

# **Re-use of public sector information for the benefit of services to the public**

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# We are living in an ‘online information society’

The collage features three overlapping web pages. At the top left is the Directgov homepage, which has an orange header with the 'Directgov' logo and the tagline 'Public services all in one place'. It includes a search bar and navigation links for 'Browse by subject' (with categories like Crime, Education, Employment) and 'Need more help?' (with categories like Residency rules, Age requirement). Below this is the National Rail Enquiries page, showing a blue header with the logo and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'JOURNEY PLANNER' and includes a 'From / To / Via' section with input fields. At the bottom of the collage is the UpMyStreet website, which has a blue header with the logo and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Local area Schools' and features a map of a residential area with a path leading to a school. Below the map is a table with columns for 'Age', 'LEA', 'Eng (%)', 'Math (%)', 'Sci (%)', and 'KS2 APS'. The 'mumsnet' logo is overlaid on the bottom right of the collage.

*“Public information does not belong to Government, it belongs to the public on whose behalf government is conducted.”*

Speech by The Prime Minister on Liberty, October 2007

# A knowledge and information strategy for Government



*“In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, information is the force powering our democracy and our economy. Both the private and the public sector increasingly rely on information and knowledge, and create value through their ability to manage these valuable assets.”*

Sir Gus O'Donnell

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service

October 2008

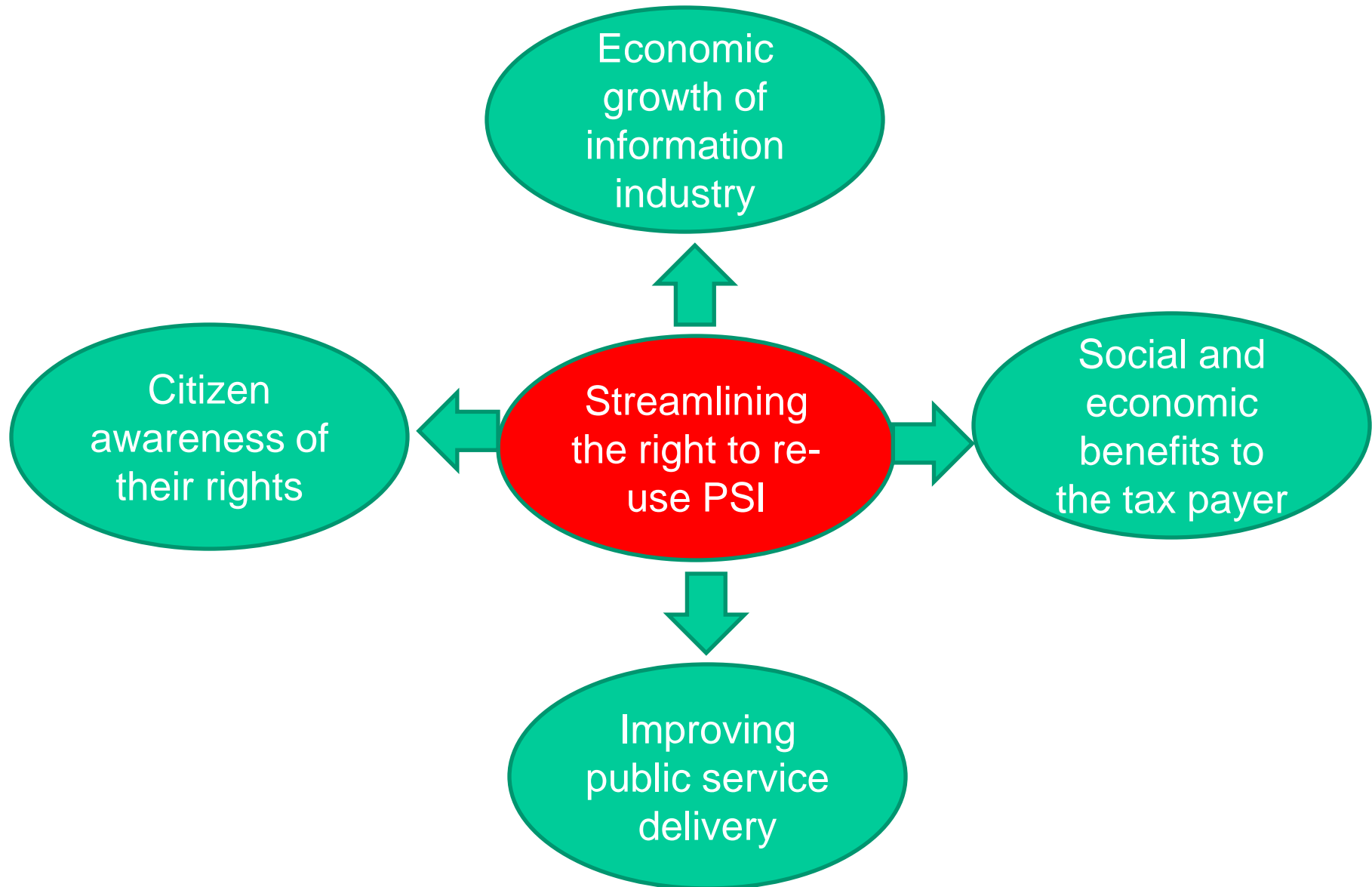
# Public Sector Information (PSI)

