

From: [REDACTED]@southoxon.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 5:54 PM
To: localdir
Subject: Re: Transparency - expenditure Items over £500

[REDACTED]

This didn't come directly to me, but I'm responding as lead officer for procurement at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

We have no plans to submit further data to any other websites such as via the route you suggest, as we believe that the publication of our data on Spotlight on Spend fully meets the government's requirements on transparency of data. Anything more would surely be duplication of effort and I don't have any resource to manage a second set of data.

So I'd like to decline your offer and invite you to add links to the single master source of data as follows:

- Vale of White Horse DC <http://www.spotlightonspend.org.uk/Lite/1041/>
- South Oxfordshire DC <http://www.spotlightonspend.org.uk/Lite/1038/>

The links on the CLG website already end up here

[REDACTED]
Shared Performance and Projects Manager

HR, IT and Customer Services
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
Direct phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: 01491 823924

Visit us at: www.southoxon.gov.uk
and www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

>>> "localdir" <LocalDirectGov@communities.gsi.gov.uk> 19/08/2010 17:15
>>>

Dear all,

As you may be aware, your authorities have been identified as a model of good practice by being at the vanguard in the publication of spend over £500, ahead of the January 2010 deadline, and your authorities are now listed on the CLG website -

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>.

We are keen that your achievements can be highlighted further and be made accessible to a wider audience and plan to provide links to your datasets from the data.gov.uk site. Currently the only way to get data properly categorised and linked from data.gov.uk is to complete a Cabinet Office excel spreadsheet with the appropriate metadata for publishing on data.gov.uk. The Data Transparency Team in CLG will, on your behalf, provide the necessary details

to the Cabinet Office on this occasion but we wanted to first draw to your attention the data.gov.uk's terms and conditions and open licence for free re-use by anyone of the information available from the site - <http://data.gov.uk/terms-and-conditions>.

Once a page for your local authority has been created on the data.gov.uk site, you will find it simpler in future to expand to include any other open data you may be publishing.

Please get in touch if you have any questions and we'll try to resolve. Many thanks."

Best wishes

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Local Directgov Programme Manager
Communities and Local Government
Home & Community Franchise
Zone 7/F5, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [Redacted]

Fax: 020 7944 8937

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www.southoxon.gov.uk
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.....

100902_Bassetlaw_RE Expenditure over 500.txt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2010 15:16
To: [REDACTED]@BASSETLAW.GOV.UK
Cc: [REDACTED]
CONTACTUS
Subject: RE: Expenditure over 500

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over 500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. I've passed the Bassetlaw Link

[http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/services/council_amp_democracy/council/finance_and_property/financial_services_information.aspx] to our Comms Team to upload on the CLG website and this will be available online in the next few days.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg., CSV) to the data.gov.uk site also. Data.gov.uk are not currently listing authorities who are publishing in PDF format.

The Department will be issuing guidelines in November. This will be informed by discussion with local authorities and the developer community who want to use this information to create innovative applications and maps for the benefit of citizens.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
Department for Communities & Local Government
3/H4 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [SMTP: [REDACTED]@BASSETLAW.GOV.UK]
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 11:20:39 AM
To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
Subject: Expenditure over 500
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hi

I have just received your communication and would like to advise you that Bassetlaw District Council has now published all of 2009-10 expenditure and the first quarter of 2010-11 on our website.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Head of Finance and Property
[REDACTED]

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100902_Bassetlaw_RE Expenditure over 500.txt

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2010 15:14
To: [REDACTED]@PRESTON.GOV.UK
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; contactus@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local government expenditure over £500
 Dear Stephen,

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

Preston City Council is now listed on the CLG page showing all authorities publishing over £500 expenditure <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg, CSV) to the data.gov.uk site also. Data.gov.uk are currently not listing authorities who are publishing in PDF format.

The Department will be issuing guidelines in November. This will be informed by discussion with local authorities and the developer community who want to use this information to create innovative applications and maps for the benefit of citizens.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 3/14 Eland House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 6DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]@PRESTON.GOV.UK
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 4:24:12 PM
To: 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'
Subject: Local government expenditure over £500
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear DCLG

I wanted to let you know that Preston City Council has now published details of all its spending over £500 in line with the Government's transparency agenda.

The link to our suppliers payments page can be found at:

<http://www.preston.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/plans-and-spending/council-spending/>

In the spirit of transparency and openness, we are also making it easier to find a range of information

about the Council including chief officer salaries, members allowances and access to meeting records etc.

Hope this information is helpful and grateful if you could please include our link/information on your website page:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Preston City Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@preston.gov.uk
www.preston.gov.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 02 September 2010 15:21
 To: [REDACTED] MOLEVALLEY.GOV.UK'
 Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'; [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: Openness on Spending

Attachments: Revised FINAL Meta-data form guidance for local government 0.1.doc; Revised FINAL data gov uk - Meta-data form for local government 0.1.xls
 Dear Rob,

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

Mole Valley District Council is now listed on the CLG page showing all authorities publishing over £500 expenditure <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and the Spotlight on Spend web page is also listed on data.gov.uk website <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/spotlightonspend-transactions-download>

Please let me know if you are publishing any other open datasets which you might wish to link from data.gov.uk. Please find attached the current guidance and metadata form for entering data on to data.gov.uk in case you wish to submit any other open datasets for linking from to data.gov.uk. These requirements are being reviewed and a web based form will be launched soon, this will be publicised to local authorities.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 31/41 Lond House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 5DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]@MOLEVALLEY.GOV.UK]
 Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 3:03:11 PM
 To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: Openness on Spending
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hello

I have recently been sent a link to one of the pages on your website which lists Councils already publishing spend over £500 before the January 2011 Target.

The page is:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

Please can you include Mole Valley District Council on this list as we have also published this data.

The link to our data can be found below.

<http://www.spotlightspend.org.uk/Lite/33/Mole+Valley+District+Council>

Please can you respond to confirm

Thanks

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Procurement Officer
Mole Valley District Council
[REDACTED]@molevalley.gov.uk
[REDACTED]

Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to. Save paper.

Visit <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk> for information about Council services, online payments and planning information.

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.....

