BIS | **Department for Business Innovation & Skills**

OPEN DATA STRATEGY 2012-14

JUNE 2012

Contents

Introduction

Growth is the priority of the Department and open data has an important role to play in this. Open data contributes directly through the economic opportunities it creates and through its role in delivering the reforms we are introducing.

This strategy demonstrates how we will use open data to drive reform and transparency. This is set out under the themes of:

- The creation of dynamic information markets: the data sets that have the potential to create economic opportunities.

- Big data: the data sets that are collected in the course of the administration of Higher and Further Education.

- My data: providing individuals with access to data that is about them.

- Satisfaction and experience data: the information that is collected on how users of services judge the service they receive.

- Continuously improving the quality of data published.

We are committed to working with our partner organisations and our stakeholders to ensure that we are making most of the opportunities that open data presents.

The strategy set out here relates specifically to open data; this is just one part of the Department's overall information management. BIS adheres to the seven principles identified in Information Principles for the UK Public Sector published in December 2011. These principles are built on a hierarchy. In this strategy we will focus on those principles which relate most directly to open data. However we are aware that particularly Principle 1 (Information is a Valued Asset) and Principle 2 (Information is Managed) are both pre-requisites to enable BIS to adhere to a strong open data strategy.

In the next year we will be publishing an Information Strategy which is based on these principles. This will focus on how we manage information, ensure that the information we collect and hold is fit for purpose, and promote transparency. BIS takes the management and exploitation of its information seriously. We adhere to the Section 46 Code of Practice on the management of records. We have over 10 million records currently stored on our corporate document management system which have been categorised and are actively managed throughout their lifecycle. This is our knowledge bank and staff actively encouraged to share and re-use information. Records of public interest have been identified for transfer to The National Archives at the appropriate time under the Public Records Act. Governance arrangements are in place in particular to ensure we have a framework for information risk management.

The Departmental Information Management Strategy will build on strategies that have already been produced for Higher Education, Further Education, and the UK Research Councils. The Research Councils have a published data policy related to the data that results from the research they fund.

BIS commitment to open data

BIS is fully committed to the transparency and is implementing and embedding it in the most appropriate way across all aspects of our work. The overarching principle is to engage with stakeholders and end-users to determine which data will be most useful to them. There are some tensions between the various stakeholder groups, and each policy area is working to resolve these in the most appropriate way, and implement the spirit of the open data principle.

Much of BIS' data is held by partner organisations or organisations whom we sponsor but for which BIS is not directly responsible. We are working closely with our partner organisations and independent organisations to instil open data principles and encourage data release where it is of value to our stakeholders.

BIS will continue to work through stakeholder groups to identify data sets which add most value for priority release. From past experience, we know that stakeholders tend to be most interested in data that:

- provides transparency;

- informs consumer or end user choice, with the effect of making the market perform efficiently and driving up standards; and

- can be used onwards to create revenue streams, thus contributing to growth.

Across all data release, BIS is working to the principles of: coherence with wider government strategy; protecting individual data; statistical robustness and validity; easy availability and transparency.

Creation of dynamic information markets

Open data and growth

BIS is committed to increasing the economic impact of existing public sector information and to releasing new public sector information to expand the market for this information. In particular, BIS will provide a more consistent approach towards access to and the accessibility of public sector information.

As BIS has responsibility for several data holders who are trading funds, we will also ensure affordability and value for taxpayers while making more free data available for re-use. To this end, a number of data rich organisations have been brought together in the Public Data Group (PDG). The Public Data Group is made up of the Met Office, Ordinance Survey, Companies House and Land Registry. A separate organisation, the Data Strategy Board (DSB), is also being formed to maximise the long term economic and social benefit of data from the PDG. Further information is on our website.

Public Data Group

Open data is a key driver to developing the digital content market, boosting informatics and analytical capacity and generating new businesses. A study by the OFT in 2006 found that the net value of public sector information in the UK to be worth, at that time, approximately £590 million per year. A 2008 OECD report also estimated the annual growth of firms dealing with public sector information to be 8%, making it one of the fastest growing sectors in the EU.

BIS is therefore committed both to increasing the economic impact of existing public sector information and also to releasing new public sector information to expand the market.