- Nearly ubiquitous: >100,000 public sector bodies in UK
- Largest single source of information in Europe
- Basis of 15-25% of all data used in e-commerce trading and information products
- US information industry = 5 x EU industry although economies same size
- UK potential value > £1 billion [OFT 2006]

# Benefits to public of re-use of (c.f. access to) PSI

- Underpins democratic accountability (e.g. Government meeting PSA targets, local authority and CLA outcomes, NHS Trusts meeting 4 hour/18 week, MRSA targets, etc)
- Raises awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities
- Facilitates community activity
- Can be used to enhance efficiency e.g. tune services, allocate resources to meet real needs
- Can underpin innovation and hence create jobs and provide choice in services

# Why is re-use of public sector information so important?

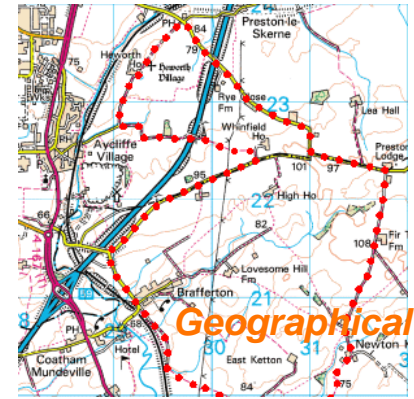




Planning



Environmental



Geographical



emergency services

**Benefits of PSI Re-use**  
PSI re-use is essential to supporting the type of **cumulative innovation** required in a **knowledge economy**