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 02 September 2010 15:21
 To: [REDACTED]@WALSALL.GOV.UK
 Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help: 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'; [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: £500 Transparency - Publication of Spend

Attachments: Revised FINAL Meta-data form guidance for local government 0.1.doc; Revised FINAL data gov uk - Meta-data form for local government 0.1.xls
 Dear Darren,

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council is now listed on the CLG page showing all authorities publishing over £500 expenditure
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg , CSV) to the data.gov.uk site also and the link to your borough is available here <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/local-authority-spend-over-500-walsall>

Now that a page for your local authority has been created on the data.gov.uk site, it will be simple to expand and include any other open data you may be publishing. Please find attached the current guidance and metadata form for entering data on to data.gov.uk in case you wish to submit any other open datasets for linking from to data.gov.uk. These requirements are being reviewed and a web based form will be launched soon, this will be publicised to local authorities.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 3/14 Eland House
 Gressenden Place
 London SW1E 5DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]@WALSALL.GOV.UK
 Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 4:17:12 PM
 To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
 Subject: £500 Transparency - Publication of Spend
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hi

I just wanted to make you aware that Walsall published its list of spend over £500 on Friday 13 August - here is the link..

<http://opendata.walsall.org.uk/>

Could you please add us to your website's list of council's publishing this spend? I think that we may be the first in the West Midlands to do so?

Thanks



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From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 02 September 2010 15:18
 To: [REDACTED]@WIRRAL.GOV.UK
 Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'; [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: Wirral Borough Council Publication of Expenditure

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting this Department on behalf of Cllr Jeff Green and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. I've passed the Wirral link (www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/supplier-payments) to our Comms Team to upload on the CLG website and this will be available online in the next few days. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg. CSV, XLS) to the data.gov.uk site also. Data.gov.uk are currently not listing authorities who are publishing in PDF format.

The Department will be issuing guidelines in November. This will be informed by discussion with local authorities and the developer community who want to use this information to create innovative applications and maps for the benefit of citizens.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 3/14 Eland House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 6DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]@WIRRAL.GOV.UK
 Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2010 5:11:40 PM
 To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
 Subject: Wirral Borough Council Publication of Expenditure
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Sir / Madam

I am emailing you on behalf of Cllr. Jeff Green, Leader Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.

The first hyperlink below is to an article on Conservative Home which details a list of Councils which publish their expenditure. Wirral is not in that list. Please be aware that Wirral council does publish spending on any over £500. The second hyperlink illustrates this. Please could you ammend your records accordingly.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/localgovernment/2010/08/dclg-opens-the-books.html#more>

www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/supplier-payments

Many thanks and kind regards

[REDACTED]
PA to Councillor Jeff Green

Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: 0151 691 8551
Email: [REDACTED]@wirral.gov.uk
Visit our website: www.wirral.gov.uk

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www.clearswift.com
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2010 15:18
To: [REDACTED]@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; 'contactus@communities.gov.uk'; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Website error
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

I've passed the Worcestershire County Council link (<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/council-and-democracy/chief-executive-unit/directorates/financial-services/over-%c2%a3500-supplier-payments.aspx>) to our Comms Team to upload on the CLG website and this will be available online in the next few days. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg. CSV, XLS) to the data.gov.uk site also. Data.gov.uk are currently not listing authorities who are publishing in PDF format.

The Department will be issuing guidelines in November. This will be informed by discussion with local authorities and the developer community who want to use this information to create innovative applications and maps for the benefit of citizens.

I hope this is helpful. many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 3/14 Eland House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 5DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 4:38:34 PM
To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
Subject: Website error
Auto forwarded by a Rule

To whom it may concern,

Please note that on the attached web page Worcestershire County Council is not listed – we have been publishing our over £500 spend for a while now so it would be great if we could be include in your summary

I attach a link to our home page where the icon in the bottom right hand corner takes you to the information.

With kind regards

Marketing Manager

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/default.aspx>

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.....

From: [REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 September 2010 09:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LINK

[REDACTED] further to your e-mail yesterday please see attached a link to Luton Borough Councils spend details for Q1 2010/11 of sums in excess of £500. Happy for you to publish this link which will be updated quarterly

The file is available via the Councils website.

Regards

[REDACTED] - Corporate Procurement Manager

Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton
LU1 2BQ

Te [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 August 2010 16:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LINK

http://hyperint.central.luton/Departments/Corporate%20and%20customer%20services/Corporate%20Finance/Corporate%20Procurement/5001stQtr.xls;internal&version=1.0&df_name=/5001stQtr.xls

[REDACTED]

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Luton Borough Council

Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ.

Tel: [REDACTED]
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Website: www.luton.gov.uk

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.....

Correspondents should note that all communications to Department for Communities and Local Government may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2010 09:41
To: [REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Link to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Many thanks [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from Samantha in due course.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
DCLG
T: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk [mailto:[REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 9:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; contactus@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@rbkc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Link to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for arranging this. I have passed on your email to my Web Manager, Samantha Fanning, who may contact you if she has any questions.

Regards
[REDACTED]
eManager

Information Systems Division (ISD)
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
The Town Hall, Harnton Street, London W8 7NX
T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]
Web: <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk> - the well used website

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 September 2010 15:20
To: [REDACTED]; CP-ISD
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; contactus@communities.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Link to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. Apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is now listed on the CLG page showing all authorities publishing over £500 expenditure
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being publish in machine readable formats (eg., CSV, XLS) to the

data.gov.uk site also and the link to your borough is available here <http://data.gov.uk/dataset/local-authority-spend-over-500-kensington-and-chelsea>

Now that a page for your local authority has been created on the data.gov.uk site, it will be simple to expand and include any other open data you may be publishing. Please find attached the current guidance and metadata form for entering data on to data.gov.uk in case you wish to submit any other open datasets for linking from to data.gov.uk. These requirements are being reviewed and a web based form will be launched soon, this will be publicised to local authorities.

I hope this is helpful, many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
Department for Communities & Local Government
3/14 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Tel. [Redacted]

[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk

From: [Redacted]@rbkc.gov.uk [SMTP: [Redacted]@RBKC.GOV.UK]
Sent: 13 August 2010 09:29:20
To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
Subject: Link to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hi,

I notice on your page <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpendit> which lists local authorities expenditure pages that there is no link to the relevant pages on the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea website. The page you should link to for this information is <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy/transparencyinthecouncil.aspx>

This page has been available on our website since 1st July 2010.

I look forward to confirmation that the link is suitable and has been added to your page.