More specifically, BIS is making more additional core reference data from the Met Office, Ordnance Survey, HM Land Registry and Companies House available and free at the point of use. Specific examples of data for release over the coming two years are:

- the Ordnance Survey is working with Natural England to make a dataset of National Trails available as part of OS Open Data (which incorporates the Open Government Licence) for delivery in April 2013;

- Companies House will develop a free downloadable bulk data file for open re-use which includes Company name, number, registered address, registration date, filing status and SIC code; and

- DSB and Companies House will consider releasing directors' and office holders' details later in 2012.

In addition to these specific core datasets, no less than £7m in this Spending Review period will be made available for the purchase of additional data for free release. The Data Strategy Board, drawing on expertise from the free data community, will advise on this purchase of additional data for free release.

Ordnance Survey

In April 2010 Ordnance Survey launched OS OpenData which made a range of Ordnance Survey mapping data available for free for the first time.

OS OpenData allows users to freely download mapping and geographic information, such as administrative boundaries and postcode data, which would previously have been subject to royalty payments and restrictions on reuse. Since the launch, the service has helped underpin a range of applications, helped promote government transparency and encouraged greater take up of geographic information.

Ordnance Survey continues to promote new and innovative use of its data through initiatives such as GeoVation (**www.geovation.org.uk**) which is an innovation awards programme that supports geography based ventures. The initial challenge focused on how transport could be improved in Great Britain and February 2012 has seen the launch of a new challenge - '**How can we transform neighbourhoods in Britain together?**'

Unique Reference Indicators

Data should be published in ways which make it as easy as possible for others to reuse. This does not just mean making it available in an accessible format, but also making it possible for users to identify what the reference for the data is.

Companies House are preparing a free bulk data product which will provide a snapshot of company data on a monthly basis, in order to make the most of this Companies House have introduced Unique Reference Indicators (URIs) for all companies on their register. Third parties will be able to access these URIs or embed them into their own systems and services, allowing more efficient data linking for the information industry. Companies House are considering an enhancement to the URI to allow company name searching so consumers of the data would not need to know a specific company number. They could search on company name and we would produce a list of potential matches, although there are no definite timescales for such a release at present. Companies House are also looking into the possibility of providing a URI to access basic company statistics, such as number of incorporations / dissolutions.

Data Strategy Board

Through its leadership of Data Strategy Board BIS will lead the cross-government effort to maximise the value of data from the Public Data Group of Trading Funds (Met Office, Ordinance Survey, Companies House and Land Registry) for long-term economic and social benefit. This includes identifying opportunities to extend the release of data free of charge.

On behalf of the public sector, the DSB will steer the management of contracts with the Public Data Group and will work to ensure that Ministers have appropriate advice to efficiently and effectively:

- deliver open data from the PDG;

- make access to data for all users easier;

- increase public access to free data over time, subject to affordability and value for money; and

- provide data and services to the public sector and UK general public, including services which contribute to the protection of life, property and UK national infrastructure.

Open data in science and research

The essence of the scientific process has long been for scientists to publish their ideas and theories, together with the data on which they are based, so that they are available to other scientists to replicate experiments and measurements, to test associated theories and to re-use data in novel ways.

Expanding access to research outputs, both publications and data, is a key aspect of the Government's transparency agenda. Increased transparency in research has the potential to be a significant driver of economic activity, as easy access to knowledge, information and data can improve the sharing of new ideas, encourage innovation and create new growth opportunities. It also offers significant social benefits by spreading knowledge and raising the prestige of UK research.

The Government has committed, in its response to Ian Hargreaves's review of intellectual property, to facilitate data mining of published research. This could have substantial benefits, for example in tackling diseases. In addition Government is working with partners, including the publishing industry, to achieve free access to publicly-funded research as soon as possible and will set an example itself. The following initiatives are relevant:

- BIS has helped establish an independent working group chaired by Dame Janet Finch to consider how to improve access to research publications, including publicly-funded research. The report, Accessibility, Sustainability, Excellence, for this group was published on 18th June 2012.

- The Royal Society is considering how to improve the sharing and disclosing of research data, both within the research community and beyond. This report, Science as an Open Enterprise, was published on 21st June 2012.

- Sir Alan Langlands is chairing a task force to advise on improving the accessibility of data within Government and its agencies for use in research. This will report during 2012.

The Government will consider and address the recommendations of these groups.