Meteorological



London Police Crime Maps



Medical



Security



<http://www.gmjondonfutures.com/>

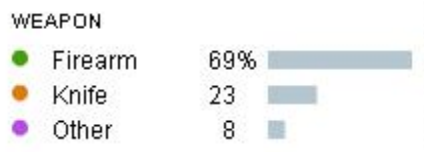
**JUST TO MAKE IT  
CLEAR:  
I AM TALKING ABOUT  
NON-PERSONAL  
INFORMATION**

All years 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 Past 30 days

Zoom to address or ZIP  Go

# Homicides 2003-2009 **3,406**

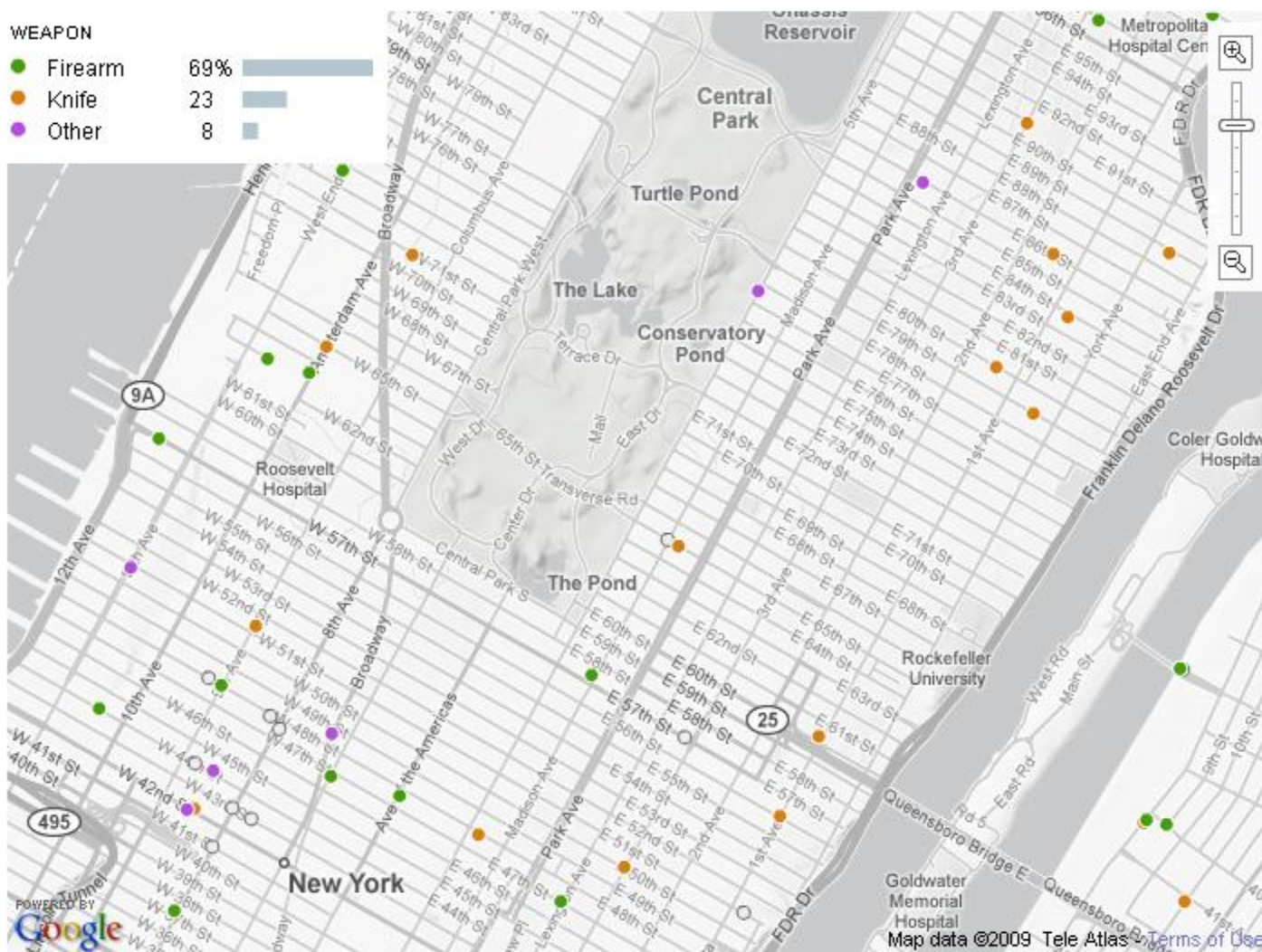
Average homicides per year: 540



- All homicides
- Month and time of day
- Race/ethnicity of victim
- Race/ethnicity of perpetrator
- Sex of victim
- Sex of perpetrator
- Age of victim
- Age of perpetrator

**Weapon used**

Borough



Map does not show 12 locations that the police have not released.

If this showed burglaries, would it be personal information?