Regards

[Redacted]
emanager

Information Systems Division (ISD)
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
The Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX
T: [Redacted] F: [Redacted]
Web: <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk> - the well used website

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
This e-mail may contain information which is confidential,
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is intended for the addressee only. If you receive this in
error, please contact the sender and delete the material
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Corporate Procurement Unit

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 September 2010 10:04
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [redacted] Thanks for the link but it is not accessible. I need the URL (link) of the actual page that the spreadsheet can be downloaded from on the corporate website.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 9:05 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: LINK

Louise further to your e-mail yesterday please see attached a link to Luton Borough Councils spend details for Q1 2010/11 of sums in excess of £500. Happy for you to publish this link which will be updated quarterly.

The file is available via the Councils website.

Regards

[redacted] - Corporate Procurement Manager

Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton
LU1 2BQ

Tel: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2010 16:31
To: [redacted]
Subject: LINK

http://hyperint.central.luton/Departments/Corporate%20and%20customer%20services/Corporate%20Finance/Corporate%20Procurement/5001stQtr.xls;internal&version=1.0&df_name=/5001stQtr.xls

[redacted]

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Luton LU1 2BQ.
Tel. [REDACTED]
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Then delete this message from your system.

Website: www.luton.gov.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 September 2010 15:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Sorry to be a pain but

Here is a screen print of what I am getting (via the route you sent me).

I clicked on <http://hyperint.central.luton.gov.uk/Department> and I got the webwasher page (see below)

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Monday, September 06, 2010 3:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

I am not sure what you need then, I can tell you how to find the page on our internet if that would help

www.luton.gov.uk - then towards the bottom of the page under the heading **Explore your Council** click on **Selling to Luton Council**, then **Luton Supplier Portal**, then **Buyer Profile** - the file you need is under **Purchase Plan**.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communitiles.gsl.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 September 2010 14:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED] When I clicked on the embedded link on this page (that should give me the actual data) I got a return to say it could not find the page.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: LINK

http://luton.g2b.info/cgi-gen/profile.pl?action=view_profile&oid=107#top

Hope this is OK.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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Luton LU1 2BQ.
Tel. [REDACTED]
or by using the reply option to this e-mail.
Then delete this message from your system.

Website: www.luton.gov.uk

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Tel. [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 September 2010 12:40
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: News from Harlow Council: Harlow Council publishes spending over £500
Hi [REDACTED]

That's great, many thanks, I'll make sure Harlow is listed on data.gov.uk as well.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
DCLG
T. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@harlow.gov.uk]
Sent: Monday, September 06, 2010 12:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; CONTACTUS; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: News from Harlow Council: Harlow Council publishes spending over £500

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email and adding us to the list of councils publishing expenditure.

We are now publishing the data in CSV and XLS format as well as PDF

Thanks

[REDACTED] MCIPR
Communications Officer
Harlow Council, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex CM20 1WG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Fax: 01279 446637

Alternative Contact: [REDACTED]

www.harlow.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 September 2010 15:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MPSTOCORRETEAM; Procurement Help; CONTACTUS; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: News from Harlow Council: Harlow Council publishes spending over £500

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting this Department and alerting us to the fact that your council is currently publishing expenditure over £500 with a request to be added to the CLG list of councils publishing expenditure. The Secretary of State welcomes your support in moving the transparency agenda forward.

I've passed the Harlow link (<http://www.harlow.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=12162>) to our Comms Team to upload on the CLG website and this will be available online in the next few days.

We are keen to promote all authorities publishing expenditure details as widely as possible and are providing links of authority datasets being published in machine readable formats (eg, CSV) to the data.gov.uk site also. Data.gov.uk are currently not listing authorities who are publishing in PDF format.

The Department will be issuing guidelines in November. This will be informed by discussion with local authorities and the developer community who want to use this information to create innovative applications and maps for the benefit of citizens.

I hope this is helpful and apologies for the delay in responding to your enquiry. Many thanks again for getting in touch and please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Data Transparency/Local Public Data Unit
 Department for Communities & Local Government
 3/14 Eland House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 5DU
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] (SMTP: [REDACTED]@HARLOW.GOV.UK)
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 9:47:20 AM
Subject: News from Harlow Council: Harlow Council publishes spending over £500
Importance: High
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Harlow Council has today (18 August 2010) started publishing details of its spending over £500 as part of the Government's move to improve transparency across Local Government.

Harlow Council is one of the first councils in Essex and one of only a few in the country so far to open its books in this way. The Council has put all payments made to suppliers above £500 on-line at www.harlow.gov.uk/spendinginthefocus and will continue to update the website every three months (quarterly).

The list includes a description of spend, the amount and supplier's name. The first list covers the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010 and includes both revenue and capital expenditure.

In June 2010 Communities Secretary Eric Pickles urged all Councils to publish details of all spending over £500 in full and on-line by January 2011 as part of wider action to bring about a revolution in town hall openness and accountability.

Councillor Andrew Johnson, Leader of Harlow Council, said: "We welcome this move to improve transparency and openness. That's why we are one of the first councils in Essex to publish on-line details of spending above £500. It's our residents' hard earned money so it is only right they see where it is being spent and we want to be held to account. This can only help drive out any waste in the Council.

"We already publish the salary details of Senior Officers on our website and our members' allowances. We are always looking at ways to do things smarter and better to provide value for money for our residents and shining a spotlight on our spending is part of doing just that."

Ends

Notes to editors:

The published report lists payments made by Harlow Council services to suppliers greater than or equal to £500. A suppliers name may appear on the report more than once. These are where regular payments are made to the supplier.

[REDACTED]
Communications Officer
Harlow Council, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex CM20 1WG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Fax: 01279 446637

Alternative Contact: [REDACTED]

www.harlow.gov.uk

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***** eSafe scanned this email for viruses, vandals, and malicious content. *****

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 September 2010 10:04
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [redacted]. Thanks for the link but it is not accessible. I need the URL (link) of the actual page that the spreadsheet can be downloaded from on the corporate website.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 9:05 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: LINK

[redacted] further to your e mail yesterday please see attached a link to Luton Borough Councils spend details for Q1 2010/11 of sums in excess of £500. Happy for you to publish this link which will be updated quarterly

The file is available via the Councils website

Regards

[redacted] - Corporate Procurement Manager

Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton
LU1 2BQ

Te [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2010 16:31
To: [redacted]
Subject: LINK

http://hyperint.central.luton/Departments/Corporate%20and%20customer%20services/Corporate%20Finance/Corporate%20Procurement/5001stQtr.xls:internal&version=1.0&df_name=/5001stQtr.xls

[redacted]

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED]

I can get down to the screen that links to the actual data but I cannot open the actual data file. A colleague tried and got the same results as I. Can you try the link on a standalone PC (i.e. one with independent internet access that does not link to your network).

