

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01  
September 2010 13:48 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** FW: msu

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland  
House | 0303 44 4 NUMBER REDACTED

 **Please don't print this email unless you really need to.**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 01,  
2010 1:33 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: msu

HI NAME REDACTED ,

This is more a letter of support.

You might want to include the following in your response

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 understand NAME REDACTED has been in touch to discuss setting up a separate page on CLG website to list FRAs who are already publishing their data. You would need to put in place a mechanism for identifying which FRAs are publishing data. I would imagine not that many at the moment.

Happy to discuss.

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland  
House | 0303 44 4 NUMBER REDACTED

 **Please don't print this email unless you really need to.**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September  
01, 2010 11:46 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** msu  
**Importance:** High

NAME  
REDACTED  
Sorry to bother you but please see the attached.

<< File: 100901 Bonney to BN.tif >>

I think you may have had loads of these from local authorities so hopefully have a standard reply. If so it will save time as we will probably be getting a few as well.

I seem to recall something about creating a list of fire authorities on the CLG website?

Sorry to hassle but I need to get rid of this by pm tomorrow as I am on leave Friday!!!!

Lastly - do you want to be copied in to any replies we do ?

Thanks

NAME REDACTED  
Finance and Performance,  
3/E2 Eland House  
Bressenden Place Victoria  
London SW1E 5DU

Phone 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 September 2010 13:52 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency event

Hi NAME REDACTED,

We spoke earlier this morning. This is the CLG pages showing authorities publishing spend data: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> but **Redbridge is not listed**. Broxbourne will be added shortly.

NAME REDACTED, LocalDirectGov, is maintaining the list and liaising with NAME REDACTED in Comms re the CLG webpage updates.

These are the authorities who have indicated they are about to publish spend data but have not yet done so:

Gloucestershire -  
Slough -Norfolk -  
Suffolk -  
Blackpool -St  
NAME  
REDACTED s -

Let me know if you need anything other details from me.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 1:27 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency event

Hi NAME REDACTED

Firstly REALLY sorry about the meeting not covering comms much at all..... They are difficult to predict/ chair.

NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED are both on leave now. Re councils to involve - NAME REDACTED can give you a list of councils publishing their spend already in machine-readable formats (ie the good guys). Presume that's what we need - they won't work with us if they haven't got there yet.

YouGov - I don't know much, except for what I googled. Yougov seem to be a survey tool, so Redbridge are using them to survey residents about priorities.  
<http://today.yougov.co.uk/>

Redbridge council is on our local public data panel and their 'redbridge I' budget conversation is interesting to our Big Soc colleagues, as well as for transparency. Not sure if 20th sept is a useful date for them, but would be good to use them if poss. More info about the redbridge I stuff in the emails below. [But check with NAME REDACTED they are doing the £500 in the right format!]

<< Message: RE: IdEA and Redbridge >> << Message: RE: IdEA and Redbridge >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 10:26 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Transparency event

Hi Hulya, NAME REDACTED

I'd be grateful if you could get in touch with me re the attached plan for an event on the 20th. I'm trying to bottom out what councils we could possibly work with for it, and find out a little more about the YouGov tool that NAME REDACTED mentioned in the timetable she sent last week.

Thanks NAME REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Communities and Local Government |  
**0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**  
<< File: Launch plan - draftHM.doc >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 03 September 2010  
10:31 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Can we get together and discuss this? I think the DirectGov page was supposed to reflect the CLG page in order to support our campaign for more transparent councils - as you say, not many members of the public visit ours.

Are you free?

NAME  
REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September  
03, 2010 10:18 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
RE: Expenditure items over £500

I think it is primarily so that the customer can actually reach the service page on the LA site rather than finishing up on the contacts page( unsatisfactory customer journey) . We are using the locator at the moment to get people to ask their councils why they haven't published the data ( this would not be within Directgov's proposition). Directgov expect the service to be available on the council website.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday,  
September 03, 2010 10:12 AM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME  
REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Thanks NAME  
REDACTED,

Is there a reason for this? My understanding was that we wanted the public to be able to find the data easily and be able to tell quickly if they haven't published their data. If we have to wait for over 150 to publish this will defeat the purpose of the page.

NAME  
REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03,  
2010 10:08 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,

Am I correct in assuming that the page you speak of would be the article on Directgov from which you can link to local councils ( not the press release that I am proposing). That would not be envisaged until, I guess, over 50% are compliant. There are 352 LAs in England and we have data from around about 50.

Regards

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 9:55 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

How many councils need to be in compliance before the page goes live? We were planning to direct the public to this site in an announcement later this month.

Thanks NAME REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2010 6:49 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Expenditure items over £500

NAME REDACTED

Could you have a look at this please.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2010 5:13 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure items over £500

Hi,

There is a page on the Communities site that links to those authorities that have already published information about expenditure items over £500. This page is updated weekly as more authorities come on board.  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

The page is focussed at the citizen rather than the practitioner but very few members of the public visit the Communities web site. The reader is encouraged to contact their local council if they do not appear on the list and ask them what their plans are for publication.

<http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=1465&LGIL=8>

We cannot put an article on Directgov yet as the service is still being developed/ implemented and Directgov won't do this until a sufficient volume of LAs are in compliance. At that point they will add the service to the Local Government widget on the home page etc.

We wondered whether we could have a news item on Directgov that linked to the Communities web page as a way of making the customer more aware. Would you be happy with that approach?

Regards

NAME REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Fax: 020 7944  
8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 03 September 2010 08:22 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,

Many thanks, let's hope Directgov agree as it will help to raise the profile of the CLG page to a wider audience.

NAME REDACTED Local Public Data Unit  
X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
September 02, 2010 5:13 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Expenditure items over £500

Hi,

There is a page on the Communities site that links to those authorities that have already published information about expenditure items over £500. This page is updated weekly as more authorities come on board.

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We wondered whether we could have a news item on Directgov that linked to the Communities web page as a way of making the customer more aware. Would you be happy with that approach?

Regards

NAME REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax:  
020 7944 8937



**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 5:39 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Costs and benefits of publishing spending over £500

NAME REDACTED ,

Happy to have a chat later this week. We don't yet have any cost information, though this is one thing we are looking at in a series of visits we are undertaking to Las. Guidance is being drawn up in conjunction with LGA and Developers, and the LGA are leading a coalition with SOCITM, LeGSB and CIPFA on the technical aspects. At the moment there is no requirement, only a challenge/expectation, but we will probably legislate eventually to ensure all Las comply.

NAME  
REDACTED  
*NAME REDACTED Local Data*  
*Transparency Team Tel: 0303*  
*444NUMBER REDACTED*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 06, 2010 10:46 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Costs and benefits of publishing spending over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,

I understand that you are responsible for the work on public data and transparency.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Thanks,

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 06, 2010 10:07 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Costs and benefits of publishing spending over £500

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED and I have had some input on the publication of £500 plus payments but nothing on the costings. You need to contact Hulya Mustafa or NAME REDACTED, who have responsibility for the initiative now.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

received in the quarter, or whether a rolling disclosure was intended, eg funds at beginning of quarter, received in quarter, spent in quarter, funds at end of quarter.

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 06, 2010 9:46 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Costs and benefits of publishing spending over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED ,  
NAME REDACTED ,  
Your name was forwarded to me by NAME REDACTED.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

On your work on getting Local authorities to publish all spending over £500, can you help, in particular what costs were involved on getting this set up, did the Department provide guidance i.e. how prescriptive was this, do LPA have to complete a standard form.

I currently drafting a paper so I would be grateful for a quick meeting this week, if possible, or details sent via email.

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED

**Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy**  
Communities & Local Government 1\E2  
| Eland House | Bressenden Place  
London | SW1E 5DU | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 07 September 2010 11:55 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
FW: Transparency event para

I'm not convinced we'll get this through spads, but you never know, maybe for a junior minister

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 11:05 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Transparency event para

Do I need to say more than this? Location is as yet unfixed.

To coincide with the release of local authority guidance we [propose to organise](#) media events to call for more "armchair auditors". The event would be in a busy part of town and members of the public would be invited to sit in an armchair and use laptops to look through their council's £500 spend data or ask why it hasn't been published. Ministers and other open-data advocates would also be invited to talk about the importance of transparent data.

