

Open Data Consultation
Transparency Team
Efficiency and Reform Group
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

eastTHAMES

Our Ref:
26 October 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Making Open Data Real – A Public Consultation

I refer to your current consultation in relation to the above. As a member of the g15 group of London's largest housing associations we would like to support the views expressed in their response dated 24th October 2011 (copy attached for ease of reference).

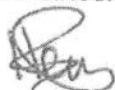
Whilst we support the principle of transparency and provision of information across all organisations wherever possible, we have real concerns that to put this into legislation will result in the housing association sector being classified as being in the public sector. The result of this could be that it would inadvertently impact on our ability to borrow from private lenders which in turn would affect the delivery of much needed new homes under the Government's Affordable Rent Programme.

Many organisations in our sector are also relatively small charitable organisations and the additional regulatory burden that this may place on them could be costly.

Housing associations already provide a range of information in relation to their services etc and those of us who will be developing under the new Affordable Rent Programme will be required to publish information on spending over £500.

We will continue to work with the National Housing Federation to ensure that our sector as a whole becomes more transparent and accountable.

Yours sincerely



Henry Potter
Group Company Secretary