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 10:23 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED]

I have had a word with somebody who manages our internet site they have said to try

www.luton.gov.uk/councilopportunities

this takes you to the supplier portal link.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 September 2010 11:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: LINK

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri Sep 03 10:58:52 2010
Subject: FW: LINK
http://luton.g2b.info/cgi-gen/profile.pl?action=view_profile&oid=107#top

Hope this is OK.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Corporate Procurement Unit

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 September 2010 11:26
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK
sounds good. I will keep my fingers crossed.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 11:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

IM are working on it at the moment they are adding it to the main LBC website so it will be much easier to find. I will forward a new link asap.

[REDACTED]
-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 08 September 2010 11:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED]
We update the links on the Communities web site tomorrow and if the links can be mended then I will include Luton as a compliant LA. However I will mention that the link is very difficult to navigate to and a member of the public would be hard pressed to find it which makes the transparency somewhat opaque.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 9:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED]

I could not open the file either, I have asked our IT Team to check this for me and will let you know what they say.

[REDACTED]
-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 September 2010 11:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

good idea

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 11:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: LINK

I will try on my home machine tonight, if you still cannot reach it.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 September 2010 11:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Will you be able to copy the link from there?

www.luton.gov.uk - then towards the bottom of the page under the heading **Explore your Council** click on **Selling to Luton Council**, then **Luton Supplier Portal**, then **Buyer Profile** - the file you need is under **Purchase Plan**.

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 September 2010 11:12
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Hi [REDACTED]

I am working from home remotely today so I had the opportunity of switching on my home PC as well to try the link and I still cannot open hyperint central link on the purchase plan page in the procurement portal.

But yes. I can navigate to the link for www.luton.gov.uk

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@luton.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 10:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LINK

Unfortunately we do not have one in the office for me to try. Can you navigate to it by doing a search at www.luton.gov.uk?

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 September 2010 10:35

From: localdir
Sent: 16 September 2010 11:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Expenditure
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks - this has now been added to Local Directgov and should be added to the CLG page later this week.

cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@wandsworth.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 9:49 AM
To: localdir
Subject: RE: Expenditure

Hi [REDACTED] - the link should now work for you!
Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@wandsworth.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 10:51 AM
To: localdir
Subject: Expenditure

Hello

Wandsworth Council published its £500 spend data online. It is available from a dedicated webpage using the following URL:

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/500>

Please can this be added to Direct.gov and relevant CLG page
(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>)

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Policy Coordinator
Policy Unit
Wandsworth Borough Council
T: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@wandsworth.gov.uk

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From: localdir
Sent: 14 September 2010 11:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Expenditure
Hi Jon,

Can you please double check the link - I'm unable to open the page - browser just hangs - the Local Directgov system won't accept the link either as it won't open.

cheers

[REDACTED]
Local Directgov

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@wandsworth.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 10:51 AM
To: localdir
Subject: Expenditure

Hello

Wandsworth Council published its £500 spend data online. It is available from a dedicated webpage using the following URL

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/500>

Please can this be added to Direct gov and relevant CLG page
(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>)

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Policy Coordinator
Policy Unit
Wandsworth Borough Council
T. [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@wandsworth.gov.uk

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From: localdir
Sent: 20 September 2010 10:13
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: expenditure
Hi [REDACTED]

You'll need to add the service - if you search on 828 from the service data page - the page will say "nothing to display" with an add new service button below. Click on this button and then fill in the LGSL - 828 and LGIL - 8 add the URL, tick the supported box and save (you don't need to add service name)

Any problems please let me know.

cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@surreycc.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2010 4:12 PM
To: localdir
Subject: expenditure

Hi Directgov

As per your email below, I have included our link on the LGSL=1465, but could not find the LGSL=828.

Please can you advise?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear Colleague, As you may know the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government recently called for all local authorities to put details of all spending over £500 online as part of wider action to bring about a revolution in town hall openness and accountability. Several authorities have already done this and many more have plans to do so well underway. The Department for Communities and Local Government is keen to showcase this work and provide a page on their website (communities.gov.uk) which links to local authority pages where information on the £500 expenditure and also contracts and tenders over £500 are published. We will be using the Local Directgov application to collect the links in the usual way. We have set up two new services in the Local Directgov application. One for "Find out about details of council expenditure" (LGSL=1465, LGIL=8) and a second for "Find out about council contracts and tenders" (LGSL=828, LGIL=8). If you already have dedicated pages providing details of your authority's £500 expenditure and contract and tender details, we would be very pleased if you could load the links for the new services using the Local Directgov Administration system. Alternatively you can email your link to localdirectgov@communities.gsi.gov.uk putting 'Expenditure' in the subject line. You can find some more information on the publishing of £500 expenditure items here - <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1606947>. Many thanks for your support.
Kind regards
Sheenagh Reynolds
Local Directgov Programme team

* * * * *

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.....

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 September 2010 09:32
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Hulya Mustafa; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: CLG transparency announcement on local data guidance and Redbridge Youchoose tool

Brilliant. Many thanks for all your help on this so far.
Hope it all goes well.

[redacted]
Senior Campaigns Manager

Department for Communities and Local Government
Communication Directorate, 7/36 Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU
[redacted] | T: 020 3444 3205 | e: [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@redbridge.gov.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 9:18 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Hulya Mustafa; [redacted]
Subject: Re: CLG transparency announcement on local data guidance and Redbridge Youchoose tool

[redacted]
I've organised for the leader, cllr Keith Prince, to do this around noon.

Your crew and my team can liaise around arrangements at polyclinic and I'll brief leader with talking points.