**SO WHERE ARE WE IN  
GETTING THE DESIRED  
BENEFITS?**

# The legal framework

- EU Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information 2003
- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32003L0098:EN:HTML>
- Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations S.I. 2005 No. 1515
- <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051515.htm>

# INSPIRE components

- Metadata
- Network Services
- Data Specifications
- Data and Service Sharing
- Monitoring and Reporting

The screenshot shows the INSPIRE European Geo-Portal website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser title is "European Geo-Portal - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The website header features the INSPIRE logo and the text "INSPIRE European Geo-Portal" with a navigation bar containing "home | news | events | contact us".

The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main text area. The sidebar contains several sections with sub-links:

- Publish Information**
  - Register to publish your data and services
  - Login
- Map Online**
  - Create Your Map
- Search**
  - Search for Data
  - Search for Services
  - National Portals
  - Thematic Portals
- Geo-Portal at a Glance**
  - What is the Geo-Portal
  - Guided Tour
  - FAQ
  - Geo-Portal partners
- INSPIRE Initiative**
  - INSPIRE Background
  - INSPIRE Guidelines
  - INSPIRE Home
- SDI Toolbox**
  - Standards
  - Resources
  - SDI Initiatives
  - Useful Links
- Application Areas**
  - Learn more about our Applications

The main text area contains the following content:

**INSPIRE** (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) is an initiative launched by the European Commission and developed in collaboration with Member States and accession countries. It aims at making available relevant, harmonised and quality geographic information to support formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Community policies with a territorial dimension or impact. INSPIRE intends to trigger the creation of a European spatial data infrastructure that delivers to the users integrated spatial information services linked by common standards and protocols.

The INSPIRE Geo-Portal is Europe's Internet access point for Spatial Data and Services. From here, you can search for spatial data, services, and organisations.

Below the text are two featured boxes:

- Create your map**: A box with a map of Europe.
- Available Data Categories**: A box with a graphic of a circuit board.