The Research Councils are proposing that the researchers they fund should enable Open Access (OA) by publishing their research papers via the publisher's journal's website immediately at the time of publication, which may require the payment of an 'Article Processing Charge' to the publisher (so called 'Gold' OA), and requiring researchers to deposit the version of the published paper accepted for publication, that is including all changes resulting from peer review, in an open access repository at or around the time of publication. In some cases, where Gold OA has not been undertaken, repository copies may only be accessible after an embargo period (so called 'Green' OA). To date performance has varied across sectors with some excellent examples such as the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Medical Research Council's support for UK PubMed Central, which contains 25 million + abstracts and requires an embargo period of only six months and the Economic, and Social Research Council's Research Catalogue. To ensure consistency therefore, as an immediate step, the Government has asked the Research Councils to ensure the researchers they fund fulfil the current requirements, but, a final policy position, including its timescale for implementation, funding arrangements under 'Gold' and the acceptable duration of embargo periods for 'Green' will be settled after consideration of recommendations from the Finch Group.

To build on the areas of good practice the Research Councils have proposed to invest £2 million in the development, by 2013, of a UK 'Gateway to Research'. This will allow ready access to Research Council funded research information including published articles and repositories and related data; it will be designed so that it can also include research funded by others in due course. The Research Councils will work with their partners and users to ensure information is presented in a readily reusable form, using common formats and open standards. This Gateway will provide access to the wide body of research undertaken in the UK and its associated data through a single portal, enabling researchers, companies and the public to identify research and results that may be of interest to them. It will facilitate greater networking between the science base and industry and should be of particular benefit to SMEs who lack the resources to monitor developments in the science base closely. It will also demonstrate to potential inward investors the scope and strengths of the UK science base and provide a key web interface for links to the EU's open data initiatives and elsewhere. By 2014 we expect to have a fully operational portal providing access to information on all Research Council funded research projects and published data sources and with appropriate links to journal publications as determined by the future outcome of the work of Dame Janet Finch's Group.

Understanding Society

The Economic and Social Research Council's Understanding Society is a major household panel study tracking the lives of about 100,000 people in 40,000 British households every year as they are affected by regional, national and international change. A range of economic and social measures are collected allowing the examination of short- and long-term effects of social and economic change, including policy interventions, on the general wellbeing of the UK population. The study has a strong emphasis on domains of family and social ties, work, financial resources and health.

The full Wave 1 dataset was released in autumn 2011 and, like all datasets created from ESRC-funded research, is available from the ESRC's Economic and Social Data Service. It is anticipated that datasets from future waves will be released annually each autumn.

Big data

BIS adheres to Principle 6 of the HMG Information Principles – *Public Information is Published.* In both 2009 and 2011 we undertook exercises to identify datasets available across the Department and categorised these in order to prioritise those where release would be of most benefit. For example as a Department we now publish nearly all of the 'Big Data' sets, identified in the 2011 HMT data review. In some instances the remaining data is personally identifiable, so is not appropriate for release, but BIS commits to re-examining the remainder to assess whether there is scope for further publication, including through better anonymisation. Where data is identifiable and we therefore do not release it, we do release the analysis of these data sets.

Our team of Knowledge and Information Management experts will continue to work with policy areas of the Department to identify ongoing datasets for release and internal guidance is available to support staff through the processes. Since 2010 we have published almost 200 datasets on data.gov.uk.

In addition under the Freedom of Information Act the public have a right to request information held in BIS. A framework for how BIS responds to such requests is available on our website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi

We proactively publish responses where we consider there is a wider public interest. These releases are available on our website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/site/foi/information-released

BIS continually seeks to exploit new digital channels to promulgate our messages in as many ways of possible to as far reaching an audience as possible. In addition to our Internet site we make use of flickr, YouTube and twitter to reach new audiences.

Higher Education

BIS is working with its partner organisations to roll out the transparency agenda. For Higher Education in particular the funding is being put into the hands of students. This means that is crucial that they have access to high-quality, easy to use information.

To help prospective students make informed choices about higher education we are asking institutions to provide, from September 2012, a standard set of information, at course level and in a comparable format. The "Key Information Set" (KIS) is based on research which shows that these are the items that students say are the most useful.

Key Information Sets

The Key Information Sets will help applicants to find quickly, and compare easily, the headline items which students consider most important. The content includes:

Course information
- Student satisfaction
- Proportion of time spent in different learning and teaching activities
- Different assessment methods used
- Professional bodies that recognise the course

Costs
- Accommodation costs
- Tuition charges
- Bursaries, scholarships and other financial support

Employment
- Destinations of students six months after completing their course
- Proportion of students employed in a full-time 'graduate' job six months after completing course
- Salary for course six months after graduating
- Salary for that subject across all institutions six months after graduating
- Salary for that subject across all institutions forty months after graduating

The students' union
- Impact students' union has had on time as a student

In addition, the full dataset of the Key Information Sets will be made available, free of charge, to external organisations such as bestcourse4me, Push, Student Room, Monster, Which?, and other social enterprise and commercial organisations that provide information to HE students.

