

Office of Public Sector Information statement – The Coal Authority

The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), part of The National Archives, has carried out an investigation under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations and the Information Fair Traders Scheme (IFTS) into a complaint made against The Coal Authority. The [report](#) of that complaint investigation was published in October 2011, and a [progress report](#) reviewing the work that The Coal Authority had done to address the recommendations of the investigation report was published in June 2012. This work has been carried out in the context of The Coal Authority developing its own data strategy that provides for the commercial provision of data products as part of the Authority corporate five year strategy.

A routine re-verification of The Coal Authority under the IFTS was carried out in October 2012, and the [published report](#) of that re-verification included a number of recommendations of relevance to the points at issue in the complaint investigation. These were as follows:

Paragraph 39	The Coal Authority should update OPSI on the outcome of its data engagement work.
Paragraph 44	Having made a strategic decision to move away from commercial re-use of data extracts, towards real time database access, The Coal Authority should demonstrate that it intends to move ahead with its plans at an appropriate pace, publishing a clear timetable for implementation.
Paragraph 45	The Coal Authority should continue to supply bulk data extracts to third parties pending the introduction of enhanced database access.
Paragraph 52	On finalising its licensing terms with the current applicant for bulk re-use, The Coal Authority should ensure that it maintains the provision of data on the agreed terms and offers the same terms to any new applicants for the same type of re-use.
Paragraph 66	The Coal Authority should keep OPSI informed of progress towards the establishment of real time third party access to its database.

The Director of Information Policy Services and OPSI at The National Archives and the Chief Executive Officer of The Coal Authority met on 24 April 2013 to review the Authority's information licensing strategy and the progress made in addressing the points at issue in the report. They agreed that while good progress has been made to develop the Authority's information strategy and to meet the recommendations in the reports, there is value for both sides and for the re-users of Coal Authority information in continuing close liaison on these matters.

Therefore the Director and the Chief Executive Officer have agreed that the two organisations should meet at six-monthly intervals to monitor progress in developing the strategy and meeting the recommendations in the reports. OPSI is satisfied that The Coal Authority has a clear strategy for opening up real time access to its data, and that it is committed to meeting its requirements under the Regulations, under IFTS and following the complaint investigation report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Tullo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carol Tullo
Director
Office of Public Sector Information

14 May 2013