

PSI Consulting

21st Century Public Sector (Land & Property)
Information Trading



2003 European Directive on Re-Use of Public Sector Information

***2005 Transposition of European Directive
on Re- Use of Public Sector Information**

•Brave new world of Information Trading



OFT Property Searches Study 2005

- **Groundbreaking Report**
- **Increased Competition in Property Information Market**
- **Fair and open trading environment**



2006 Commercial Use of Public Sector Information Report

- **Another groundbreaking Report from OFT**
- **Seeking to promote Commercial Re-Use of Information**
- **Welcomed by the information community**



Increased Awareness of role of OPSI

- Pushing forward the Re-Use Agenda
- IFTS Scheme
- Click Use Licensing



Information Pressure Group Lobbying

- *LoCUS
- PSI Alliance
- CoPSO
- IPSA

Deregulation of Standard LLC₁ Fees 2008

*Fee had since 1975 Local Land Charges Act been centrally determined by Lord Chancellors Department

*Rapid rise in fees from a UK standard of £6 to a range from as little as £5 to in excess of £68.10

*The term Post Code Lottery has relevance



Charges for Property Searches Regulations 2008

Introduced New Charging Rights

**An immediate and wide discrepancy in
charging levels from one LA to another were
readily apparent**

Additional costs to the Consumer

Deregulation of Standard Personal Search Fees

- Local Authorities were seeking De-regulation
- * Search Industry concerns – following on rapid escalation Of LLC₁ Fees
- Lobbying from Pressure Groups
- * No De-Regulation BUT 100% increase from £11 to £22 in Access Fee

Information Commissioner Rulings

*Up to 30 recent ICO Rulings against
Local Authorities

*More in the pipeline

•ICO is being inundated with complaints
of unfair trading practices.



Confusion in Charging Policies can prove costly

***Apparent overcharging by Local Authorities**

•Where was the Charging Guidance ?

***Additional costs borne by Search Industry**

***Higher costs to the Consumer**



(APPS) Class Action against Local Authorities

Ambulance Chasing

**Legal firm actively seeking evidence of
Trading in this market to seek refunds**

DEFRA Advice on Overcharging

- * Statutory Instrument SI2010/1812**
- *SI Specifically refers to overcharging**
- *Suggests that refunds will be sought**
- *Potential cost to LA's will be enormous**

Lack of Co-ordination on Information Policies

*OPSI / APPSI Working to promote active re-use

*DCLG (2006 – 2008) promoting Charging rights for LA's.

*Potential nightmare scenario of those charges being reclaimed.

Where is the 'joined-up Policy Making' ?