The benefits stemming from this include:

- free provision of KIS data will help 3rd parties to provide better analysis;

- new information providers coming into the market, encouraged by wider availability of data, will provide increased choice and wider access to data and information; and

- a standard set of comparable information items for students, for each course, directly via HE Institution websites, driving consumer choice and raising standards.

The 'Students at the Heart of the System' White Paper highlighted that the Department's reforms of the English higher education system to make it more responsive to students and employers are dependent on high quality information about different courses and institutions.

Since the White Paper, we have set up a Ministerial data group to explore how we can make data more available, and explore the potential of linking, whilst ensuring that sound

statistical principles are maintained and that individuals' personal data is not identified or used inappropriately. The group includes representatives from:

- BIS and DfE;

- major holders of student data – HESA, UCAS, HEFCE and the SLC;

- current and emerging student information providers - bestcourse4me, Push, Student Room, Monster and Which?; and

- several leading academics in this field.

There is also a White Paper commitment for "UCAS and higher education institutions to make available, course by course, new data showing the type and subjects of the actual qualifications held by previously successful applicants." UCAS has now produced this information and it will be published shortly.

Further Education

Learners are at the heart of the FE and Skills system. Future users of the system, including employers, will need to be well informed to make good choices about their training and to ensure that the FE and Skills system is responsive to their needs. This will be particularly important as FE Loans are introduced from 2013 to support adults to learn at advanced and higher levels.

To help learners and employers make choices we publish data on key performance indicators on the FE Choices comparison website (qualification success rates, employment and education destinations, learner satisfaction ratings and employer satisfaction ratings). As of April 2012 this data is being integrated with the National Careers Service offer. Data was first published in December 2010 and is updated on a regular basis. From February 2012 the data set which is used to populate the site has been available, free of charge, to third party organisations from the FE Data Service website.

Future publication of data

Whilst much of our 'Big Data' is published, there are a few data sets which we have not yet published, but which will re-examine for the possibility of publication in the future:

- research activity survey;

- employer engagement monitoring return;

- medical and dental survey of university places; and

- access to learning fund monitoring.

All future Big Data sets will automatically be published unless there are Data Protection Issues or FOI exemptions that need to be applied.

Use of surveys

Surveys are a key instrument for evidence-based policy. The survey control unit provides statistical advice and support to survey sponsors across BIS. This helps improve or maintain the quality of the survey related evidence base whilst keeping the burden on business and local authorities to a minimum.

The burden on business and local authorities is measured in terms of the cost of completing a survey, known as the compliance cost. Compliance costs are estimated, in monetary terms, as the time taken to complete a survey multiplied by an hourly rate of pay that is dependent on the experience of the person completing the survey.

The survey control unit in BIS also has a role in improving policy evaluation methods. This includes advising against running a survey where other appropriate methods were available, thus reducing the overall compliance burden.

Challenges

Whilst we are embedding the principle of open data in our policies, we have come against a number of challenges that have affected our ability to link or release data sets that we would have liked to, including: low sample sizes meaning that it can be difficult to provide information at very specific (e.g., course) levels for all students; and legal restrictions to publication of data, especially for Data Protection reasons, which are amplified when linking datasets.

We are working to minimise the demands made upon HE and FE providers – including only collecting data which is essential. To achieve an appropriate balance between the burden of data collection and providing increased transparency, we are using our stakeholders to guide us as to where to focus our effort. In FE the data burden is regulated by an independently chaired sector board (the Information Authority). This board approves all data collected from FE providers and ensures balance of data required to run the system and support policy initiatives with the burden on providers of providing the data.

> The 2011 **UK Employer Skills Survey** is the UK's leading source for information on skills shortages, skills gaps and investment in training. It is a cross-sectional survey of over 87,500 employers, and the first survey to cover the entire UK on a comparable basis.
>
> This survey series within England plays a central role in providing a wide range of users including policy-makers, researchers, academics, consultants and employers with intelligence on the levels of demand for skills and investment in workforce development. The data from the 2011 survey will be made publicly available from 2012 onwards. In total, data will be provided in six published reports; excel tables; via an online data manipulation tool which enables bespoke queries, and microdata will be provided in SPSS file format for advanced users who pass vetting procedures.

My data

There are many reasons why BIS and its partners need to collect and hold information about individuals. We will ensure that this information is managed appropriately and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Our publically available Information Charter sets out our responsibilities for management of this type of data.

BIS adheres to principle 7 of the HMG Information Principles – *Citizens can access information about themselves.* A process is in place to enable individuals to access information about themselves. This process is made available via the BIS website.

In addition we where we feel that releasing a dataset will have public value we will proactively consider whether through aggregation and anonymisation this can be made possible. Two such examples follow.

Further Education

Learners can access their Personal Learning Record (PLR) which enables school and FE achievements data to be shared on their behalf with partner organisations.

A key aim of the PLR is to help pupils, students, trainees and learners make their own informed decisions about their own future and career aspirations. The PLR is designed to improve the flow of learning-related information about pupils and learners from schools to colleges and other education providers and ultimately employers, leading to more effective information-sharing and better decision-making.

Learners are always in control of their own PLR and may opt-out of sharing their record with these organisations at any time.

midata

The Government set out its plans for midata in the Consumer Empowerment Strategy *Better Choices: Better Deals* published in April 2011.

midata is a programme of work the Government is undertaking with leading businesses, consumer groups and regulators for organisations to release the data they hold about customers back to them in a portable, electronic format. Empowered with this information, consumers will be able to use it to gain insights into their own behaviour, make more informed choices, manage their affairs more efficiently, and obtain the products and services that best meet their needs

Satisfaction and experience data

Higher Education

From September 2012 the Key Information Set will be a major source of information for prospective students. KIS draws some information from the National Student Survey (NSS). This survey provides an opportunity for final year students to give opinions on their time at an institution/course as well as things that could have been improved. Some key student satisfaction results from the NSS form part of the Key Information Set. The HE White Paper invited the Higher Education Public Information Steering Group to consider whether a NSS survey of taught post graduates should be introduced and whether to encourage institutions to provide a standard set of information similar to KIS for each taught postgraduate course.

Further Education

Learner and employer satisfaction data are collected and published as part of a key performance information set on the FE Choices comparative website. FE Choices is the official site for comparing the performance of further education colleges and other organisations that receive Government funding to educate and train people over the age of 16.

We intend to work with providers and users to improve the efficiency, timeliness and usefulness of information collected by learner and employer satisfaction surveys. We have improved access to them through integration with the National Careers Service website, so that learners have only one national site to visit where they can get advice, information on courses and comparative provider data all in one place. As a first step, the course search pages on the National Careers Service website contain a link to the provider's page of comparative performance data. All the satisfaction and experience data which is used to populate the FE Choices site has been made available to third party users on the FE Data Service website.

Continuously improving the quality of data published

BIS works to continuously improve the quality of the data we publish, and we are working with our partners to do the same: we are working to the principles of publishing as quickly as viable, information that is as accurate as possible, and information that is reusable.

Transparency

BIS is committed to providing the public with information on the performance and productivity of the Department. We are also committed to releasing the data underlying BIS reports and publications to enable and encourage innovative re-use. We will publish data in line with the Public Data Principles and ensure that all data releases are registered on data.gov.

We will respond promptly and positively to the outcomes of the Open Data Consultation and the NAO Review on Transparency Implementation. We commit to assessing the impacts for BIS, identifying new opportunities and developing an implementation plan to enable speedy progress.

BIS's Transparency implementation is monitored by the Transparency Board chaired by our transparency 'champion', Director General Finance and Commercial, Howard Orme. It is responsible for overseeing BIS commitments, promoting the transparency agenda, highlighting best practice and challenging the non-release of data.

The public are entitled to understand how their money is being spent and whether they are getting good value. We are committed to the timely and accurate delivery of all Cabinet Office accountability commitments for data release. To enable comparability of data across the public sector we will meet the standards that they determine. During the year we will produce datasets covering:

- financial spend data;

- HR datasets (including the organogram that meets 5* data standards);

- government procurement card data;

- Quarterly Data Summary;

- workforce management information;

- equality and diversity data;

- ministerial meetings and hospitality; and

- energy efficiency.

In these cases we aim to be as transparent as possible, processes exist to ensure that requests from policy officials to redact data are challenged, and if necessary are referred up to the Transparency Board.

 The BIS Transparency Team is responsible for the day-to-day operational running of the transparency publication programme. They continually monitor releases and assure quality. BIS adheres to Principle 4 of the HMG Information Management Principles. The team have produced processes and guidance to ensure that data releases meet transparency best practice and in particular the use of non-proprietary software.

As an example of our ongoing commitment to accountability we will continue to exceed the Cabinet Office requirements and publish all of our spend data.

Information within BIS

Through the BIS Transparency Mailbox (transparency@bis.gsi.gov.uk) we listen to our customers' needs and issues. In cases where data has not been released in a suitable format for the customer we endeavour to generate the data in suitable alternative formats.

During 2012/13 BIS plans to improve our customers experience of accessing datasets by re-designing the layout of the transparency information on our website. We will be analysing current usage levels to gain a better understanding of our customer's priorities to aid the re-design process.

Currently most of our data is published to 3-star standard, as we have deemed this to strike the right balance between usability and cost of releasing data for public consumption. However, some data published by Companies House is to 5-star standard, as are the BIS organograms.

We will use the review the use of the data on the website and the impact of Companies House releasing to 5-star standard to reassess whether 3-star continues to strike the right balance between cost and usability.

Internally in 2012/13 we will re-visit our open data communications plan and refresh our intranet guidance to ensure that all staff are aware of their transparency commitments. We will also be developing a model for working more closely with our partners on the transparency agenda including development of a checklist and links to key guidance.

Higher Education

Project to redesign the data and information landscape for HE

The aim of the project is to define a new data and information landscape that:

- reduces burden of data collection;

- eliminates duplication of data collection;

- meets the needs of a wider group of users; and

- improves the quality and timeliness of the information that the sector produces.

This project is based at HESA and is overseen by a Steering Group chaired by Steve Egan (Deputy Chief Executive, HEFCE). The Steering Group includes OFFA, OIA, HEFCE, UCAS, SLC, HESA, NUS, QAA, SFA and sector representatives.

The project was initiated in December 2011 and is due to deliver at the end of its first phase in summer 2012. This phase will define the principles to underpin a future data and information landscape and then use that set of principles to develop and test scenarios for the future landscape.

The end of phase 1 report will take the form of a feasibility study that defines a new model for the HE data and information landscape and sets out the potential benefits and anticipated costs.

The project is working with the current sector and with institutions that will form a part of the future HE sector. The project is also working with software suppliers and a range of stakeholders that have an interest in the data and information including other government departments. The project is liaising with the DFE/BIS Information Standards Board and the HE Better Regulation Group.

Further Education

Government wants to ensure that learners and employers have the information they need to choose the provider that best meets their learning and training needs. By empowering learners and employers to make informed choices through better access to information, we create competition and incentives for providers to be responsive to learners and employers.

Research has established what data learners and employers say they need to make informed choices between FE providers. Most of the information is already available but it needs to be more accessible, comprehensive and consistent. Government and the FE sector are working together to improve the availability of information.

Government already collects and publishes on a consistent basis some of the key information learners and employers say they need to make choices. Government will continue to publish in one place key comparative performance information: qualification success rates, OFSTED inspection results, learner destinations and learner and employer satisfaction. But we want to make this more useful and more accessible for users, so we will:

- wherever possible, make available quality information at more granular levels, i.e. about the specific subject or course rather than just the provider or broad sector subject area;

- work with providers and users to improve the efficiency, timeliness and usefulness of information collected by learner and employer satisfaction surveys; and

- make more of the data available in accessible formats so that it can be analysed and re-presented by non government organisations.

Many learners and employers tend towards 'local' information sources such as college websites rather than national ones. The FE sector is focussing on making information more comprehensive and easily comparable. They will:

- create a "common information set" of information learners and employers say they need, presented in a standard format on each provider's website to facilitate comparison;

- highlight (as part of the common information set) a website link to the FE Choices provider quality data to show learners where they can compare performance information for different providers; and

- seek greater completion, by providers, of the course information available to learners on the National Careers Service website.

Annex

List of data to be released for first time during period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014

Dataset Name	Description of data	To be first published on	Frequency of update	Issued under the Open Government Licence (OGL)
Higher Education Key Information Set	The KIS provides information which students consider most important when choosing which Higher Education Institution to attend.	Sept 2012	Annual	Yes
Companies House core information	A free downloadable bulk data file which includes Company name, number, registered address, registration date, filing status and SIC code	July 2012	Annual	Yes
Ordnance Survey National Trails dataset	A dataset of National Trails available as part of OS Open Data	April 2013	TBC	Yes