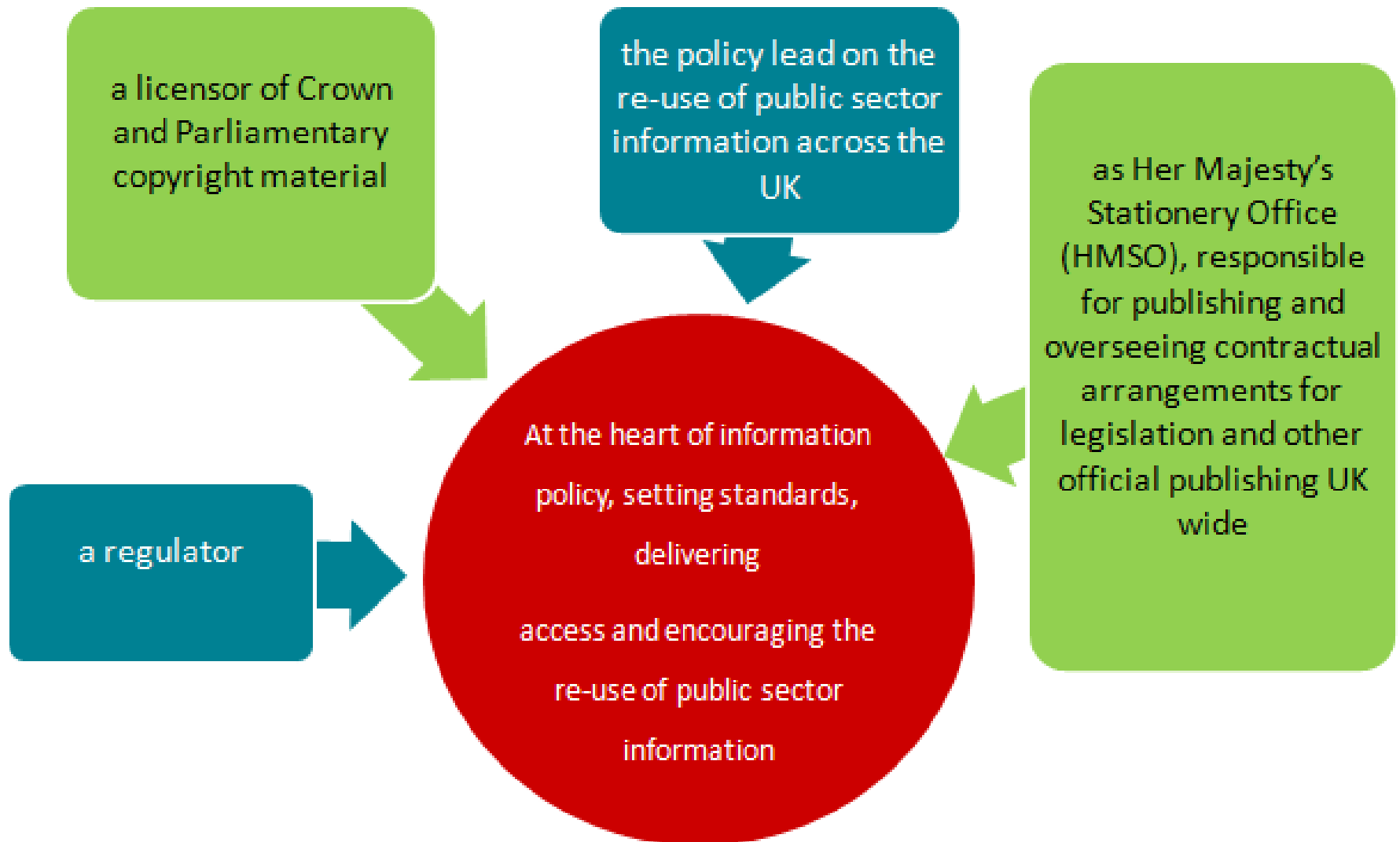
Below these boxes is a note: "Please note that this is an experimental prototype version of the EU Geo-Portal, aiming at better understanding user requirements and at defining the standards-based technical specifications of the future operational system. Your comments and suggestions are welcome."

At the bottom of the main text area is a **Hot Topics** section with two links:

- Natural resources
- Natural and technological risks

The footer of the website features the European Commission logo and the text "EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL Joint Research Centre". To the right of the logo is an "IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE : The information on this web site is subject to a disclaimer and a copyright notice."

