



Valuation Office
Agency

Access to VOA Data

4 October 2013

Current Situation

What We Supply



Official Statistics

Publication

Business Rates

Council Tax Challenges

Council Tax Changes

Council Tax Property Attributes

Council Tax Summary

Council Tax Summary for England

Council Tax summary for Wales

Non Domestic Rates summary

Private rental market for England

Generation of Housing Price Elements for ONS



Other Information - Online

To fulfil functions we release:

Non domestic rating:

- Rating List (1.8 million addresses and rateable values)
- Summary valuations (floor areas and certain attributes and characteristics for c.1.4 million list entries)

Council Tax:

- 26m addresses and CT bands – no characteristics and attributes of properties published

Rent Register and Rent Officers:

- Fair domestic rents determined by VOA Rent Officers
- Broad Rental Market Area data



Other Information - Publically available datasets

Currently only release NDR datasets

Non domestic rating:

- Rating list (1.8 million addresses and rateable values)
- Summary valuations – (floor areas and certain attributes and characteristics for c. 1.4 million list entries)

National datasets charged at £1000 - £2000 each

Local area data available at Billing Authority level

Available under Open Government Licence

Cost recovery basis consistent with VOA Operating Model



Current Situation

Why



The Legal Framework

Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005

All data held by VOA is confidential and broadly may not be disclosed unless

- Disclosure is made in line with a statutory function
- There is a legal gateway allowing disclosure/data sharing
- We have the permission of the subject to disclose it



The VOA's functions

Include responsibility for:

- Property valuations for local taxation in England and Wales (council tax and business rates)
- Housing allowance determinations and rent register
- Statutory valuation work (e.g. for capital gains and inheritance tax)
- Valuation services (including asset valuations and other advice) to the public sector

With functions and Gateways combined there are around 30 ways people access VOA data and information



Availability of Data - the VOA holds

Includes:

Prices paid on sale or transfer of properties

Non domestic rating

- Rents paid on letting of properties
- Receipts/expenditure and costs of construction
- Property addresses, floor areas, characteristics and attributes

VOA Council Tax - addresses, characteristics and attributes of properties

VOA Residential Private Rented Sector (PRS) rents



Change



Drivers - Demands for VOA data

Demand for data products has doubled over past year

Examples:

- 18 requests for council tax lists and especially the attribute/characteristics data in the last two years— all for government policy development/academic research. Another 28 from the private sector
- Requests for enhancement of NDR data – information on proposals (challenges to current assessments), building age and construction and others.

In almost all cases these are rejected on legal grounds



Drivers – Policy Environment

- EU Inspire Directive – geographical and address data
- G8 Open Data Charter
- HMG Open Data White Paper
- Shakespeare Review of Public Sector Information
- HMRC Consultation Document - Sharing and publishing data for public benefit
- HMRC Open Data Strategy
- Cabinet Office data sharing proposals
- Government Information Principles
- FOIA – provision of datasets



Taking it forward - Developing a VOA Open Data Strategy

Short term

Promote a culture which assumes that data and information that can and should be released covering:

- Raw data
- Less aggregated statistical outputs
- Corporate and management information

Reduction of costs of data provision where possible

Efficiencies in VOA data delivery - more effective, quicker, online and automated

Using HMRC Datalab - looking to provide sensitive data for research



Taking it forward – Plan to deliver VOA Open Data Strategy

Longer Term

Revisit legislation and conduct a systematic review of what datasets can be published – aiming to release more

Explore potential for use of sensitive data in an anonymised, non-identifying setting for research/policy development (HMRC Consultation Document)

Join with HMRC in consultation on other aspects – including legal bars





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Thank you

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