[redacted] spoke to leader at AC4 last night and he agreed to do this. Could you remind him when he gets in and check doesn't create diary problem.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]
Head of Marketing and Communications
London Borough of Redbridge
[redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Handheld

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; Hulya Mustafa <Hulya.Mustafa@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]
Sent: Tue Sep 21 17:37:49 2010
Subject: CLG transparency announcement on local data guidance and Redbridge Youchoose tool

Dear [redacted]

We met at the recent Local Public Data Panel meeting. Apologies for sending this at the eleventh hour, but colleagues within CLG Communication Directorate will be at Redbridge tomorrow filming citizens as part of a video package we will be releasing towards the end of next week on transparency in local government.

We plan to attend the new polyclinic in Loxford and meet local people accessing and using your new YouChoose tool. We will also ask them for their thoughts about local public data and will then do some filming of your Council HQs signage, fascias etc. We thought that it would make sense if you as Chief Exec of Redbridge were able to say a few words for the piece along the lines of why you feel it is important for local people to have access to spending data and why Redbridge has gone much further by developing this sophisticated tool.

We have already had contributions from Prof Shadbolt and [REDACTED] and feel yours would be good from a local authority perspective. As said, I will not be present at the event tomorrow, but my colleague [REDACTED] will be handling things and your press office are aware of what we are planning too. I'm hoping (even at this very last minute) you might be able to spare a minute or two for my colleagues to film you as this is such a great example of what open government can achieve.

Colleagues intend to be at the clinic from 11.00a.m. and should be in the area up until about 1.00p.m.

[REDACTED] can be contacted on [REDACTED] and you can contact me on the number below or my mobile [REDACTED]

Once again I hope you can help and apologies for coming to you so late.

Kind regards and best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Campaigns Manager

Department for Communities and Local Government
Communication Directorate, 7/06 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU
t: [REDACTED] | f: 020 3444 3295 | e: [REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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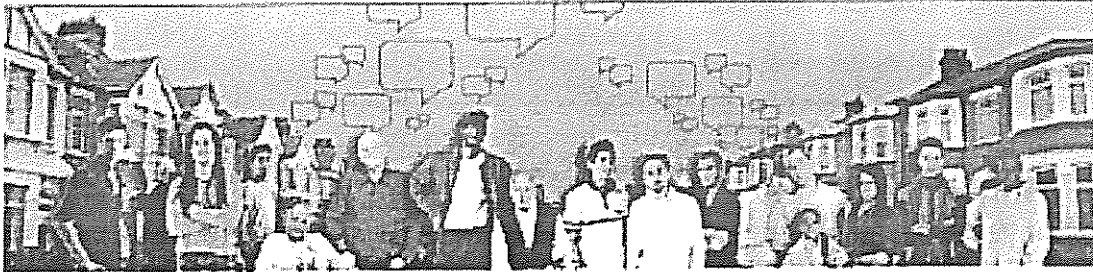
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From: [redacted]@redbridge.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 September 2010 11:41
To: [redacted]; [redacted]@communities.gov.uk
Cc: [redacted]@local.gov.uk; [redacted]@local.gov.uk; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Redbridge local release

Attachments: Govt_backs_RC2010_draft_v1.doc

[redacted]

As discussed with [redacted] yesterday, we're planning to send out the release (attached) to our locals today for Thurs papers but wont send further afield. We will coordinate with CLG/LGA over national release. I believe exact timings are still being resolved.

We also talked about doing video at polyclinic tomorrow. Are you still wanting to do that? If so could you liaise with [redacted] cc'd in here. Hes on [redacted]

All the best

[redacted]

<<Govt_backs_RC2010_draft_v1.doc>>

[redacted]

Head of Marketing and Communications

London Borough of Redbridge

Tel: [redacted]

Mob: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]@redbridge.gov.uk

Lynton House, 255 High Road, Ilford IG1 1NN

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 September 2010 09:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Spending Data Guidance - Comments

Dear [REDACTED]

<< File: LBHF + KC Comments 17-9-10.doc >>

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity of providing comments on your draft guidance. Our general comments are outlined below and I have also attached your guidance with specific comments listed.

As promised, there have been informal discussions with a number of boroughs at Director of Finance level about the guidance and the following points and concerns were raised:

- * It should be remembered that the public already have the right to examine all financial records at a local authority during the inspection period each summer
- * The level of detail being requested increases significantly the possibility of fraud eg the quantity of data being required would easily allow a fraudster to pose as a legitimate company eg VAT number, company number
- * Has the Audit Commission's NFI unit been consulted?
- * This must not be developed into an industry creating unproductive activity within local authorities
- * We have concerns about the Data Protection rights of sole traders. Has CLG taken advice on this? If it is a DP issue, it shouldn't be in the guidance (although we accept we will still have to take our own advice even if CLG believe it is legal).
- * All IT systems are set up differently at the moment and many will not be able to meet the requirements in the short term
- * For 1 April 2011, the requirements should be at an absolute minimum, with maybe a pathway set out for future additional requirements (but still at a minimum - the current guidance is too prescriptive)
- * We need to stand back and question what the public will feel is useful. The current proposals run the risk of obliterating the wood for the trees. Have the public been consulted?
- * Revising IT systems to generate this information will be very costly, as will running the systems and answering the queries generated
- * Have the CBI and Chamber of Commerce been consulted as this will open up their members for scrutiny as much as local authorities?

I look forward to receiving your comments and would be happy to discuss further.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Head of Procurement
Strategy, Performance and Procurement
Finance and Corporate Services
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Director: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Facsimile: (020) 8753 1578
E-mail: [REDACTED]@lbhf.gov.uk
Website: www.lbhf.gov.uk

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and Local Government may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for
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*

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@lbhf.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 10:39 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Local Spending Data Guidance - Comments

Hi [redacted]

Further comments received from Bromley which can be added to our earlier comments (below).

1) The guidance makes no mention of housing benefit, pupil benefit, direct payments etc. Should these be included in the data (with names redacted obviously) like foster parent payments, or can they be excluded completely as with Payroll?

As HB payments are made by Liberata and no detailed information held in Oracle, their inclusion would complicate the publication of our data.

2) Coding-level amounts: Under section 5.Data Content...Amount in sterling, the guidance states that 'If a single invoice has been coded to multiple expense types, and/or expense areas the value shown should be the amount paid against each individual expense types/expense area combination'.

My view is that this could be confusing for the user; some invoices contain up to 60 lines, and the total number of lines of data for August (currently excluding foster parent payments) would increase from 4,600 invoices, to 7,200 coding-level lines (excluding VAT lines).

