



ADVISORY PANEL ON PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION

Date: Monday 6 December 2010

Time: 10:00 am-4:30 pm

Venue: Ministry of Justice

Chair: Professor David Rhind CBE

Deputy Chair: Peter Wienand

Secretariat: Grazia Zaffuto

Attendees:

Members: Neil Ackroyd, Representative Member, Trading Funds
Mike Batty, Expert Member
Stefan Carlyle, Representative Member, Information Providers
Chris Corbin, Expert Member
Keith Dugmore, Expert Member
Michael Jennings, Representative Member, Local Government
David Lammey, Representative Member, Northern Ireland
Hilary Newiss, Expert Member
Michael Nicholson, Expert Member
Shane O'Neill, Expert Member
John Ponting, Expert Member
Patricia Seex, Contributing Member
Prabhat Vaze, Expert Member
Phillip Webb, Expert Member

Non-members:

Oliver Morley, Acting Chief Executive, The National Archives
Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy and Services, The National Archives
Jim Wretham, Head of Information Policy, The National Archives
Marcia Jackson, Head of Standards, The National Archives
Peter ter Haar, Director of Products, Ordnance Survey
Jonathan Raper, Chief Executive Officer, Placr
Emer Coleman, Head of Digital Products, GLA
Tim Allen, Local Government Association
Noel Hatch, Kent County Council

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed members and speakers to APPSI's 7th Annual Seminar. Apologies for absence were received from the following APPSI members: Eric Davies, John Gray, Hector MacQueen and Bill Oates.

2. Overview of the Information Landscape, including the outcomes of CSR 2010

Speaker: Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy and Services, The National Archives

In attendance: Lord McNally Minister of State for Justice

3.1 The speaker set out the key initiatives that have shaped the information policy landscape in a timeline beginning in November 2003 with the launch of the EC Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information. Since then the pace of activity in the UK has been progressively increased. Arguably the activities emerging from the launch of the Coalition Government's Transparency Agenda in May 2010 have led to wider recognition across both the public and private sectors that opening up government data drives accountability, creates efficiencies and stimulates growth and innovation.

3.2 The Government's Transparency Agenda has also resulted in a restatement of public data policy. The draft Public Data Principles, published by the Government's Transparency Board, in June 2010 provide a framework to promote re-use and open standards. The Public Data Principles direct the public and businesses who want to use and re-use public data to the Government's open government licence (OGL). The OGL, launched in September 2010, enables the re-use of a broad range of public sector information under a simple licensing process. This licence covers public data that is free at the point of re-use. By opening up public data in this way, the government is seeking to underpin the Big Society agenda which aims to put more power and opportunity into people's hands.

3.3 Among the Coalition Government's commitments is a new 'Right to Data' which will allow government-held datasets to be requested and used by the public and then published on a regular basis. The 'Right to Data' would enhance the provisions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by introducing a concept of re-use and promoting more explicitly the proactive and regular publication of data sets in which members of the public are interested. As the FOI Act was not designed to encompass the publication of large datasets in reusable format and public bodies can prohibit or limit the re-use of data obtained under the Act, the Government is looking to make the necessary legislative amendments to the Act to strengthen 'Right to Data', which in turn would enable reusable and machine readable public data to be exploited for social and commercial purposes.

3.4 The Government has started work to establish a "public data corporation", to manage and distribute data produced by agencies including Ordnance Survey, the Met Office and the Land Registry. The aim is to make the corporation ready for business by April 2011. The successful delivery of the transparency and open data agenda as a whole relies on partnership working between a range of bodies, including: Cabinet Office, HM Treasury, Ministry of Justice, The National Archives, the UK Location Council, APPSI, the Public Sector Transparency Board and the Information Policy Exchange Group. Close connections exist with colleagues working on related matters in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

3.5 The speaker referred to the standards and regulation around information trading, which include the Information Fair Trader Scheme (IFTS), which sets and assesses standards of fairness and transparency for public sector bodies to encourage the re-use of information. In 2010 the following received full IFTS verification: Office of Government Commerce, British Geological Survey and the Met Office. IFTS also provides a complaints process, offering a faster and

lower cost alternative to action through the courts for any re-user or potential re-user who wishes to make a complaint about non-compliance with the IFTS principles. In 2010, The National Archives received seven prospective complaints and one complaints review report has been completed.

