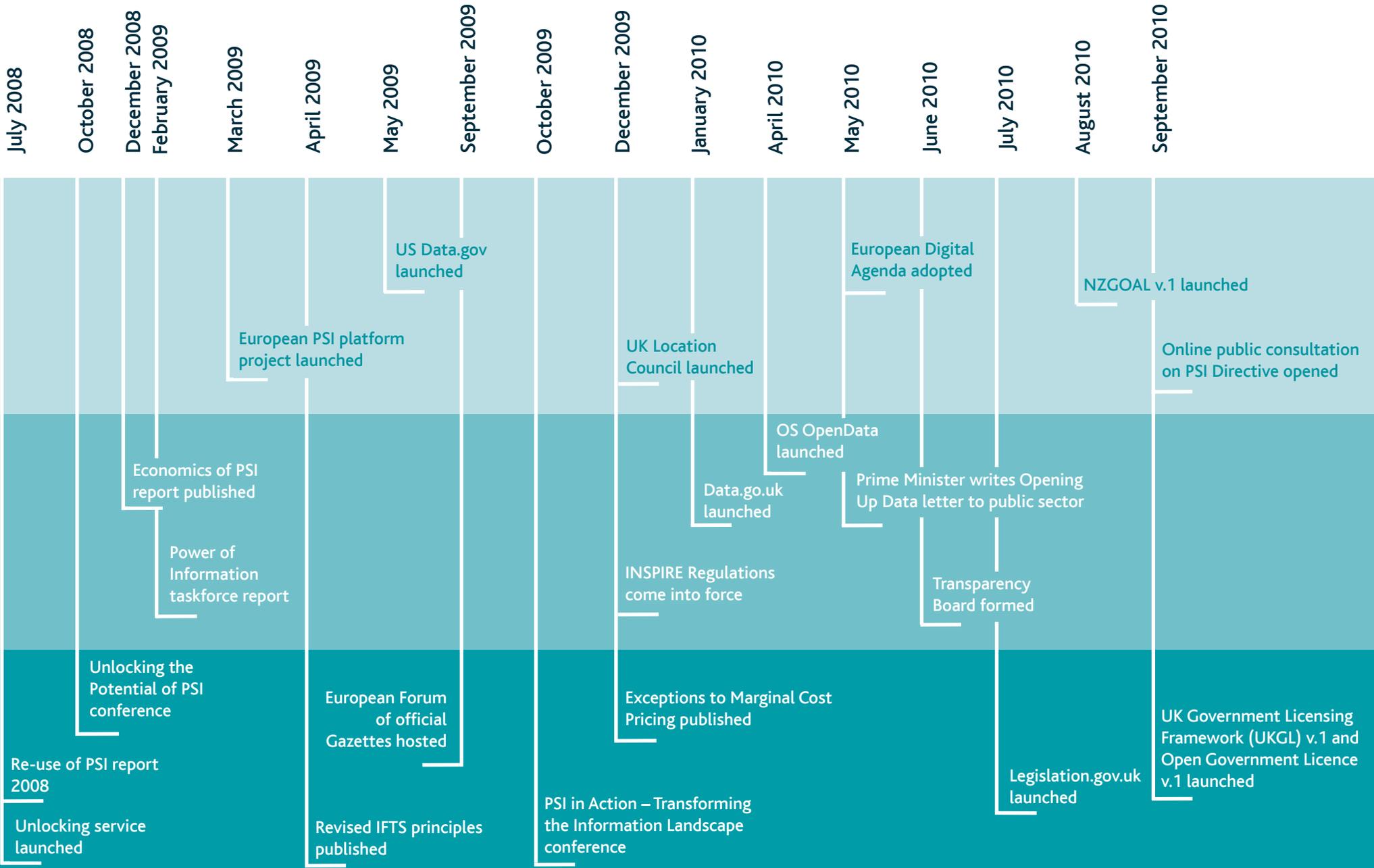
# Public Sector Information timeline 2003 – 2013



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT

EXTERNAL



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT

EXTERNAL

March 2011      July 2011      August 2011      September 2011      October 2011      November 2011      December 2011      May 2012      June 2012      July 2012      October 2012      December 2012      January 2013      April 2013      May 2013      June 2013      July 2013

The non-commercial Government Licence launched

Public Task Guide published

UK Open Data User Group launched

Review of Exception to Marginal cost pricing procedure report

Prime Ministers letter on new transparency commitments published

UK transparency strategy Making Open Data Real published

Government announces formation of Data Strategy Board and Public Data Group

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Open Data White paper published

Shakespeare Review (independent review of public sector information) published

Information Commissioner Agreement published

Open Government Licence identifier launched and used on GOV.UK

AusGOAL launched

Data.gov.au and Data.gc.ca launched

APPSI publish review of PSI complaint procedures

France Open Government Licence published

Open Government Partnership launched

Netherlands Open Data portal launched

EC publishes Vickery report

data.gouv.fr launched

open-data.europe.eu launched

EC launches Open Data web pages on Digital Agenda website

Open Data Institute launched

EC LAPSI 2.0 project

Canada re-launches data.gc.ca and launches Open Government Licence

EU amended PSI Directive 2013/37/ EU published

G8 Open Data Charter adopted and published