A better solution might be to use the expense and service area information from the highest value line on the invoice only, as we currently do.

If possible, I would like to respond back to Directors of Finance re your comments to the points raised and the next steps and timetable regarding consultation and publication of the guidance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[redacted]
Head of Procurement
Strategy, Performance and Procurement
Finance and Corporate Services
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Director: Jane West

Telephone: [redacted]
Facsimile: (020) 8753 1578
E-mail: [redacted]@lbhf.gov.uk
Website: www.lbhf.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2010 09:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local activity on open data - data.gov.uk
Hi [REDACTED]

This final local spend guidance is not due to be published until November. The guidance on the data.gov.uk blog is a draft for initial comments and we will be going out again to wider consultation by the end of the week with the draft guidance. I will be in touch again to provide you with the relevant link.

Hope this is helpful.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
DCLG

T [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cheltenham.gov.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2010 4:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local activity on open data - data.gov.uk

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your email apologies for not replying sooner unfortunately at the time you sent this email my appendix burst and was in hospital and have been recovering and catching up on work.

We are still keen to publish data and our finance team are currently working on extracting the over £500 spending data and have been using the guidance on the data.gov website <http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance>. I wonder if you or know a contact that might know how solid the guidance is as says it's in draft format but our finance team are concerned they will create a suitable format that they can export and then the guidelines will change again.

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 16 July 2010 11:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local activity on open data - data.gov.uk

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to our previous e-mail exchange, I wonder if you have had the opportunity to consider publishing your open data on the data.gov.uk website? Also, whether you are yet in a position to provide the metadata of your published open datasets?

I look forward to hearing from you and please let me know if you need any further

advice/guidance. Many thanks.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
DCLG
Digital Delivery and Data Transparency Unit
T: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 1:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: local activity on open data - Local Public Data Exemplars

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in touch and confirming interest in providing links to the your data from the data.gov.uk.

I am attaching the guidance and form for returning metadata to data.gov.uk again for ease. Unfortunately it is not possible at this time for us to scrape all the necessary information from local council websites, and therefore completion of the spreadsheet is the only way to get data properly categorised and linked from data.gov.uk. So far Lichfield, Warwickshire, Brent, Bournemouth, Sunderland, Hampshire and East Staffordshire have all provided some datasets, and, given the new Government's emphasis on transparency, we hope to have a lot more authorities involved in the next few weeks. As an example of the sort of thing we're looking for, I've attached the return from Lichfield.

Hope this is helpful and please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Local Public Data Unit
T: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (mailto:[REDACTED]@cheltenham.gov.uk)
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: local activity on open data - Local Public Data Exemplars

Hi [REDACTED]

We here at Cheltenham would be interested in taking part, please let us know what the next steps are. We took part in the open election project and have this page on our site www.cheltenham.gov.uk/opedata

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Web Manager
Cheltenham Borough Council
Municipal Offices

Promenade Cheltenham GL50 9SA

tel [REDACTED]
www.cheltenham.gov.uk
www.twitter.com/cheltenhamBC

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
[mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 04 June 2010 12:50
To: [REDACTED]@coventry.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@eastriding.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@eden.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@gosport.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@lincoln.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@richmond.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@southwark.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@stratford-
dc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@trafford.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: local activity on open data - Local Public Data Exemplars

Dear all,

Further to [REDACTED] introductory e-mail below. It thought it might be helpful if I provided some further background.

I work as part of the secretariat to the Local Public Data Panel. You may already be aware of the Local Public Data Panel which has been set up with the aim of encouraging local public bodies to make non-personal data and information publicly available for re-use. One of their objectives is to get more local data publicly available through data.gov.uk, and we getting this moving through the Local Public Data Exemplars, and we would like your authority to be involved.

What's a local public data exemplar?

Exemplars are local public bodies who are leading the way in making local data openly available in forms that make it easy to find, download and reuse. We hope that by drawing attention to local public bodies that are already making their data available in this way it will encourage others to find out more and follow.

What would being an exemplar involve?

We'd like your help in compiling some basic information about what you are doing to open up access to your data and make it more easily available for reuse by developers and citizens. In particular we are interested in the benefits you have gained (or expect to gain) as a result and any tips or lessons learned that can be passed on to others.

We will use this information to publicise your good work through data.gov.uk and encourage others to follow suit.

In addition, as an exemplar we would also want to make as much of your local data as possible accessible via data.gov.uk.

What does adding to data.gov.uk involve?

You will need to complete the attached form to provide the metadata for each data set you are happy to be included in the data.gov.uk catalogue. There is guidance to accompany this form. As an early local contributor to data.gov.uk we would welcome your thoughts and feedback on the process and the guidance notes - we want them to be as easy as possible to use by other local public bodies. The first

authorities to submit data links are Litchfield [<http://data.gov.uk/data/publicbody/Litchfield%2520District%2520Council>] and Warwickshire [<http://data.gov.uk/data/publicbody/Warwickshire%2520County%2520Council>] with several others expected to submit metadata within the next few weeks, including over 200 links from Redbridge. I am enclosing, for information, the Warwickshire return which you might find helpful when deciding what details are required on the form.

What's in it for you?

Your organisation will get high profile publicity and recognition for its efforts. We will publish short case study information (with your input and agreement) on the Local Public Data Panel pages of data.gov.uk. The work of your authority will be highlighted as good practice at events, in press releases and other marketing materials.

We are planning other activities later in the year to continue to support the opening up of local data. This should include developer 'hack' days, where developers explore local data and begin to develop practical applications or improved online communication of data. As an exemplar some of your datasets could be available for any such activities we organise. This could mean your authority benefits from development expertise at no cost to you.

Please give me a ring if you need clarification about any of this, or just to learn more about the local public data agenda. I look forward to hearing from you, and hope you feel able to take part in the exemplar programme, early confirmation one way or the other would be helpful. Initial returns need only contain details of a few of your available datasets.

Many thanks for your help in this, it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Local Public Data Unit
Department for Communities & Local Government
8/CS9 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Tel. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@socitm.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: local activity on open data

Dear Colleague

I'm following up with councils that successfully got their election data published as open data to ask whether your authority has started on any other initiatives around open data that CLG could reference in the information it is gathering on local authorities active in this area.