# Roles of the Office for Public Sector Information

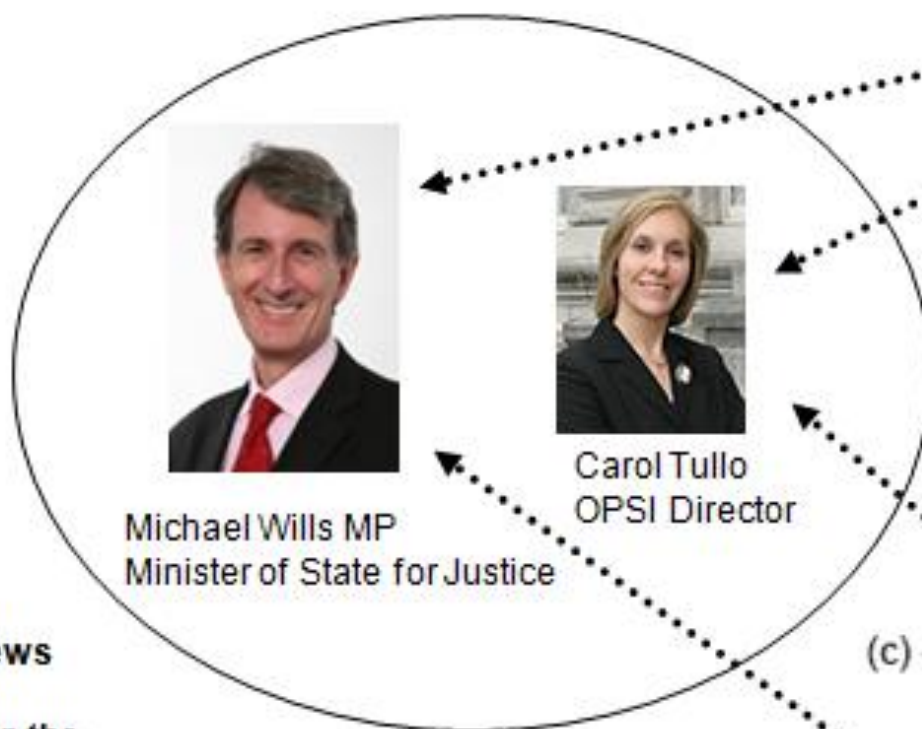


# APPSI advises Ministers and the Director of OPSI about...

(3)

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

APPSI also reviews and considers complaints under the Re-use of Public Sector Regulations 2005



Michael Wills MP  
Minister of State for Justice

Carol Tullo  
OPSI Director

(1)



How to encourage and create opportunities in the information industry

(2)

(c) crown copyright



How the licensing of Crown Copyright and public sector information can be aligned with current and emerging developments

# Exploiting government's information assets

Interest in making PSI more readily available has grown hugely in recent months :

- Various reports e.g. POIR, OFT CUPI, Cambridge study on pricing, Thomas and Walport report on data sharing..
- Much good work by Office of Public Sector Information
- Press campaign led by *The Guardian*
- Shareholder Executive's new business model for Trading Funds (announced in Budget 2009)
- Launch of *Making Public Data Public* initiative mandated by the Prime Minister (June 2009) and led by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Prof. Nigel Shadbolt



**Despite all that, the situation is far from ideal..**

## **Factors that block the effective exploitation of PSI**

- **At policy level** – many highly restrictive / complex licences, lack of compulsion, dual policy (TF and rest)
- **Cultural** – long standing perception that government collects information for its own purposes and is owned by a department
- **Institutional** – tensions between government and commercial information collectors and assemblers
- **Financial** – current financial situation leading HMT to challenge any additional public expenditure

**Sometimes the  
rules do not  
make sense –  
and technology  
has changed  
what is possible**



# **APPSI's recommendations for information 'prospecting and harvesting' in the short term**

- **Celebrate and extend existing successes** to foster demand, provision and public take-up
- **Garner additional PSI and make it immediately available** (supporting the *Making Public Data Public initiative*)
- **PSI already in the public domain to be made easier to access and re-use**, *whilst also maintaining anonymisation* when exploiting via new profiling and mining tools.
- **Make use of crawler and semantic web technologies** across the wider public sector

# **APPSI's recommendations for a longer term strategy**

**Create/refine a national information infrastructure including :**

- 'Core Reference Geographies' maintained through a simple regulatory framework
  - Admin boundaries, routes, postcodes
- Single geographical framework
- Maintained up-to-date
- Widely and easily accessible
- Available at marginal or zero cost for any purpose

# What should be prioritised? A conceptual framework

- The characteristics of the population and of the economy
- The laws of the land
- Information on those whom we have elected or appointed to public office
- Information on what all government bodies do on our behalf
- Details of government expenditure incurred by governments
- Information to monitor the performance of governments
- Information on new resources available to citizens and businesses as a consequence of government investments

# **Policy changes and actions needed to facilitate successful re-use of PSI**

- Making PSI held by the whole public sector available for re-use by statute
- Sorting out the 'derived data problem'
- Simplifying licensing
- Facilitating information re-use in all countries in the UK
- Homogenising the rules for Trading Funds
- Reducing the tensions between business and Trading Funds



**APPSI and others are trying to  
open the road!**

Signspotting

## It's worth reading...

- <http://www.appsi.gov.uk/>

Especially

- <http://www.appsi.gov.uk/2009/10/06/APPSIsPaperExploitingGovernmentsInformationAssetsForThePublicGood>

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING !**