# Better use of data in government consultation

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| How to respond to this consultation The closing date for responses is **22 April 2016**.  Please respond to this consultation in one of three ways:   * Complete these consultation questions and email your response to [data-sharing@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:data-sharing@cabinetoffice.gov.uk). * Post your response to: Better Use of Data in Government consultation 2016, Government Digital Service, 6th Floor, Aviation House, London WC2B 6NH, making clear who you are and in what capacity you are responding  Evaluating the responses To evaluate responses properly, we need to know who is responding to the consultation and in what capacity. We will therefore only consider your response if you complete the information page.  Any personal data (such as your name, address and any other identifying information) will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and our standard terms and conditions.  We will publish our evaluation of responses. Please note that we may publish all or part of your response unless you tell us (in your answer to the confidentiality question) that you want us to treat your response as confidential. If you tell us you wish your response to be treated as confidential, we will not include your details in any published list of respondents, although we may quote from your response anonymously.  Please respond by **22 April 2016**. |

# Responding to the consultation

## Your details

To evaluate responses properly, we need to know who is responding to the consultation and in what capacity.

We will publish our evaluation of responses. Please note that we may publish all or part of your response unless you tell us (in your answer to the confidentiality question) that you want us to treat your response as confidential. If you tell us you wish your response to be treated as confidential, we will not include your details in any published list of respondents, although we may quote from your response anonymously.

Name (optional):

Position (optional):

Organisation name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone (optional):

**Would you like us to treat your response as confidential?\***

If you answer yes, we will not include your details in any list of people or organisations that responded to the consultation.

( ) Yes ( ) No

**Is this a personal response or an official response on behalf of your organisation?**

( ) Personal response

( ) Official response

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**If you ticked “Official response”, please respond accordingly:**

**Type of responding organisation\***

( ) Business

( ) Charity

( ) Local authority

( ) Central government

( ) Wider public sector (e.g. health bodies, schools and emergency services)

( ) University or other higher education institution

( ) Other representative or interest group (please answer the question below)

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**Type of representative group or interest group**

( ) Union

( ) Employer or business representative group

( ) Subject association or learned society

( ) Equality organisation or group

( ) School, college or teacher representative group

( ) Other (please state below)

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**Nation\***

( ) England

( ) Wales

( ) Northern Ireland

( ) Scotland

( ) Other EU country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

( ) Non-EU country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about this consultation?**

( ) Gov.uk website

( ) Internet search

( ) Other

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**May we contact you for further information?**

( ) Yes ( ) No

## Questions

**Improving public service delivery**

**Question one: Are there any objectives that you believe should be included in this power that would not meet these criteria?**

( ) No

( ) Yes

If yes, please explain your reasons.

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**Question two: Are there any public authorities that you consider would not fit under this definition?**

( ) No

( ) Yes

If yes, please explain your reasons:

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**Question three: Should non-public authorities (such as private companies and charities) that fulfil a public service function to a public authority be included in the scope of the delivering public services power?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Question four: Are these the correct principles that should be set out in the Code of Practice for this power?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Providing assistance to citizens living in fuel poverty**

**Question five: Should the government share information with non-public sector organisations as proposed for the sole purpose of providing assistance to citizens living in fuel poverty?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Question six: Would the provision of energy bill rebates, alongside information about energy efficiency support, be appropriate forms of assistance to citizens living in fuel poverty?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Question seven: Are there other forms of fuel poverty assistance that should be considered for inclusion in the proposed power?**

( ) Yes

( ) No

If yes, please explain your reasons:

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**Access to civil registration information to improve public service delivery**

**Question eight: Should a government department be able to access birth details electronically for the purpose of providing a public service, e.g. an application for child benefit?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Question nine: Do you think bulk registration information, such as details of all deaths, should be shared between civil registration officials and specified public authorities to ensure records are kept up to date (e.g. to prevent correspondence being sent to a deceased person)?**

( ) Strongly agree

( ) Agree

( ) Neither agree nor disagree

( ) Disagree

( ) Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons:

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**Combating fraud against the public sector through faster and simpler access to data**

**Question ten: Are there other measures which could be set out in the Code of Practice covering the proposed new power to combat fraud to strengthen the safeguards around access to data by specified public authorities?**

( ) Yes

( ) No

Please explain your reasons:

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**Question eleven: It is proposed that the power to improve access to information by public authorities to combat fraud would be reviewed by the Minister after a defined period of time. This time will allow for pilots to be established and outcomes and benefits evaluated. How long should the fraud gateway be operational for before it is reviewed?**

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**Improving access to data to enable better management of debt owed to the public sector**

**Question twelve: Which organisations should government work with to ensure fairness is paramount when making decisions about affordability for vulnerable debtor who owe multiple debts?**

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**Question thirteen: How can Government ensure the appropriate scrutiny so pilots under the power are effectively designed and deliver against the objectives of the power?**

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**Question fourteen: It is proposed that the power to improve access to information by public authorities to combat fraud would be reviewed by the Minister after a defined period of time. This time will allow for pilots to be established and outcomes and benefits evaluated. How long should the fraud gateway be operational for before it is reviewed??**

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**Access to data which must be linked and de-identified using defined processes for research purposes**

**Question fifteen: Should fees be charged by public authorities for providing data for research purposes, and if so should there be a maximum fee permitted which is monitored by the UK Statistics Authority?**

( ) Yes

( ) No

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**Question sixteen: To ensure a consistent approach towards departments accepting or declining requests for disclosing information for research projects, should the UK Statistics Authority as the accreditation body publish details of rejected applications and the reasons for their rejection?**

( ) Yes ( ) No

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**Question seventeen: What principles or criteria do you think should be used to identify research that has the potential for public benefit, or research that will not be in the public benefit?**

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**Access by UK Statistics Authority to identified data for the purpose of producing official statistics and research**

**Question eighteen: Is two years a reasonable maximum period of time for the duration of a notice for the supply of data to the UK Statistics Authority for the purposes of producing National and official statistics and statistical research?**

( ) Yes

( ) No

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**Question nineteen: If your business has provided a survey return to the ONS in the past we would welcome your views on:**

**a) the administration burden experienced and the costs incurred in completing the survey**

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**b) ways in which the UK Statistics Authority should seek to use the new powers to further reduce the administrative burdens on businesses who provide data to the ONS for the purposes of producing National and other official statistics**

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**Question twenty: What principles and factors should be considered in preparing the Code of Practice on matters to be considered before making changes to the processes that collect, store, organise or retrieve data?**

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