Could you let [redacted] in the Local Public Data Unit at CLG [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk; Tel: [redacted] know if you are able to share anything at this stage.

Do contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards

[redacted]



[redacted]

Marketing Consultant

Mobile: [redacted]
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: 0845 094 5642
Email: [redacted]
Web: www.socitm.net

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.....

From: [redacted] (mailto:[redacted]@highpeak.gov.uk)
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2010 11:11 AM
To: contactus@communities.gov.uk
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Adding HPBC to the list of councils publishing expenditure over £500

Good morning

Please advise how I can add High Peak Borough Council to the following page on your website that lists councils publishing expenditure over £500:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

I have added Local Authority Service (LGS) number 828 ('Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500') via the Local DirectGov Admin Interface which we use to update the DirectGov website (www.direct.gov.uk) but this does not appear to have had any effect on your website.

Regards

[redacted]
ICT / Web Officer
High Peak Borough Council
Town Hall
Buxton
SK17 6EL

Tel: [redacted]
Email: webupdates@highpeak.gov.uk

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http://www.highpeak.gov.uk

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[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2010 13:10
To: [REDACTED]@sherwooddc.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Expenditure items over £500

If at first etc. Try again!

Regards

Louise

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 1:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sherwooddc.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@sherwooddc.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Subject: Expenditure items over £500

Hi,
I have tried ringing you but no reply. I understand you are about to publish details of expenditure items over £500 and want your data to be included in our latest tables.

I had a quick look at your web site but don't think the page is there yet. When the web page is published let me have the URL and I will update LGAdmin on your behalf and update the central report as long as the information gets to me today.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Local Directgov Programme Manager
Communities and Local Government
Home & Community Franchise
Zone 7/F5, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]
Fax: 020 7944 8937

101001 Bristol RE Transparency-Expenditure details.txt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2010 10:18
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Transparency-Expenditure details

Hi [REDACTED]
Next week is fine. We update our lists every week. Send me the link when the article page is live

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.

Regards
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 10:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Transparency-Expenditure details

[REDACTED]
This information is not on our public website yet. It's planned to publish it next week. Is that too late, or do you want me to send the link when available?

Adrian

[REDACTED]
Senior Communications Officer
Communications and Marketing
Bristol City Council
Room G27
The Council House
College Green
BS1 5TR

tel [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@bristol.gov.uk

>>> "[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk> 01/10/2010 08:53 >>>
Hi [REDACTED]

We have received information that suggests you are publishing expenditure detail over £500 on your website and I have been sent the following link:
<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/968/500/2010/08/>
I have been to Bristol's web site to see if I could find the relevant landing page for this data but couldn't find it. Can you help?
The reason I want this link is to include Bristol in the lists published on the CLG web site as there will be publicity as a result of our transparency week.

Can you help?

Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Local Directgov Programme Manager
Communities and Local Government
Home & Community Franchise
Zone 7/F5, Eland House
Bressenden Place

101001 Bristol RE Transparency-Expenditure details.txt
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]
Fax: 020 7944 8937

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<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/services>

Sign-up for our email bulletin giving news, have-your-say and event information at: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/newsdirect>

View webcasts of Council meetings at <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/webcast>

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From: [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk
Sent: 01 October 2010 12:46
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk; [redacted] osd.office@westsussex.gov.uk; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Transparency- expenditure over £500

Hi [redacted]

Apologies for any confusion over this link.

The landing page for this information is <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=13470>

If you need any further information please let me know

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted] | Web Information Assistant - Online Service Delivery, West Sussex County Council | Location: Online Service Delivery (OSD) Office, Customers, Customer Services, Room 41, 1st floor, Durban House, PO22 9RE
Internal: [redacted] | External: [redacted] | E-mail: [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk

Think sustainably. Do you have to print? Can you double side? Do you need colour?

[redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk
01/10/2010 12:21
To: [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk, [redacted] osd.office@westsussex.gov.uk, [redacted]@westsussex.gov.uk
Cc: [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk, [redacted]
Subject: Transparency- expenditure over £500

Hi,

I am spreading my net wide in the hope that someone will be able to help me. [redacted] sent us the URLs for expenditure items over £500 and contracts and tenders over £500 early in August and we loaded them into the system and have been reporting the links in The Communities web site since that date.

However someone from your team uploaded a spreadsheet subsequently that overwrote the URL with a new one that points to a carers allowance page (oops!). We found the original link on your email but that is now broken. A link has been found on your site but it goes straight to the PDF rather than a suitable landing page.

There is a press release going out from CLG today that will generate a certain amount of interest and I would be grateful if you could look into this ASAP and send me the correct URL as otherwise I will have to remove your details from the Communities web page.

Best regards

[redacted]
[redacted] Local Director Programme Manager

Communities and Local Government
Home & Community Franchise
Zone 7/F5, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]
Fax: 020 7944 8937

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2010 17:20
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGSL 1465 and 828

Thanks [REDACTED] for pointing this out to us. I will ask [REDACTED] to update this tomorrow. Some Lass have already submitted this information.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@brent.gov.uk]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 5:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LGSL 1465 and 828

[REDACTED]

In the September newsletter is says

In last month's newsletter, we reported that a number of local authorities were already publishing details of expenditure and contracts over £500 on their websites. We are asking councils to provide the LDG administration interface with details of the links against the following service/interaction (LGSL/LGIL) combinations:

1465/8: Find out about details of council expenditure over £500
828/8: Find out about council contracts and tenders over £500

Looking at the spreadsheet of LDG services I can see 1465 but I can't see 828. Is it there?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Brent Council, IT Strategy Manager
Brent House, 349 High Road, Wembley, HA9 6BZ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@brent.gov.uk
Web: www.brent.gov.uk

—
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.....

101004 Cambridgeshire.txt

From: localdir
Sent: 04 October 2010 11:12
To: Web Strategy Team
Subject: RE: Publicising spending data on Local Directgov// Find out about details of council expenditure over £500

Hi [redacted]

I can confirm that the link has been set up correctly and we have passed on the details to the DCLG web team - unfortunately there is currently a delay in getting the DCLG website updated.

cheers

[redacted]
Local Directgov

-----Original Message-----

From: Web Strategy Team [mailto:[redacted]@cambridgeshire.gov.uk]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 10:45 AM
To: localdir
Subject: Publicising spending data on Local Directgov// Find out about details of council expenditure over £500

Hi LDG

we published our spending over £500, and added details to the LDG admin console at <https://admin.localdirect.gov.uk/LDGAdministration> on 24 September, using the specified 1465/8 category:

However, we're not showing up at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> under the list of east of england councils, or on the timeline.

Please can you help identify why this isn't showing up.

Thank you and best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]
Web Content Assistant
Cambridgeshire County Council

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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101004 Surrey.txt

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@surreycc.gcsx.gov.uk]
Sent: 04 October 2010 09:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Transparency - expenditure items over £500

Hi [REDACTED]

Below is from [REDACTED] but she does not have a secure email so I am sending.
To contact [REDACTED] directly you can call her on [REDACTED] or email her.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Web Operations Manager
Tel: [REDACTED]
www.surreycc.gov.uk

----- Original Message -----

From: Web Operations Team
Sent: 01/10/2010 16:02 GDT
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Transparency - expenditure items over £500

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I went onto the website www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom, and searched for Surrey County Council and the link to our Council spending web page is broken. This is due to a name change.

Please can you fix this? Link is now:
http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupwebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Council+spending+over+500+pounds?opendocument

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Web Operations Team
Surrey County Council
T: +[REDACTED]
E: weboperationsteam@surreycc.gov.uk
www.surreycc.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@c
ommunities.gsi.gov
v.uk>

01/10/10 15:26

To
cc
Subject
Transparency - expenditure items
over £500

Hi,

According to our records your LA has already published details of expenditure over £500 on your website. I would like to draw your attention to the latest press release from Communities and Local Government on the subject of transparency entitled "More than sixty councils open books to armchair auditors" to be found at

www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom

I have also attached the full text as an attachment to this email.

<<transparency press release .doc>>

Can I ask that you:

Take time to view our video on youtube

Link to the content and share with your colleagues on the intranet <http://bit.ly/dt71DZ> .

contact the LGA with any comments on the draft guidance.

Thanks for getting the information on to your websites so quickly and I would ask that you remember to keep the links updated on Local Directgov.

Best wishes

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Local Directgov Programme Manager
Communities and Local Government
Home & Community Franchise
Zone 7/F5, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

Tel: [Redacted]
Mob: [Redacted]
Fax: 020 7944 8937

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From: localdir
Sent: 04 October 2010 16:09
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Publication of expenditure
Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks I confirm that this link was set up in our system by your web team and we have also updated the relevant page on the DCLG website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/southwestengland>

cheers

[REDACTED]
Local Directgov

From: [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]@westdorset-dc.gov.uk)
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 3:23 PM
To: localdir
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Publication of expenditure

Local Directgov Programme,

Please be advised that West Dorset District Council provides a note of expenditure with suppliers over £500 on the following page

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/398765>

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Finance Manager
West Dorset District Council
Station House
58/60 High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1UZ
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

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Correspondents should note that all communications to Department for Communities and Local Government may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 October 2010 10:44
To: [REDACTED]@leeds.gov.uk
Cc: 'Data.gov.uk Team'; Hulya Mustafa
Subject: RE: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel
Dear [REDACTED].

Thank you for your e-mail. I'm sorry that you have found it difficult to get a response from the Department of Communities and Local Government on this subject, which unfortunately had not been re-directed to the Transparency Division.

In addition to the draft guidance produced by the Local Public Data Panel, which you have already discovered, on Friday 1st October, the Local Government Association published a draft practitioners' guide, which offers concrete advice to councils on how they should follow the Local Public Data Panel's guidance in publishing their spending and salaries data. You can read and comment on it here - <http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/>.

As advised by the data.gov.uk team, please add your feedback as appropriate on the data.gov.uk blog and the LGA page.

I hope this is helpful and thank you again for getting in touch.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Transparency Division
Department for Communities and Local Government
24-24 Old House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Data.gov.uk Team <team@data.gov.uk>
Date: Tue, Sep 28, 2010 at 3:33 PM
Subject: Re: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel
To: [REDACTED]@leeds.gov.uk

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in touch with data.gov.uk. I have passed your email on to the relevant parties for review and feedback and will relay their response accordingly.

You make some valuable points in relation to the guidance, it would be great if you could add your feedback to the data.gov.uk site for others to digest and comment on (<http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance>).

Best regards,

The data.gov.uk team

On Fri, Sep 24, 2010 at 10:46 AM, <[REDACTED]@leeds.gov.uk> wrote:
Message from [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@leeds.gov.uk>

Subject : Local Spending Data Guidance

Message:

Whilst waiting for the guidance promised for September I've been doing some preparatory work on how we could produce the payments information. Despite trying to contact DCLG on several occasions to find out when the guidance was to be published (no response) and regularly googling, it was fortuitous that I happened on it yesterday! Has there been any formal notification to local authorities of this? Is there a circulation list I could be included in to avoid missing future information? And is the final guidance still expected in November?

A couple of things come to mind on first sight of the guidance:

1. Defining the £500 cutoff with reference to the payment total including VAT will force a rethink as to how we download the data. This is not something we can access from our ledger and it would need to be approached from the creditor payment side instead, which could be problematic in accessing all the required fields. The alternative would be to publish everything, but this would produce a huge file and would require a more than proportionate increase in the level of manual editing and redaction.
2. Redaction will be a major exercise although we have a means of identifying most of the likely candidates. However, it will be necessary to manually examine all suppliers with individual names to ensure that nothing "slips through". I have also noticed that some invoice numbers include service user names e.g. "July - J Smith" so it will be necessary to examine these as well if this field is to be published (only desirable at present).
3. The BVACOP code is a desirable field. What do you mean by "finance category"? The BVACOP is a narrative listing of various objective (service) levels and also a subjective (type) analysis. There are no codes as such.
4. As the guidance stands it requires information at directorate and expenditure type level. If, for example, Adult Services directorate pays its milk supplier for 10 residential homes at £50 each in a single payment, this could appear either as a single summarised line saying "Adults, Food, £500, InvoiceX, Milkman, date" or 10 separate lines reflecting the homes' ledger entries saying "Adults, Food, £50, InvoiceX, Milkman, date". Which do you envisage? Is there any value to be added from providing the extra lines without any extra context?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Financial Manager
Corporate Financial Management
Leeds City Council

You can change your settings at <https://www.data.gov.uk/users/local-data-panel>.