3.6 The National Archives, on behalf of the UK Government, submitted a response to the public consultation on the EU PSI Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information in November 2010. All interested parties were invited to send their views on key issues of PSI re-use and, in particular, on possible amendments to the provisions of the current Directive. These relate to the scope, charging fees and licensing of data, as well as the effects of changes that have taken place and / or the barriers that still exist. For the UK government, the consultation was an opportunity to highlight some of the UK initiatives - which the Commission has publicly acknowledged on a number of occasions. APPSI has also submitted a response to the consultation. It differs from the UK government response in that it favours the Commission amending the Directive and introducing supporting guidance.

Discussion

3.7 Tom Steinberg, Transparency Board member and founder of mySociety, led the discussion. He explained that the Transparency Board was set up by the Prime Minister to drive the Government's transparency agenda, making it a core part of all government business and ensure that all Whitehall departments meet the new tight deadlines set for releasing key public datasets. In addition, the Board is responsible for setting open data standards across the whole public sector, listening to what the public wants and then driving through the opening up of the most needed data sets. Chaired by Francis Maude, the other members of the Transparency Board are Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, Professor Nigel Shadbolt from Southampton University, an expert on open data, and Dr Rufus Pollock from Cambridge University, an economist who helped found the Open Knowledge Foundation, a not for profit organisation which promotes open knowledge in all its forms.

3.8 Lord McNally, Minister of State for Justice, said at the meeting that the transparency agenda is a big project that has clear, strong and consistent support from the Prime Minister and Francis Maude. He also strongly supported the move towards transparency and openness of government data as the right direction of travel. As the Minister responsible for Freedom of Information and Data Protection as well as the re-use of PSI, he believes there is a responsibility on public bodies to uphold individuals' rights to privacy of personal data whilst also promoting the right to access and re-use public sector information. The Minister said he values the advice he receives from APPSI and looks forward to its continued support to help drive the transparency and open data agenda.

3.9 The following key points were made during the discussion:

- APPSI's Trading Fund representative provided further details on DCLG's announcement on 3 December 2010 regarding the 'national address gazetteer database'. The purpose of the database is to provide one definitive source of accurate spatial address data. To deliver this, an agreement has been reached to set up a joint venture between Ordnance Survey and the Local Government Group, from which spatial address products will be created. Having just one database is designed to remove duplication and inefficient processes in the public sector and should provide a better quality of information for all users. The products created from the national address gazetteer database will be made available free at the point of use for all public sector bodies under the centrally funded Public Sector Mapping Agreement. Commercial customers will be able to license the data in the same way as they do for the Ordnance Survey and Local Government products they use today. The proposal for the national address gazetteer database will be referred to the Office of Fair Trading and third parties will be able to comment before OFT makes its decision known. Subject to Office of

Fair Trading clearance, the database will be developed by April 2011. APPSI expressed an interest in contributing to the review of the database and its access mechanisms before it is released.

- One APPSI member expressed approval of the government's support for a single national address register but pointed out that the developers will need to consider what the database will look like in a few years time and how they will ensure that appropriate metadata is available.
- Mr Steinberg said that Government departments vary in how much they value the importance of open data but the shift towards openness in government is stronger than it has ever been. Revenue generators in particular rely on public data as sources of evidence, whilst politicians and civil servants use open data on websites as part of their daily work. These groups are all aware that this service is dependent on public data having been made available for re-use.
- Mr Steinberg said that the collection of public data *per se* is not a concern of the Transparency Board. But HM Treasury is now focused on the collecting of public data. It's important that government thinks about how public data should be distributed, taking into account the issue of charging. He said that both charging and free re-use of PSI have their drawbacks.
- The representative from the NHS Information Centre referred to the complexities of the open data market, pointing specifically to some perverse incentives that can arise from making public data free. He said that the private sector will also start to make available products and services for free.
- APPSI members – who have long been clear that a sound and explicit definition of public task is a vital requirement for a sustainable and effective working partnership between the public and private sector in PSI re-use – were concerned that that the creation of the Public Data Corporation should put in place a common framework for defining the public task. The creation process should also ensure that definition and principles of public task are open to challenge through a robust process that involves meaningful consultation with stakeholders and independent periodic review.
- APPSI members noted that Government cut-backs will mean that the *de facto* (but not necessarily *de jure*) public task of public sector bodies is likely to shrink.
- A member asked Mr Steinberg where the devolved administrations fit in with the transparency agenda. Mr Steinberg responded that the devolved administrations have their own constitutional arrangements, which means that they will have to drive their own transparency and openness work. APPSI's Northern Ireland Representative accepted that Northern Ireland has its own constitutional issues but held firm that the devolved administrations need to be joined up with developments in Whitehall. He also pointed out that NI Ministers are increasingly focused on the elections in Spring 2011 which means there is little appetite at ministerial level to progress the open data agenda in Northern Ireland in the short term.
- Mr Steinberg said that APPSI should be ready for some rapid decision-making in government on the issue of open data and to provide some practical advice to government on how to take this forward, in the form of three realistic priorities.

3. National Information Infrastructure

Speaker: Michael Jennings, APPSI's Local Government Representative

3.1 The speaker covered the following key areas in his presentation:

- The need for and potential value of a National Information Infrastructure (NII)
- How organisations might equip themselves better to deliver this value
- The Role that APPSI could play

3.2 The speaker made the following key points in his presentation:

- The National Infrastructure Plan was launched by the Prime Minister, David Cameron, at CBI conference on 25 October 2010. The Plan sets out the Government's "broad vision of the infrastructure required to underpin the UK's growth". The Plan also reinforces "the need to embrace the options opened up by new technology, for example, in the rollout of superfast broadband, in offshore wind arrays and in high speed rail."
- The National Infrastructure Plan covers:
 - Energy Infrastructure
 - Transport Infrastructure
 - Digital Communications
 - Flood Management, Water and Waste
 - Intellectual Capital
 - *But not housing, shipping or aviation*
- The speaker said that the only aspect of the National Infrastructure Plan that relates to information is the area of intellectual content, which is intended to
 - Support research
 - Invest in next generation of researchers
 - Encourage research to relate to business
 - Feed into the Technology Strategy Board and network of Technology and Innovation Centres.
- The speaker referred to a meeting at HM Treasury on 21 October 2010 on the UK Infrastructure and Interdependency, attended by the Chair of APPSI. Most attendees were engineers but the audience also included those with various other backgrounds. At the meeting, the Chair of APPSI argued that information – especially public sector information – was at least analogous to physical infrastructure: "The content of the information available flowing through the 'pipes' is an important consideration as well as the physical infrastructure that provides the pipes".
- The speaker set out a series of issues for APPSI members to consider in relation to the National Information Infrastructure. These included asking whether there is value in:
 - the development of the concept of a national information infrastructure (such an NII already existed, having grown 'bottom up' in an ad hoc way)
 - the development of the public task in relation to the collection as well as re-use of information
 - the further development of standards (data, legal, technical, etc).
 - the further development of strategies, competences, a role, organisational recognition or even a profession, in information management to exploit this key resource.

Discussion

3.2 The following key points were made during the discussion:

- One member said that the UK needs to think about *what is actually needed* for a National Information Infrastructure at a time of financial constraints because there is a risk that our information assets could lose value over time if not up-dated. Indeed, it is not clear what we are collecting which we do not need or what we do need but are not collecting..

- Another member said that information governance and assurance is another issue of concern because at present this is highly devolved and the Cabinet Office does not have the resources to develop a National Information Infrastructure.
- The Acting Chief Executive of The National Archives said that information asset registers provide some information assurance but pointed out the cost issue involved in developing a National Information Infrastructure.
- Another member said that the government needs to be more efficient at collecting information. For instance, there is no single complete company register and no agreed means of describing a property location. The National Information Infrastructure is therefore lacking in 'joined up' standards and principles.
- Another member said that standards and principles are likely to develop over time if we take into account that standards in the private sector take some time to become embedded. We therefore need to consider the role of government and the private sector in providing and establishing standards. We need to be supply-driven rather than focusing solely on demand.
- The representative of the NHS Information Centre said that we presently all have different conceptions of a National Information Infrastructure. In the NHS, a proliferation of variably accurate information is being generated and it is therefore important to first consider the types of information that is being created and then establish standards to mitigate the inaccuracies. It is important to also differentiate between personal and non-personal data. He also said that it is difficult to achieve consistency in the way information is generated and collected in the NHS because there is no UK professional regulator that sets out standards and penalties for non-compliance.
- Any future version of the National Information Infrastructure needs to take into account the distinction between raw and value added data. It is important that we think about both content distribution and standards in developing a National Information Infrastructure.
- It is also essential to consider the skills needed by information management professionals to take forward the challenges of a National Information Infrastructure.
- It is important that we focus on key issues in the development of a National Information Infrastructure and these issues should be customer focused, rather than treating this as an academic exercise.

4. OS OpenData: how it advances technology and innovation

Speaker: Peter ter Haar, Director of Products, Ordnance Survey

- 4.1 The speaker referred to the reports that have shaped Ordnance Survey's OpenData initiatives, which have included the *Commercial Use of Public Sector Information*, October 2006, the *Power of Information Report*, June 2007 and the *Models of Public Sector Information Provision via Trading Funds*, February 2008.
- 4.2 The speaker spoke about the success of the OS OpenSpace API, which is free to access and lets developers create web applications and online projects with Ordnance Survey maps. He pointed out that OS OpenSpace API is not just for developers. Although the API uses JavaScript to make web pages more interactive, anyone can create an application by following Kent County Council's sample code and tutorials. Some of applications developers are creating with the OS OpenSpace API and Ordnance Survey data include *The Greenwich Meridian* - on this website, are details of those places where the Meridian is known to have been marked, together with the sequences of pictures that have frozen them in time. He also referred to the *Bike Hike* - a website is intended for anyone wanting to create or view routes on either Google maps or the Ordnance Survey maps.
- 4.3 The speaker said that Ordnance Survey's GeoVation Challenge launched on 28 September, was seeking ideas on how the use of geographic data could make travel more environmentally sustainable and improve public transport services. Since January a range of datasets have been

made available for free commercial reuse by public bodies. These include a raft of central government information through Data.gov.uk, including routing and timetabling information from the Department for Transport; mapping via Ordnance Survey's OS OpenData portal; and a host of data collected by local authorities. Most recently Transport for London also released some data, including live traffic jam information. On 21 October, GeoVation received an additional £150,000 in funding for its current challenge.

4.4 The speaker referred to the Dos and Don'ts of opening up public data. These were as follows:

DO

- Set out to create commercial or social value with data
- Make sure data quality is and remains high
- Promote innovation using government datasets. Transparency is only a means to an end
- Enhance communication with the public e.g. Hack Warwickshire
- Incentivise developers
- Create a strong external community
- Be brave – people may do things with the data that you don't like
- Use open source software wherever possible

DON'T

- Just release data and expect people to understand or create with it. Publication is not the same as communication
- Wait for FOI requests - put the data out first informally
- Be late in releasing data
- Rely on future technology to solve today's problems
- Go straight for the finished article - use rapid prototyping
- Wait for the big budget or formal process but start big things with small projects now
- Expect people to interpret the data in the same way you do
- Be technology led - instead be business led instead

The speaker said that customer satisfaction with OS's OpenData products has increased, with approximately 4000-5000 people downloading OS OpenSpace each month.

Discussion

4.5 The following key points were made during the discussion:

- One member reiterated that it is not enough just to release data and expect others to know what to do with it effectively and safely. In order to maximise re-use it is important to demonstrate how public sector information can be and has been re-used.
- There is still confusion in the public's mind between access and re-use of public sector information. This needs to be addressed.
- OS has removed a lot of barriers to re-use of data but in order for the OpenData products to remain relevant, OS needs to maintain its links with the developer community.
- OS CodePoint is a valuable product that can be used to develop a National Address Register.

5. The London Datastore: the GLA's steps to freeing London's data

Speakers: Jonathan Raper, CEO, Placr and Emer Coleman, Head of Digital Products, GLA

5.1 The speakers spoke to their recently published articles in the Local Government Chronicle are as follows:

Collaboration works

18 November 2010 | By Emer Coleman

- 5.2 “When we started the London Datastore, our website publishing hundreds of datasets, we invited the developer community to come and help us free London's data, so our involvement has always been a collaborative one. We now have almost 1,200 followers on the London Datastore Twitter account. A quick look at <http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/inspirational-uses> shows the number of apps that have been developed, from cycle hire to apps based on traffic cameras, and lots of really useful and interesting data visualisations.
- 5.3 But the real value is the impact that engagement with the developer community has had. Since the beginning we have had a close association with a core group that now forms the mayor's Digital Advisory Board. There are constant discussions, ideas being thrown into the mix about how the public sector might deliver services better using data, and fairly constant networking, both on and offline. This is helping us keep on top of the Big Society agenda and identify quickly those developers whose design creativity can help local government. We are also encouraging other public agencies to participate in this network, so when we start uploading health data in the coming months we will Tweet out to our followers, point them to the data and make introductions to NHS London so that they can engage directly.
- 5.4 I regard the developers we are collaborating with as much my colleagues as those I work with in the Greater London Authority group. But it's a model of reciprocity, because how else could I, in these strained financial times, have access to additional brain power outside my organisation? The answer is engage as a public body, join in the conversation and the rewards it will return to your organisation are immense.
- 5.5 We still have a long way to go, though. Next steps include more transport data, crime data (street-level crime data is still being blocked) health and then hopefully continuing dialogue with all 33 London boroughs. Places such as Redbridge LBC are leading the way, but we have a lot of convincing to do yet.”

A new audit

18 November 2010 | By Jonathan Raper

- 5.6 “Of the many drivers given for the accelerating pace of open data releases from local and central government, a desire for greater transparency is the most potent. There is a sense that political esteem has fallen so far that only really significant steps will allow confidence in the institutions of government to be rebuilt. Transparency campaigners and journalists have seized upon "data" as the lifeblood of modern government, and their focus on open data releases aims to achieve transparency through audit. By contrast, the now moribund Audit Commission oversaw a giant stocktaking operation, weighing and measuring performance through its comprehensive area assessments and delivering through its Oneplace website.
- 5.7 These complex assessments were neither very digestible by the public nor credible to transparency campaigners, as they did not deliver the raw data on which the judgments were based. To achieve true transparency the armchair auditors want to see real raw data. All of it.
- 5.8 Looking at the raw data allows a different kind of audit. One that requires an examination of the assumptions and values of the collector of the data. Armchair auditors are unlikely to follow existing thinking and are likely to go back to first principles when approaching the data. This will mean that some of the new auditing will not accept the working principles of the data collector. There will be many critiques based on open data that will seem uninformed and perhaps, therefore, severely critical. Local and central government will need to prepare themselves for this. It's going to be a very different kind of audit.

5.9 Experiences with the London Datastore have shown that there are phases of engagement when asking for "all your raw data". Initial denial that the existing monopoly is coming to an end is the first stage, followed in some cases by outright rejection of the approach. There follows a phase of engagement and dialogue when it becomes clear on the one side that the demands for data must be met, and on the other that the working practices that produce the data bring constraints. Finally, productive working relationships are formed.

5.10 I have seen this process over a nine-month cycle with the Greater London Authority London Datastore and Transport for London. The resulting relationship with developers has matured to produce some genuinely new forms of evaluation, such as our own www.tube-radar.com.

5.11 It will take some time, but I am confident that we will reach new forms of accommodation between the new auditors and government. Who knows, a fresh evaluation might bring some powerful insights and the new legitimacy that government needs."

Discussion

5.12 The following key points were made during the discussion:

- The speakers pointed to the availability of people with appropriate skills and understanding as a key factor in opening up London's public sector information. The speakers learnt that it is important to show the benefits of opening up data to organisations in order to get them to release data.
- One of the speakers referred to the complex ontology of arms-length bodies as a barrier to obtaining access to PSI.
- The speakers have found that the success of the London Datastore has been due to the proactive communication of the release of dataset and providing examples of how datasets have previously been re-used; the latter sparks ideas for new uses.
- The speakers said that a small percentage of re-users of the data are individuals trying to start up new businesses but a large percentage are interested in re-using the data for the public good.
- The NHS Information Centre representative said that the NHS does not yet have a developer community; the speakers however have found that the London health sector is increasingly relaxed about releasing its data and developers are taking advantage of that change.
- The speakers also said that, in order to make PSI fully reusable, the issue of IPR needs to be resolved because there is a clear tension between encouraging innovation and protecting IPR.

6. Local Government Data: how to make it open

Speaker: Tim Allen, Local Government Association and Noel Hatch, Kent County Council

6.1 The focus of Tim Allen's presentation was on practical PSI challenges in an Open Data World. He referred to the immediate task for councils to publish details of all spending over £500 in full and online as part of wider action to bring about a revolution in town hall openness and accountability. The call for greater disclosure on spending is just one of a series of measures detailed in a letter sent to councils by the Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, in June 2010.

6.2 The speaker set out some difficulties that councils are likely to face in making their data available in machine readable formats. These include difficulties around:

- Secure personal data and certain other types of confidential data;
- Fraud protection: conflicting views still to be resolved

- Pragmatic details to be sorted e.g. re salaries and related data
- Beginning to help others make sense of the information e.g. potential for using CIPFA categories for spend data.
- Making clear any copyright concerns in the adoption of the open government licence or similar licence framework.

6.3 The speaker set out the levers for change that underpin the open data agenda. These include:

- A different form of accountability: less top down and target-driven
- More about direct accountability to citizens;
- Arm chair auditors as catalysts;
- a concern to reduce spend and encourage challenge through scrutiny and question.

6.4 The speaker made clear that, for the open data agenda to work, there needs to be a shift in mindsets and culture away from accepted notions of statistics, whilst recognising the role of, for example, both data standards and creating space for ‘mashups’ and experimentation. He also said that the market for ‘apps’ is not just a developer activity but it should also inform public service information and citizen engagement and feedback.

Speaker: Noel Hatch, Kent County Council

6.5 The speaker provided some background to *Open Kent* which is committed to open data and transparency. This means making the non-personal information that Kent County Council holds freely available to everyone in a format that can be reused. Re-users are asked to agree to the terms of the Open Government Licence for public sector information. Some of the open data currently available for re-use by Kent County Council are as follows:

- Corporate Management Team salaries and expenses (xls)
- Corporate Management Team register of gifts and hospitality - see individual pages (xls)
- Council spending
- Councillors' allowances and expenses (xls)
- Education Budget and Outturn Statements (xls)
- Invoices over £500 (xls)
- Kent area profiles (xls)
- Kent facts and figures
- RSS feeds. Feed currently available for news
- Twitter feed

6.6. Kent Open Data enables the Council to engage in dialogue with citizens - giving the Council an insight into how the community makes use of local data and creating a space for developers to interact with local services.

Discussion

6.6 The following key points were made during the discussion:

- In order to help people make sense of local government data it is important that appropriate and consistent standards are applied by LAs.
- The release of local government data is presently driven by supply but the demand side is very problematic because there are difficulties in reaching a target audience and then measuring success.
- More local authorities need to open up their data and also encourage individuals and organisations in the community to develop innovative products and services.

- Opening up local government data enables citizens to have a say in how budgets should be distributed and it is this form of democracy that should be a driver for innovation of public services.
- One member commented that opening up data drives participatory democracy but it also has its drawbacks. There are clearly issues of fraud to take into consideration and also how the release of some data can harm the human right of privacy.

7. Closing remarks and actions for APPSI

Speaker: Peter Wienand, Deputy Chair, APPSI

7.1 The Deputy Chair of APPSI drew out the main themes from the presentations and discussions during the seminar, as follows:

- The pace of the Transparency Agenda was reinforced by Tom Steinberg who suggested that there is likely to be a conflict between those in government who support the open data agenda and those who are against it.
- There are key tensions which obstruct the delivery of policy, which include:
 - Public access of data versus cost
 - Transparency versus IPR
 - Emerging partnerships
 - Public and private sector involvement
 - Economic propriety versus social priorities
- The deputy chair also referred to subtleties that obstruct the delivery of the re-use of PSI, which include:
 - Data protection, privacy and fraud
 - The emergence of a new sector evolving from the involvement of the private and public sectors
 - How the private and the rest of the public sectors interact with arms-length bodies and local authorities.
- APPSI **agreed** that it should set out a set of key principles that government should consider in developing a strategic framework for the delivery of a National Information Infrastructure. The intention is to be pragmatic and concrete, setting out no more than six areas that need to be addressed as a matter of priority.
- The seminar considered the possible disintermediation of government in the context of a National Information Infrastructure. There was also discussion on the need to provide examples of best practice to demonstrate the value of the re-use of PSI to a wider community; and the importance of gathering evidence of success and measuring success was also considered an important mechanism for resolving some of the policy tensions.
- The Deputy Chair of APPSI highlighted the issues that were raised at the seminar which require further consideration:
 - What are the implications of the move towards a Public Data Corporation?
 - How should orphan datasets be dealt with?
 - If no change is made to the EU Directive, what impact does that have for harmonisation across Europe?
 - APPSI will need to review its own complaints review role.

- The devolved administrations will need to take their own initiatives to release datasets, taking advice from Whitehall if required.
- Standards (including those for metadata) will need to be set to avoid inaccuracies of datasets contributing to gross misinterpretations.
- What is the role of IPR in a world of data sharing, especially as each party adds something more to the data set?

8. AOB

81. Mike Batty, Stefan Carlyle, Chris Corbin, John Gray, and Eric Davies retired as APPSI members on 31 December 2010. The Chair of APPSI, on behalf of the Panel, thanked them for their very considerable contributions. He also thanked the speakers and all present for their contributions.