[Although gimmicky this sort of event could help us draw attention to transparency and press councils to publish by January. It would coincide with the start of a transparency counter on our website running a countdown to Jan anda running total of councils that have published data.](#)

[Would you be willing to attend such an event. If successful we could take the armchair on a tour of country. We would hope in some cases this would be in partnership with a council that has published its data.](#)

Potential partner authorities that have already published include Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Windsor and Maidenhead, while others such as Suffolk and Gloucester have stated their intention to publish shortly.

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Communities and Local Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 September 2010  
12:14 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: SRP NO 10  
meeting - 8 Sept

**Attachments:** CLG list of LAs publishing spend 100907.xls  
NAME REDACTED ,

Please find attached updated list (now in excel) of councils publishing spend data. I've also searched the council websites and added details of some of the other datasets they are publishing.

I've revised and inserted the text from the earlier word at the top of this spreadsheet.

CLG list of LAs  
publishing spe...

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Sent:** Monday, September 06, 2010 4:53 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; David Fry; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown  
**Subject:** RE: SRP NO 10 meeting - 8 Sept

NAME REDACTED

I think I should do this, rather than NAME  
REDACTED F.

NAME REDACTED is going to give you a list of the councils already publishing £500  
if she hasn't already.

the draft guidance is being discussed by the external Local Public Data Panel on  
Thursday and we are hopeful that developers and the LGA have reached agreement about  
the level of standardisation which is useful/ necessary.

a number of publicity events are being set up for second half of Sept to highlight  
publication of this guidance and also the publication of Local Spending Reports and also the  
publication of Qtr 1 CLG spend (and possibly also 2008/09 CLG spend).

clarity around the 'right to data' work, means we now are clearer about what  
legislation we need to make this a requirement (affirmative SI under 1980 LG, Planning and  
Land Act).

This buy-in (and mutual working to get to this point) means I would say this was now green.  
However, as the legislation doesn't have any real teeth, it is still not clear that our guidance  
and the campaign will result in 100% compliance, so I'd stick to amber-green, although the  
position is ever-improving.

Hope that helps.

Hulya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday,  
September 03, 2010 11:30 AM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED Fry **Cc:** Selvin Brown; Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** SRP NO 10 meeting - 8 Sept

NAME  
REDACTED,

The next fortnightly No 10 meeting on the SRP is on Wednesday. We are awaiting No 10's thoughts on the agenda, but at this stage we expect it to include:

- preparing for publication of items of spending over £500 (SRP action 5.3), which is rated as A/G but is an area No 10 expressed an interest in at the last meeting.

We are sending briefing to Andrew Campbell on Tuesday and we are meeting him for a pre-brief on Wednesday morning prior to the meeting. Please can you send me lines to take on our current progress with this, for early Tuesday?

Many thanks, NAME REDACTED .

NAME REDACTED  
Structural Reform Plan Team  
Programme Team CLG Zone  
6/H6 Eland House  
Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU

T: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 13:44  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500 - latest update

Many thanks, NAME REDACTED. I'll relay your suggested wording on now and yes I will also mention the Jan 2011 deadline.

Regards,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 1:24 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500 - latest update

Hi, Here is the latest spreadsheet from me:

<< File: council expenditure monitoring Sept 8 v1.xls >>

Please note

I have removed Suffolk completely from my list, Norfolk remains but not publishing data yet.

Barrow in Furness is another holding page (Barrow, St NAME REDACTED s and Blackpool are all neighbours and members of NWEG, I wonder if this is the advice that NWEG are giving them) Ne Somerset I have checked and is a good link. ( new to you, NAME REDACTED)

and finally... after over 20 emails flying back and forth I have now got a valid link for Luton

NAME REDACTED, would it be possible to change the wording on spreadsheet to No 10 to say:  
this table shows those local authorities who are already publishing spend data, either on their own websites or through the external "Spotlight on Spend site" - [<http://www.spotlightonspend.org.uk/datadownload.aspx>]. The table also shows some other datasets being published by the authorities. CLG also has a webpage [<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>] showing all those authorities who have notified spend data through Local DirectGov. This will be automatically updated from Local DirectGov (which holds council URLs for a number of services), and the Local DirectGov locator will also allow the public to put in their postcode and find out if their own authority is publishing data – and forward them to their authorities contact email address where data is not available, so they can ask their authority why not. <http://openlylocal.com/councils/spending> gives an example of what can be done with this data.

My colleague wondered whether you want to say that councils are being asked to comply by January 2011.

Regards

NAME REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED  
Mob:NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax:  
020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 28 September 2010 17:09  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- new format

Thanks NAME REDACTED - hoping to get the map started tonight!

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 5:02 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500- new format

Dear All,

Here is the new format for the spreadsheet. It is not this weeks data, I update that on a Wednesday (tomorrow). I have included a holding page column for NAME REDACTED to complete as I include all LAs that have posted a holding page on their websites and updated LDGAdmin; NAME REDACTED checks the holding pages every week to see whether the actual data has been published. The data format field are for NAME REDACTED to complete.

I suggest I produce the file every week, NAME REDACTED updates with her information and then NAME REDACTED takes the completed data and publishes to the CLG site. NAME REDACTED updates with any additional information she has and passes back to me as the basis of the following weeks report.

council expenditure  
monitoring...

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED** Fax: 020 7944 8937



**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 08 September 2010 17:57 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

To note - actually quite a serious point re regions. But good to know he thinks overall it's a good piece of work. Thanks v much

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 4:52 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Looks good

But could we not "hold" the data sorted by government office region? Region has nothing to do with it.

It might be better to simply hold it in alphabetical order, *or* by tier of council (district, county, unitary, etc)

Many thanks!

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:51 PM **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** FW: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Sheridan

For info - latest update we have on which councils are publishing what. LGA reckon at least 70 councils will be publishing £500 by Dec (based on a survey they sent out to 175 councils - so we'd expect more obv)

<< File: CLG list of LAs publishing spend and other data 100908.xls >>

This table shows those local authorities who are already publishing spend data, either on their own websites or through the external "Spotlight on Spend site" - [<http://www.spotlightonspend.org.uk/datadownload.aspx>]. The table also shows some other datasets being published by the authorities. CLG also has a webpage [<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>] showing all those authorities who have notified spend data through Local DirectGov. This will be automatically updated from Local DirectGov (which holds council URLs for a number of services), and the Local DirectGov locator will also allow the public to put in their postcode and find out if their own authority is publishing data – and forward them to their authorities contact email address where data is not available, so they can ask their authority why not. All authorities are expected to publish this data by January 2011.

<http://openlylocal.com/councils/spending> gives an example of what can be done with this data.

Hülya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:44 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Hi all,

Latest version of spreadsheet for info, now includes where the data is being linked from or published.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 2:05 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Hi NAME REDACTED ,

Apologies for the confusion and for confirming that I hadn't sent the wrong spreadsheet to you after all!

However, we spoke and grateful if you could replace the text at the top of the spreadsheet with the following or amend as necessary:

This table shows those local authorities who are already publishing spend data, either on their own websites or through the external "Spotlight on Spend site" - [<http://www.spotlightonspend.org.uk/datadownload.aspx>]. The table also shows some other datasets being published by the authorities. CLG also has a webpage [<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>] showing all those authorities who have notified spend data through Local DirectGov. This will be automatically updated from Local DirectGov (which holds council URLs for a number of services), and the Local DirectGov locator will also allow the public to put in their postcode and find out if their own authority is publishing data – and forward them to their authorities contact email address where data is not available, so they can ask their authority why not. All authorities are expected to publish this data by January 2011. <http://openlylocal.com/councils/spending> gives an example of what can be done with this data.

Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 1:30 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

NAME REDACTED ,

I'm so sorry but I accidentally sent the wrong spreadsheet to you yesterday. This is the new one I've created showing some of the other data sets being published by authorities.

<< File: CLG list of LAs publishing spend 100907.xls >>

As I mentioned just now, I'd inadvertently sent you the spreadsheet being compiled by the NAME REDACTED in the Local Directgov team.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 12:28 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Thanks, NAME REDACTED .

Do you wish this table to be updated in the same format? I ask because someone queried why it was not in a more accessible format eg. Excel.

I have not been maintaining this word table as it's been overtaken by other activities. I am now working with the spreadsheet being compiled by the Local Directgov team (latest version below) who are in turn feeding the information to Comms for publishing on the CLG webpage [<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>]. I am also extracting and providing local authority links which are machine readable in a separate spreadsheet to the Cabinet Office to be published on the data.gov.uk website - the CLG list includes authorities who are publishing PDF documents also.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring Sept 1 v2.xls >>  
Let me know how you wish to progress, happy to discuss. Thanks.

NAME REDACTED  
X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 12:09 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Hallo,

Here is the last table. As well as the list of which authorities are publishing data, I think Number 10 are keen to have a very short line on each to give a sense of what the authority is publishing (I think the interest here is probably around them want to have examples or lines that they can use in speeches etc).

Do let me know if you have any other questions.

NAME  
REDACTED .  
<< File: Authorities Publishing Spend Data 100810.doc >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 11:47 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Hulya has asked me to provide an update to the table you mentioned below, do you happen to have a copy of the one sent to No10 the last time please? Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED Data  
Transparency Team  
X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 10:29 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** Selvin Brown  
**Subject:** No 10 meeting 8 Sept

Hulya,

The next SRP meeting with No 10 is on Wednesday 8 Sept. At the last meeting on 11 August you'll remember that No 10 asked for a monthly update on transparency progress by specific local authorities.

Can you do an update of the table that we provided to No 10 last time? We'll be sending briefing to Andrew Campbell on Tuesday so it would be useful to have the table by Tuesday morning if possible.

Thanks, NAME REDACTED .

NAME REDACTED  
Structural Reform Plan Team  
Programme Team CLG Zone  
6/H6 Eland House  
Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU

T: 0303  
444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 08:34 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** IDeA CoP - open data lead

**Attachments:** Picture (Metafile)

Came across the below in the CoP forum for Social Media (still catching up on holiday emails). Was anyone here aware? If not I'll liaise with NAME REDACTED to ensure we are in the loop, and particularly that we are aware of those authorities notifying her they are providing spend data, and contact details for leads.

NAME REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED Local Data*

*Transparency Team Tel: 0303*

*444NUMBER REDACTED*

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/13317/blog/blog-display.do?id=7207570>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 16:43 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Deregulating Local Authorities

Responding on NAME REDACTED's point, on NAME REDACTED 's behalf, we can't see any links here to the general power of competence for local authorities. This won't have any impact on any local authority duties/requirements, such as the future requirement to publish details of spend referred to below.

*NAME REDACTED*

**Local Government Strategy**

Zone 3/H6  
Eland House  
Ext  
NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 9:22 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Deregulating Local Authorities

NAME  
REDACTED ,

Worth noting that at the moment there is no requirement on LAs to publish details of spend over Â£500. They have been asked to comply by January 2010, but we will probably be looking to develop legislation for early next year to ensure certain types of data are published, which will include Â£500 spend data. Therefore I think you can safely say that any such payments are likely to be covered by the expectation on LAs to publish expenditure data over Â£500, an expectation that is likely to become a requirement next year.

NAME  
REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED Local Data  
Transparency Team Tel: 0303  
444NUMBER REDACTED*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 9:11 AM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Deregulating Local Authorities

Hulya

Thanks. This is helpful although I'm not sure what the sentence I've put in bold means.

All the loans / grants for which we give specific consent (we of course don't know about the ones where they don't need our consent) are to ALMOs, housing associations or developers, never to private individuals. Also these grants / loans are almost always well into the thousands. (There's only been one in the last two years less than £500 and this was a real oddity as the second smallest was £20,000.)

So can it be safely assumed that when this requirement comes into force (when?) local authorities will have to publish all these grants / loans?

NAME REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 8:53 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Re: Deregulating Local Authorities

An interesting question.

The \$500 spend requirement would normally help on this if an individual monthly payment is above that threshold, but **as this is a personal payment the recipient's name will be redacted.**

Otherwise or also, I presume the councils total list of such payments could be foiled in a separate exercise - depending on scale of payments (council could say was too expensive to comply).

In policy terms this would either fall in camp of something so important we'd mandate to be published (seems unlikely) or something we'd leave to local discretion. If public interested, they should ask and council should want to share.

Hope that helps.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Fri Sep 03 13:43:22 2010 **Subject:** RE: Deregulating Local Authorities

Thanks, NAME REDACTED .

Could you forward the submission also please.

Might this also be connected to the agenda around the general power of competence? If so, I'm copying to NAME REDACTED , apologies if not related.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 1:27 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Deregulating Local Authorities

Not sure it's urgent but you may wish to see in NAME REDACTED's absence.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 1:25 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** Deregulating Local Authorities

NAME  
REDACTED

I've been told that you might similarly be able to help with this query. NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 03, 2010 12:53 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Deregulating Local Authorities

NAME  
REDACTED  
REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE.

Our Director has however asked the question below to which I'd be grateful if you could provide an answer.

(If not have you any idea who might know the answer to this - I've been having great trouble tracking down a policy lead for this.)

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 10:43 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Deregulating Local Authorities

NAME  
REDACTED



Question that occurred to me - once we remove the requirement to seek consent, what level of information will be made available to interested parties about the payments in question? Will there be sufficient transparency to allow the armchair auditors to do their thing?

Thanks

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 09:12 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Numbers

I think the only potential problem area re CLG actions is regarding the Recipe Book, as discussed on Monday. I notice NAME REDACTED also raised this issue by email. If we don't have a clear position, I think we can claim that this has been overtaken by events, in that a lot of what the recipe book was attempting to do will be incorporated into the coalition guidance on the technical aspects of the £500 spend, which is acting as the trailblazer for open data practice - but better confirm with NAME REDACTED that this is indeed the case.

NAME  
REDACTED  
*NAME REDACTED Local Data  
Transparency Team Tel: 0303  
444NUMBER REDACTED*

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 9:01 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Numbers

NAME  
REDACTED  
Can we have a chat this afternoon to go through the minutes from last meeting to see what may come up, and also discuss note taking tomorrow, as NAME REDACTED isn't feeling well and may be off.

Thanks

Hülya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 8:52 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** Numbers

NAME  
REDACTED,  
For tomorrow's Panel meeting could you make sure we have all the latest figures to hand on, in particular, how many LAs are publishing spend data; contracts and tenders; other sorts of data - and how many LAs now have a presence on DGU. I think the latter question is the only one not answered in your excel spreadsheet - and having looked at the updated DGU I still found it difficult to find all LAs publishing data on DGU.

NAME  
REDACTED  
*NAME REDACTED Local Data  
Transparency Team Tel: 0303  
444NUMBER REDACTED*

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 12:21 **To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Jane Houghton; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 'transparency week' outline

We discussed it up here and we'll turn the armchair visit into a you-tube transparency campaign vid with clips from min and open data people, then a self contained sofa montage or something. Minister can do a general message on transparency and guidance can be official announcement for the day.

**From:** Giles Kenningham **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 5:39 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Jane Houghton; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 'transparency week' outline

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

I like the idea of piling pressure on councils to press on publish expenditure over 500 quid is good... and we can do it as a story naming and shaming councils as a possible day 2. We can link in guidance on publishing spend over 500 quid into this announcement to beef it up.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

- I think the armchair auditor stunt is one for bad cop possibly...am worried we cd possibly look stupid..what do you think?

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 4:14 PM **To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Jane Houghton; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** 'transparency week' outline

Giles

First take on what transparency week might look like. Any thoughts on detail or sequencing?

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

**Transparency announcements (Wk of 20th September TBC)**

We are expecting to have package of transparency announcements ready for this week that we might want to roll out as a 'transparency week' :

**Local Authority Guidance on publishing £500 spend - anytime**

This straightforward 7 page guidance explains how to publish data in accessible formats. It also recommends that councils immediately release their data; make the public aware that they are doing; and continue to publish on a monthly basis. We propose to highlight the guidance to media as part of our push to encourage council to meet the Jan target. We also propose to include an update of how many councils have released their data (expected to be around the 50 mark). The guidance ensures that other councils have no excuses for delay and is an opportunity to publicly put pressure on.

**Armchair Auditors Event - anytime**

To coincide with the release of local authority guidance we propose to a organise media event to call for more “armchair auditors”. The event would be in a busy part of town and members of the public would be invited to sit in an armchair and look through their council's £500 spend data on laptops. Ministers and other open-data advocates would also be invited to talk about the importance of transparent data.

Although gimmicky this sort of event could help draw attention to transparency and press councils to publish by January. It would coincide with the start of a transparency counter on our website running a countdown to Jan and a running total of councils that have published data.

Would SoS be willing to attend such an event? We would need a visit date secured before we start working up.

If successful we could take the armchair on a tour of country. We would hope in some cases this would be in partnership with a council that has published its data.

Potential partner authorities that have already published include Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Windsor and Maidenhead, while others such as Suffolk and Gloucester have stated their intention to publish shortly.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 September 2010 10:57 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure items over £500 I discussed with NAME REDACTED and she'll send a suitable response to NAME REDACTED . We also agree that we would not need to send any further e-mails like these but if necessary, we will review process and wordings.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:18 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure items over £500

The Localdirectgov email below refers to individual pages being created. Not sure if there will be a need for any further such emails (I think this was just sent to initial authorities), but if so we would need to ensure a different version was sent to SoS authorities, as processes are different.

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:03 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,

DGU are only creating specific pages for authorities who are publishing in CSV/machine readable format. They have opted not to link to those publishing PDF docs.

In addition, there are not specific DGU pages for authorities publishing their spend data on Spotlight on Spend - DGU has set up a 'spotlightonspend' page :

<http://data.gov.uk/dataset/spotlightonspend-transactions-download>

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 9:45 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure items over Â£500

NAME  
REDACTED,

I think the main thing is that, as they are publishing through SoS they will automatically be listed on DGU and don't need to do anything else. But, even if they wanted to, do the SoS authorities have a specific page on DGU to add additional datasets to? If you're not sure either, could you check with NAME REDACTED.

NAME  
REDACTED

*NAME REDACTED Local Data  
Transparency Team Tel: 0303  
444NUMBER REDACTED*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2010 2:18 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Transparency - expenditure items over Â£500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Thanks, I'll discuss with NAME REDACTED on his return from leave next week - when is your newsletter going out?

I was under the impression that the CLG list was only temporary and that eventually, these links will be listed from data.gov.uk, perhaps this will need to be highlighted to the web teams. Our note specifically stated that we are sending machine readable links to data.gov.uk so no additional work for authorities, and the Spotlight on Spend link is already available on data.gov.uk and will be automatically updated as more authorities start to use that facility.

Our role in the Local Public Data Unit is to encourage sharing of open data via data.gov.uk, however, this does not strictly fall within the formal government's data transparency requirements so there has been some resistance

and the reasons given are usually along the lines suggested by NAME REDACTED below.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2010 12:29 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency - expenditure items over Â£500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

See the email chain below as this may be an issue you want to take up. We have a newsletter going out in a week or so to web teams and perhaps we can put something reassuring in that.

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** localdir **Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2010 8:52 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency - expenditure items over Â£500

For info - no further action here as links have already been added for these 2 LAs by the WPO at each authority - Vale URL is to their Access to info page which has a prominent link to the spotlight on spend website, however thought I'd flag up as this is the second "complaint" about possible further requirements for data to go on eg. data.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED [mailto:NAME REDACTED.@southandvale.gov.uk] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 5:54 PM **To:** localdir **Subject:** Re: Transparency - expenditure items over Â£500

NAME  
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

NAME REDACTED Shared  
Performance and Projects Manager

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

Visit us at: [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)  
and [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://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 Â£500, ahead of the January 2010 deadline, and your authorities are now listed on the CLG website -

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernment/transparent>  
We hope 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

NAME  
REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax:  
020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 13  
September 2010 14:19 **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Not in Today

OK - I admit I'm confused. What is being issued on 20th? The guidance document I was working on for 20th is what has now been published by the Panel I think? The Practitioners guide is the technical guide the LGA coalition were working on?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Monday, September 13,  
2010 11:55 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Not in Today

NAME  
REDACTED

£500 guidance is still being worked on for 20th. But see attached exchange.

H

<< Message: Re: Local Spending Data - A Practitioners Guide >> << Message: Re: Local  
Spending Data - A Practitioners Guide >> << Message: Local Spending Data - A  
Practitioners Guide >> << Message: Local Spending Data - A Practitioners Guide >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
September 13, 2010 10:56 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Not in Today

Hulya,

REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE

NAME  
REDACTED

PS I notice the guidance has been published. Wasn't sure - Is this a consultation version or the final version?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14 September 2010 10:56 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500

Hi Hulya,

I'd raised this issue with NAME REDACTED following Sheridan's comments to you. Below is NAME REDACTED's advice.

I agree with NAME REDACTED's and NAME REDACTED 's recommendation to continue to list data at regional level, particularly now that NAME REDACTED intends to rationalise the data.

Note that the list being maintained by NAME REDACTED on the Guardian datablog includes a column identifying which region the council is in:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/sep/10/local-councilspending-over-500-list>

Do you have any other thoughts on this? Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2010 4:13 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500

Hi,

I have spoken to NAME REDACTED and we both think it is best to continue to separate out the data at regional level. Although the RDA are no more the citizen relates to the region they live in mainly because television franchises are regional so it is an easy way to separate the data. This week NAME REDACTED intend to rationalise the data into regions as now too much information on one page.

Alphabetic raises problems, is it Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea or Kensington and Chelsea? Also it is poor practise to scroll through 350 plus councils. By tier is not appropriate because most people do not understand the difference between county, district and Unitary.

Let me know your thoughts on this.

Regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob:NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14 September 2010 12:20 **To:**  
NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Fire Authorities Spend Data

**Attachments:** council expenditure monitoring Sept 8 v1.xls Hi  
NAMES REDACTED,

Good to meet with you just now.

Please find attached the latest version of the spreadsheet being maintained by NAME REDACTED listing authorities who are publishing spend and other data. As discussed, you may adapt the spreadsheet to show all Fire Authorities publishing spend and/or other data - it would be helpful if you could stick to the format being used on the spreadsheet. You indicated that there were currently 2 Fire Authorities (out of 46) publishing spend data.

council enditure  
monitorin

I am copying this to NAME REDACTED , Comms, please liaise directly with NAME REDACTED regarding the possibility of creating a new page on the CLG website to list Fire Authorities publishing spend data. *[NAME REDACTED , I understand you are rationalising the local authority list, perhaps the Fire Authorities could now be included as part of this rationalisation?]*

Hope this is helpful. I'll contact data.gov.uk regarding any comments/queries which may have come in from/or about Fire Authorities and will get back to you. Let me know if you need any further advice from me in the meantime.

Kind regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

**NAME REDACTED**

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME_REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** 14 September 2010 10:41 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** David Fry; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: £500 guidelines

**Attachments:** LocalSpendingDataGuidance.odt  
REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Don't really see the issue here - especially as (a) the full text is published on the blog page; and (b) the word doc opens fine in OpenOffice.

Anyway, I have created (attached) an OpenOffice (ODT format) version, which should keep the purists happy.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2010 9:21 AM **To:** Steve Peters; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** £500 guidelines

Steve, NAME REDACTED, we've posted the £500 guidelines - and I'm being

roundly told off in all directions not least cos it being in word. Can we put it up in some other format??? I don't see the problem, but I'm told there is one, and I'm thinking you will know the solution.....

Thanks and sorry! H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 16  
September 2010 15:46 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500

Hey NAME  
REDACTED

I'll be amending the pages tomorrow so they are in regions.

If there are any news ones to add to the list do let me know.

Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
September 13, 2010 4:13 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500

Hi,

I have spoken to NAME REDACTED and we both think it is best to continue to separate out the data at regional level. Although the RDA are no more the citizen relates to the region they live in mainly because television franchises are regional so it is an easy way to separate the data. This week NAME REDACTED intend to rationalise the data into regions as now too much information on one page.

Alphabetic raises problems, is it Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea or Kensington and Chelsea? Also it is poor practise to scroll through 350 plus councils. By tier is not appropriate because most people do not understand the difference between county, district and Unitary.

Let me know your thoughts on this.

Regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER  
REDACTED

Mob:NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax:  
020 7944 8937



From: NAME REDACTED Sent: 16 September 2010 14:12 To: NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Cc: NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Fry; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Subject: Local council spending over £500: BIOLAP application free to public to allow them to analyse spend data

Hi all,

This site has just been drawn to my attention, was anyone aware?

<http://www.biolap.co.uk/index.php/councilexpenses.html>

BIOLAP have queried why we are including councils listed on Spotlight on Spend but not to the BIOLAP site.

NAME REDACTED /NAME REDACTED, grateful if you could check this application and data and let me know whether it is something we can make use from or promote or refer to the panel? Thanks.

I'm still inputting on the googledocs doc set up by NAME REDACTED and will check against the authorities on the BIOLAP site.

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

-----Original Message----- From: NAME REDACTED Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 5:46 PM To: Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Cc: NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Fry Subject: FW: Local council spending over £500: full list of who has published what so far | News | guardian.co.uk

Info - thanks to NAME REDACTED for bringing this to my attention...  
Some interesting comments at the end of the article.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/sep/10/local-council-spending-over500-list>

Assume that we're still happy to maintain our own list? - which is in the Googledocs spreadsheet that NAME REDACTED started

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 17 September 2010  
11:05 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure  
items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED, thanks for the heads-up.

Sorry, NAME REDACTED, could I pass this over to you please? I haven't got a contact at Sutton and Sutton's not currently listed on the spreadsheet so would need to be added.

I've done a quick search on their site <http://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1> but couldn't easily identify the appropriate link. Grateful if you could let me know whether they are publishing in pdf or any other format, when you find the link, many thanks.

Kind regards,

NAME REDACTED x4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September  
17, 2010 10:50 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
RE: Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

Just to let you know that CLG have retweeted that Sutton are publishing their £500 data. Sutton haven't told us about it - I don't know if you need to do anything about this - or have a contact to inform them that I'm going to put this up on our site.

Cheers

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
September 16, 2010 5:16 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over  
£500

Thank you.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:**  
16 September 2010 17:13

**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Sure, it'll be sometime tomorrow afternoon.

Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 16,  
2010 5:12 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Many thanks, NAME REDACTED.

NAME REDACTED , could you let me know once the CLG page has been updated please? Thanks.

Best regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 16  
September 2010 17:09 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Expenditure items over £500

Latest version of the spreadsheet.

NAME  
REDACTED  
<< File: council expenditure monitoring Sept 16 v2.xls >>

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED  
Mob:NUMBER  
REDACTED Fax:  
020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 17 September 2010 09:54 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: LA spend and other data

**Attachments:** CLG list of LAs publishing spend and other data 100917.xls  
Definitely good idea for CLG website but have a vague recollection that someone suggested wider announcement of the "100th LA" might not have too great an impact - so need to tie in with what innovative ideas are being generated through the data already in public domain - this is probably being considered as part of the wider comms/public awareness agenda?

CLG list of LAs publishing spe...

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 9:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: LA spend and other data

Numbers are rising steadily.

Perhaps we should do something - around comms - for the 100th LA!

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland House | 0303 44 4 NUMBER REDACTED

✉ Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 9:16 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: LA spend and other data

Latest update attached - all relevant LA details have been passed to Cabinet Office/data.gov.uk and CLG comms and those websites will soon be updated. I've also updated details for Trafford Council who are publishing in pdf not machine readable format as previously indicated.

<< File: CLG list of LAs publishing spend and other data 100917.xls >>  
Number of authorities publishing spend data (on this spreadsheet) is 60.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED

**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2010 2:20 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** LA spend and other data

Latest Transparency Division spreadsheet of Local Authority spend and other data colour-coded to show new addition - those in red have holding pages awaiting spend data but who are publishing other datasets of interest.

<< File: CLG list of LAs publishing spend and other data 100916.xls >>

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 09 December 2010 17:20 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell **Subject:** SRP meeting

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

We spoke about the risks of not all LAs publishing £500, and how we would need to hand over chivvying to local media and national media, as whilst we would have the Code, there was only so much action that the Department could take. We discussed that we would get a soft red rather than a hard red if not all LAs published £500.

I hope that all makes sense - I will draft a one pager for them over Christmas.

NAME REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 20 September 2010 14:29 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign update  
Hi both

Glad to see this get sorted out. Don't forget that our SRP also wants this job of listing councils to be done by a third party at some point so let's not make it look like we've set something permanent or exclusive up (ie openly local). Can you ask NAME REDACTED how he makes sure he has everything up to date?

H

(PS Have shortened the cc list back down again - just wanted people to know the general update)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2010 1:43 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Prout; Jane Toorovic; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign update

Hi NAME REDACTED ,

Thanks and no apologies necessary, there are always new and different perspective to take into account.

I agree it's would be a good idea to get together with e-Comms/Local Directgov teams to discuss the areas you've identified and I am particularly interested in your first bullet around what more could be done to gather data information from councils.

I have cc'd NAME REDACTED for her information. I'll send a calendar appointment to you, NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED in a short while, let me know if anyone else needs to be invited. Many thanks.

Kind regards,

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2010 12:34 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Prout; Jane Todorovic; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign update

Thanks NAME REDACTED And apologies. I realise that you can only work with the information you get from councils. I wonder if we can meet up with the e-comms/Directgov team to see whether there is any more that can be done on the following:

- To review the process for getting councils to notify CLG when they publish their data

online - there might be alternative channels we can use to remind councils to do this or to make them do it automatically.

- To ensure councils advise us whether they publish in 'open' format or not and clearly distinguish this on our site
- To slightly refresh the design and structure of our web content and to make it more of a "campaign site"- we need to see if there are any ways we can make it easier for users to access and navigate their way around.

I realise you may have considered much of this previously but no harm in us coming together to see if there is any more that can be done and any way my team can help.

What do you think?

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 4:46 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Prout; Jane Todorovic; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign update

Thanks, Hulya.

NAME REDACTED , thanks for your feedback. NAME REDACTED and I already liaise quite closely and share new information we both receive as soon as they become available and in turn NAME REDACTED has close contact with NAME REDACTED in Comms re updating the local authority spend list on CLG website. As far as I am aware apart from issuing a news items, the list of councils publishing spend data is not actually displayed on the Directgov site, NAME REDACTED was looking at ways to solve this issue, she may be able to advise further.

Hulya is right in that there is currently a difference between list on the CLG page and the one on data.gov.uk as data.gov.uk are not listing authorities publishing in pdfs.

The main route for councils notifying CLG that they are publishing spend data is by providing their spend data link to NAME REDACTED via the LocalDirectGov locator page. In addition, to that we receive information via various sources (recently, the Guardian datablog page) which NAME REDACTED and I share with each other.

It's likely that Redbridge is not listed because they have not provided NAME REDACTED with their link - which I have found and passing to NAME REDACTED for her to update her spreadsheet:

[[http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/the\\_council/about\\_the\\_council/our\\_finances\\_and\\_performance/payments\\_over\\_%C2%A3500.aspx](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/cms/the_council/about_the_council/our_finances_and_performance/payments_over_%C2%A3500.aspx)].



Hope this helps, but happy to discuss.

Regards, NAME REDACTED

X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 2:36 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED  
Peters; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; David Prout; Jane Todorovic  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign update

Hi NAME  
All looks great - thanks for taking the time to update in writing. Well done you and all.

**Launch** - remember, it's not a 'launch' as such or No 10 will have my guts for garters ;) Plus, we are supposed to publish our £500 guidance in September (according to SRP) so I thought we were going with 30th. Is this an issue, or a detail do you think? As the £500 guidance actually got published last week by kind of accident, I was thinking we would 'publish' it formally with some kind of announcement/ statement from SoS and LGA. LGA are quite keen - **are you drafting something for SoS and involving them, or should I?**

**Website content** - There was an issue with the pdf vs cvs format - ie data.gov.uk only logs councils when they publish in open format, whereas lots publish in pdf - this might be causing the slight confusion. Or there may simply be a delay. **NAME REDACTED - over to you.** Can you sort please and get back to NAME REDACTED with the solution.

**Media partners** - sounds great. Do offer up our Panel members if they want interviews from other perspectives - I'm sure they'd be happy to help.

**REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE**

**REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE**

Thanks again - call me if there's anything else we can do, but this looks really good.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 1:09 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** Transparency Campaign update

Hi Hulya Just a quick update on the campaign and in particular launch activity:

### **Launch**

We are going to the Redbridge Council 'YouChoose' tool launch on Wednesday to get some video testimonials from members of the public as part of our video package for our own armchair auditors launch the following week. The date for our own launch is still Friday 1st and it looks like we may have support from MJ who are keen to do some additional activity aimed at local authorities in support of our campaign. MJ publish on Thursday so they may run something the day before to kick start this. NAME REDACTED is leading on this and has had a couple of tricky discussions with Redbridge press office. One of us will probably contact Roger Hampson to make him aware of what we are planning. We are also trying to bring in LGA on our activity too.

### **Website content**

I have also spoken to Directgov about tightening up the process for updating the council transparency web page as I'm conscious that the site doesn't always seem up to date as there are some councils who have published spend data and are not included on the list. NAME REDACTED believes they have the latest list of councils on the site, but even Redbridge isn't included - which suggests it isn't completely up-to-date. I think your team get notified when councils publish online, can you ask them to pass this info to Directgov (NAME REDACTED) promptly and ensure that it is updated as quickly and regularly as possible leading in to the launch of the campaign.

### **Media partners**

As said, MJ seem keen and enthused to do work with us, pending a ministerial interview. We are doing what we can to secure this. They are happy to develop an identity for the campaign and run editorial on a weekly or basis. They wish to develop a good practice conference for local authorities in December and to promote a special award as part of their annual awards in the summer. There is a lot of potential to do a lot of stuff with them if we can get them a ministerial interview. I am meeting with Guardian later today to secure their support for engaging the public on the issue and possibly for getting them involved in doing stuff to reach the Hacks. I am also seeing whether there might be an opportunity to bring in regional/local media too. Local media is an excellent channel for reaching citizens engaged in local activism, therefore it would be great if we could get a big local/regional publisher such as Trinity Mirror or Northcliffe on board.

**REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE**

Regards NAME REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London,  
SW1E 5DU

t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 21 September 2010 19:09 **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED;  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Transparency script

**Attachments:** Launch script.doc

Hi there

Attached is a draft of the transparency script - still needs work, esp the quote, but it's the general idea. Plan would also be to have regional ones focussing more on the list (ie only 2 councils in Y&H)

Also not much in there about armchair auditors at the mo. The numbers will also likely change as the website is updated - though the maths here is wrong, it's close.

Have been trying to get hold of Ivan Collister at Cabinet Office for an update on where we are with the PM letter with no luck. Grateful if that could be chased while I'm out filming. Also have emailed Hulya after failing to catch her all day for an update on that.

Launch script.doc  
(29 KB)

**NAME REDACTED | Media and Campaigns | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 22 September 2010 13:42 **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** RE: PM transparency letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Think the idea was to give some recognition to the 60 that have put their £500+ online. Gives us a nice news line for Friday week too when we publish guidance.

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 1:40 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM transparency letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

It would be quite odd for the PM to write to councils, I would have thought?

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 1:35 PM **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** RE: PM transparency letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Ok, she is on case. SRP team will press Ivan Collister this avo. Do you have a view on whether its a joint PM/EP letter and whether its an open letter or sent to the actual councils. Assuming either way it gets made public.

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 12:05 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM transparency letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Best to ask Hulya

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 11:59 AM **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** RE: PM transparency letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Thanks, is he not also writing one to councils?

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 September 2010 13:49 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Draft transparency week outline for SoS note

**Attachments:** publicity code consultation.doc; Launch script.doc NAME REDACTED asked me to do summary note for forward look paper. Are you all happy with what I've done / fill in any gaps.

Handling subject to conversations with spads

### **Transparency**

Next week we have put in place a series of three transparency announcements ahead of your party conference. The centre piece of this is a pre-conference interview with Mail on Sunday arranged by spads. In the short term the announcements on publicity code, CLG data and councils £500 online letter and guidance, will provide substance for that interview and maintain CLG's trail blazing momentum on this issue.

In the longer term on transparency we have plans in place to... [NAME REDACTED to complete]

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

### **Friday 1 Oct**

SoS MJ interview published.

Part 3 transparency: Issue a press notice in your name announcing a call to arms for armchair auditors and highlighting that the PM has written to the 60 councils praising them for publishing their £500 online data. In addition the department will publish guidance to help councils put the spending and pay data online in accessible formats. This present a good opportunity to reinforce our transparency message and keep pressure up on councils to get their data up before

January's deadline. We will highlight the number of working days left. We have secured partner endorsement from Nigel Shadbolt and openlylocal and have filmed a digi video that highlights Redbridge's 'You Choose' tool which resident see how budget decision calculations can be done. You are due record a clip for this video on Wednesday.

Launch script.doc  
(47 KB)

**Sunday 3 October**

Mail on Sunday interview published.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 September 2010 11:05  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: [Questions] Over £500 spend - Local Councils

**Attachments:** FW: parish headcount  
NAME  
REDACTED

I know there are identification codes at ward level and from the attached list showing parish headcounts there could be identification codes for parishes.

I suggest you contact ONS for further information.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 10:37 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: [Questions] Over £500 spend - Local Councils

Hi NAME REDACTED, this is interesting. It might be worth checking with Hulya whether this is the case, i.e will parish councils

need to publish their spending over £500. Regarding

URI's I don't think that a list exists. NAME REDACTED -

who would be responsible for creating such a list?

Thanks NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 9:33 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: [Questions] Over £500 spend - Local Councils

Hi all,

Please see below, do you happen to know if unique identification codes/URIs exist for Parish Councils please? Many thanks.

Regards, NAME REDACTED

Transparency Division



**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 24 September 2010 14:33 **To:** Sheridan Westlake; Giles Kenningham; Michael Winders **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Friday - local transparency

We have it in the story, can draw it out more if you want but don't you want to save that for Sunday?

At the minute we lead with 60 council have published data, only 64 days left to get online for rest. PM written letter praising 60. New guidance to help council publish £500 and pay details online. Full guidance details in notes.

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 2:20 PM **To:** Giles Kenningham; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Michael Winders **Subject:** Friday - local transparency

I think the salaries guidance will make the more interesting story angle for Friday

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 2:17 PM **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** RE: Feedback on local transparency

V interesting thanks Sheridan.

On Friday we'll be highlighting £500 guidance (currently two versions - one Local Public Data Panel version, one LGA-produced version - I need to square this circle or work out presentation) and salaries guidance. We are waiting for OGC to finalise the govt guidance on contracts to pass to the Panel (and/or LGA) to work into something appropriate for councils. The govt guidance on tenders is already out, but we will wait until we have contracts and ask Panel/ LGA to do both at once.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 24 September 2010 13:34 **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Transparency week arrangements - actions

Hi Hulya,

Just a couple of points for clarification please:

- List of authorities already publishing? – would a link to the current list on the CLG webpage do – that is as up-to-date as we know and will be updated again next Wednesday.
- 
- Is it intended that the local spending guidance will be published on the CLG website for consultation?
  - Should the guidance include the Home Office's proposed amendments (were you content with their changes)?
  - Presume guidance being referred to is the CLG/Panel guidance which is currently on the data.gov.uk blog?
  - Do we need to ask for an updated version from NAME REDACTED (taking into account blog comments?)
  - if not, do we have to inform him that we are going out to consultation and let him have sight of the document beforehand?
- Which links to data.gov.uk do you mean? May not be automatic, may need to be arranged with Cabinet Office.

We could discuss this at our catch-up on Monday – only urgent issue may be getting input from NAME REDACTED . Thank you.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 23 September 2010 16:11 **To:** NAMES REDACTED **Cc:** NAMES REDACTED; **Subject:** Transparency week arrangements - actions

All

I just thought it would be useful to have in one place outstanding actions to get us from today to publication of corporate spend (Thurs) and the LA press release (Fri). Please shout quickly if I've got anything wrong or missed anything or allocated it to the wrong person. I don't think this is the first time any of you are hearing about these tasks.....

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Converting corrected data from excel into csv - **NAME REDACTED / NAME REDACTED**  
Preparing space on the transparency webpage for 4 excel documents (16MB) and 4 csv documents (?MB) - **Christopher Colley (E comms) with Hulya Mustafa** Preparing explanatory text for the webpage data sets - **Hulya with Christopher** (need guidance on how best to incorporate caveats etc into the main page) Ensuring link to Data.gov.uk - **NAME REDACTED (Transparency)**, with **NAME REDACTED (CO)** Drafting internal message from **NAME REDACTED** Rossington to staff for Monday/ Tuesday based on paras 13 and 14 of note to DGs - **NAME REDACTED**

**Friday - press notice on council transparency**

(Plan is for press notice, supportive statements, highlighting Redbridge exercise, letter from PM to councils, list of councils already publishing, and links to £500 and salaries guidance.)

Press notice - **NAME REDACTED** (press); **Hulya** providing notes to editors Chasing No 10 letter - **NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED** (press) liaising with Ivan Collister in No 10 Considering drafting of No 10 Letter - **Hulya** Video/ supportive statements - **NAME REDACTED** (publicity) Supportive statements from LGA ?? -**NAME REDACTED to advise who should do this** Prepare space on website for press release/ video/ list of councils (?transparency page?) – **NAME REDACTED** to advise what to post and where best to post it Ensuring anything posted is not word/ pdf – **NAME REDACTED with NAME REDACTED (GSE)** List of councils already publishing - **NAME REDACTED** (Transparency) Making sure we've got the right link to guidances - **NAME REDACTED/ (LGF)** Link to Data.gov.uk - **NAME REDACTED** [should be automatic?]

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Anything else I've missed??

Hulya

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 27 September 2010 10:17  
**To:** Jane Houghton  
**Subject:** FW: Transparency week comms

**Attachments:** transparency campaign.doc; publicity code consultation.doc;  
Transparency.doc; Launch script.doc

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 4:24  
PM **To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Sheridan Westlake; Michael Winders;  
NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency  
week comms

[Hi - slightly updated version of the script on council £500 on-line for Friday.](#)

transparency  
campaign.doc (38 ...

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28 September 2010 16:58 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Local Spend Guidance

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED has checked and no comments were received, from FRAs, on the initial guidance referred to in the Ministers letter to FRAs. As discussed, I will forward to you, on Friday, the link to draft guidance so that it can be circulated to FRAs for comment. Thanks NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED

✂ Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 4:45 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Local Spend Guidance

NAME  
REDACTED

Yes the guidance is fine. Was it published on 20/09? If not on p.1 para 4 a reference to fire after police would be helpful. Have you had a chance to collate the consultation comments from FRAs? Thanks NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 5:07 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** Local Spend Guidance

NAME REDACTED /NAME REDACTED , We spoke about the guidance our last meeting. Can you confirm that you're happy for fire authorities to adopt the local spend guidance that has been developed by CLG and the Local Public Data Panel. A link to the draft guidance will be sent to you, shortly, to circulate amongst fire authorities for comments. Thanks

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4  
Eland House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED

**📄 Please don't print this email unless you really need to.**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28 September 2010 10:39 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

Hi NAME REDACTED,

The current process involves local authorities submitting links to their spend data page to NAME REDACTED. NAME REDACTED maintains a spreadsheet of this information which she passes on to NAME REDACTED to update the CLG webpage.

In hindsight, it would make better sense for NAME REDACTED's spreadsheet/database to be revised to include the additional details you need for the map. I'll discuss this with her.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 10:26 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

A traffic light system is a great idea - it reinforces our messages around publishing in accessible formats in a really simple way. And it should be pretty easy to deliver, if I recall the pin colour is very easy to adjust

Out of interest is there a plan in place on how the main list is kept up to date? This map will have to be kept updated alongside it.

Copying in my colleague NAME REDACTED on our digital newsroom for info.

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.*

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 10:14 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency announcements

NAME REDACTED

This looks like a good idea to me - you are already working on an up-to-date list for Friday's announcement. Could you add a postcode column to this and an address column - sorry quite a bit of work to get 60 odd council addresses but I think the map is a good idea.

I thought the map should be inclusive - showing all councils that are publishing at all (ie in pdf) with one colour flag, and those who are publishing in open format (eg excel) in a different colour and then machine readable in a third colour. So can you make that another column in your table.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday,  
September 27, 2010 16:47 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** Transparency announcements

Hi Hulya

It's drawing near now and we're putting the final things in place.  
Among all the media stuff we're hoping to make a map of all the councils who've  
published so far. I know NAME REDACTED was discussing with you about how to  
make sure we have the right ones up there

What we're looking to create is something like this:  
[http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=53.580365276935034--  
0.07755003869533539&lvl=6&sty=h&cid=976091EF58DEF9E9!2015](http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=53.580365276935034--0.07755003869533539&lvl=6&sty=h&cid=976091EF58DEF9E9!2015)

The info we'll need to do it will be:

- An agreed form of words to standardise each entry, eg "as part of the government's challenge to councils to open their data X council has put all details of their spending over £500 online. "
- Council offices location/ postcode
- Link to the data online -
- Link to their council webpage We have some of that on the current site, but I'm not sure if that's the definitive list?

**NAME REDACTED | Media and Campaigns | Communities and Local Government |  
0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28 September 2010 11:02 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

The expectation is that authorities would publish their spend data on their own website but data on Spotlight on Spend is open and machine readable so good on the open-ness front.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 10:55 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

Re the spotlight on spend website - where does that stand on the open-ness front? Is it good, bad or indifferent?

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 10:32 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

Copying to NAME REDACTED for info.  
NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 10:30 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency announcements

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

I can provide you with a table of all the authorities we are aware of who are publishing spend data to include the following details:

- Council offices location/ postcode (do you need addresses and postcodes in separate columns/)
- Link to the data online -
- Link to their council webpage
- What format they are publishing spend data in
- Some authorities are publishing spend data on Spotlight on Spend (not their own website) - I will identify these.

What is your deadline to receive this information and how will this work with the list which appears on the CLG internet page which NAME REDACTED looks after?

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010  
10:14 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Transparency announcements

NAME  
REDACTED

This looks like a good idea to me - you are already working on an up-to-date list for Friday's announcement. Could you add a postcode column to this and an address column - sorry quite a bit of work to get 60 odd council addresses but I think the map is a good idea.

I thought the map should be inclusive - showing all councils that are publishing at all (ie in pdf) with one colour flag, and those who are publishing in open format (eg excel) in a different colour and then machine readable in a third colour. So can you make that another column in your table.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28,  
2010 9:47 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** Transparency  
announcements

Hi Hulya

It's drawing near now and we're putting the final things in place.

Among all the media stuff we're hoping to make a map of all the councils who've published so far. I know NAME REDACTED was discussing with you about how to make sure we have the right ones up there

What we're looking to create is something like this:  
<http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=53.580365276935034~-0.07755003869533539&lvl=6&sty=h&cid=976091EF58DEF9E9!2015>

The info we'll need to do it will be:

- An agreed form of words to standardise each entry, eg "as part of the government's challenge to councils to open their data X council has put all details of their spending over £500 online. "
- Council offices location/ postcode
- Link to the data online -
- Link to their council webpage

We have some of that on the current site, but I'm not sure if that's the definitive list?

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Communities and Local  
Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 29 September 2010 10:22  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- new format

**Importance:** High

Many thanks for this NAME REDACTED.

I spoke to NAME REDACTED this morning and she said you would be providing her with information regarding when authorities first published their spend data, will you be inserting that as another new column?

When might you be sending the latest spreadsheet round - NAME REDACTED said she needed the final version to include the formats later today. Could we have a quick chat about the flags/colour coding to be used for the forNAME REDACTED ing - I was wondering whether we should have dual colour for those publishing both CSVs and PDFs? What do you think?

Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010  
5:02 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over  
£500- new format

Dear All,

Here is the new format for the spreadsheet. It is not this weeks data, I update that on a Wednesday (tomorrow). I have included a holding page column for NAME REDACTED to complete as I include all LAs that have posted a holding page on their websites and updated LDGAdmin; NAME REDACTED checks the holding pages every week to see whether the actual data has been published. The data format field are for NAME REDACTED to complete.

I suggest I produce the file every week, NAME REDACTED updates with her information and then NAME REDACTED takes the completed data and publishes to the CLG site. NAME REDACTED updates with any additional information she has and passes back to me as the basis of the following weeks report.

regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED  
Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED**  
Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 29 September 2010 17:52 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Haven't managed to confirm this with MJ yet. Will let you know when I do.

Thanks  
H

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.*

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 5:50 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

PS We arrive at the 70 because there are 3 who only have holding pages right now but we have mapped them in anticipation, and the MJ says they know of another 3 who are planning to publish (NAME REDACTED - can you talk to NAME REDACTED/ NAME REDACTED to check these aren't the same three!!)

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 5:33 PM **To:** Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Dear all,

Please find attached contacts for current list of LAs publishing spend data (64), which will be updated should additional links be provided by Friday.

Hope this is helpful.

Kind regards,

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government

3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED NAME  
[REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:33 PM  
**To:** Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Sheridan

Hulya has said that there are now 70 (up from 60) LAs. Hulya's team can provide you with the list.

Thanks

SB

Selvin Brown MBE Programme Team Communities and Local Government ☺  
[selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ☺ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU ☺  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:31 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; Selvin Brown **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

If someone could send me the list of councils, I can do the party control analysis

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:57 PM  
**To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; Sheridan Westlake; Selvin Brown **Subject:** FW: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Giles can you ok?

Hulya: we'll need to cc NAME REDACTED in when we send it to no10, also do we know how the list breaks down politically. Will it look one sided or balanced?

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 11:55 AM **To:** Sheridan Westlake; Selvin Brown **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Andrea Lee; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

So...

Greater transparency across Government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account. Greater transparency will also help reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending; and to realise significant economic benefits by enabling businesses and non-profit organisations to build innovative applications and websites using public data. As part of that we have asked local government to publish all spending over £500 on a council-by-council basis from January 2011.

Today I would like to congratulate you for being one of the first [sixty] councils to have put their data up online.

And going forward, I am looking to you to continue to forge ahead in freeing up more of your local data, and in putting information online in open formats using an open license to maximise its usefulness to your residents and to those people who want to use the data in

innovative ways to help inform debate and decision-making.

This is a challenge and an opportunity for us all.

Sheridan - if you're content, I'll send to NAME REDACTED. Selvin - SoS is not planning to write to all noncompliant councils at this stage so nothing for the SoS box.

H

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 11:35 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Selvin Brown; Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Andrea Lee; Andrew Campbell **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

Fine by me

small comments -first sentence is a very long one; we should add that spending information is just the first step in freeing up local data and putting more information online

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 10:31 AM **To:** Selvin Brown; Hulya Mustafa; Sheridan Westlake **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Andrea Lee; Andrew Campbell **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

A short letter is fine.

Greater transparency across Government is at the heart of our shared commitment to enable the public to hold politicians and



public bodies to account; to reduce the deficit and deliver better value for money in public spending; and to realise significant economic benefits by enabling businesses and nonprofit organisations to build innovative applications and websites using public data. As part of that we have asked local government to publish all spending over £500 on a council-by-council basis from January 2011.

Today I would like to congratulate you for being one of the first [sixty] councils to have put their data up online....

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 10:22 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Sheridan Westlake **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Andrea Lee; Andrew Campbell **Subject:** FW: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record] **Importance:** High

Hulya/NAME  
REDACTED

pls see below. No.10 would like to do the letter for the compliant LAs - in which you had suggested we put a line about how important this is - in order to use that quote for

the SofS letter to non-compliant LAs (I think you were aiming for Friday for that letter, which I assume means getting it into SofS box for tomorrow). Could you pls draft the letter - clear it with Sheridan, and send it to NAME REDACTED Style (copied to me - so i can ensure that Ivan is aware and it gets into the PM's box). I think that means getting them the letter just after lunchtime today.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

SB

Selvin Brown MBE  
Programme Team  
Communities and Local  
Government

[selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ☎ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden  
Place, London SW1E 5DU

☎  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** 29 September 2010  
16:11 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Council spend data -  
map

**Attachments:** Council spend data - map; Picture (Metafile)

Hi NAME

REDACTED

Here's the e-mail I sent to Hulya, with example map.

Council spend data  
-map

I have some thoughts on e-comms proposal, some of which come down to personal preference, but others are quite important in setting the right example - e.g. I would prefer a map which draws directly on data that is held and easily available in an open format, which is why Google is better than Microsoft in my opinion (and why I'd start with NAME REDACTED's Google docs spreadsheet).

Given time constraints, I guess we should finish what has been started, then look to improve over time?

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
Analytical Services Directorate



**0303 444 42333**

NUMBER REDACTED

[Steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:59 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED King  
**Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Hi NAME REDACTED ,

PSA e-mail exchanges on this. Could you send your link to me as well please. Thanks.

<< Message: RE: Transparency announcements >> << Message: RE: Transparency announcements >>

NAME  
REDAC  
TED  
X4NUM

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:52 PM **To:**  
NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Fry; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
**Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Thanks NAME REDACTED - I actually think NAME REDACTED is planning something like this for Friday - NAME REDACTED can tell you about it

H

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; David Fry; Alistair Edwardes; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Council spend data - map

Hulya and friends

With the spend data initiative gathering pace, I thought it would be good to map which districts and counties are now publishing data, with associated formats. PI see first version encl.

<< File: LA\_spend\_500.png >>

It is based on your spreadsheet list of 16 Sept, and so probably isn't reflecting the latest position - although I can correct that pretty quickly.

Would be good to develop this in to an on-line, interactive version - e.g. to show change over time, or maps of progress with other types of information (a sort of transparometer!). I guess we need to do it anyway to show we're operating in the spirit of open, transparent data.

It shouldn't take too long to build on-line maps based on Chris's Google docs spreadsheet, although that will need to be extended if you'd like to cover other types of data.

Steve Peters

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
**Analytical Services Directorate**  
<< OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

0303 444 4333

NUMBER REDACTED

[steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 29 September 2010 17:33 **To:** Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: PM letter [UNCLASSIFIED] [Non-Record]

**Attachments:** 10-09-29 LA Clist for PM letter 101001 .xls  
[Dear all,](#)

[Please find attached contacts for current list of LAs publishing spend data \(64\), which will be updated should additional links be provided by Friday.](#)

[Hope this is helpful.](#)

[Kind regards,](#)

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 29 September 2010 14:30 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

OK, NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED and I will try to sort out now.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:26 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; eCommunications  
**Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

I'm not bothered about any lists we keep, as long as it's easy to de-regionalise them when I send them up to Ministers periodically. It's just the website.

I don't suppose we could do away with the list altogether and just have the links built into the map flags?

Can I leave it to you three to work out a solution now, thanks?

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:21 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

If Comms are plotting on a map probably easier for them if I keep the information regionally but it depends whether you need to remove all reference to region in the master spreadsheet.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:17 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing  
**Importance:** High

Hi NAME  
REDACTED ,  
I'd copied earlier e-mail to you, please see Sheridan Westlake's advice below. Is it possible to change the website by Friday? And NAME REDACTED, would you need to amend your database/spreadsheet also in line with this?

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 29 September 2010 15:36 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Hi,

I suppose the final response is best coming from NAME REDACTED , once she has decided how the list will appear on the CLG webpage?

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:10 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

There are difficulties about the alphabetic data . I think I can compose the data in a friendly way by basing it on the LAid and then slotting in the recently created Authorities. I will ensure my spreadsheet is in this order and I will give NAME REDACTED a reference copy of all Las so she can use the friendly customer facing listing ( e.g. Borough of Poole will come under P and Kensington and Chelsea will come under K )

Does this sound reasonable?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:58 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Hi, sorry for the delay, revised table attached and now show format of published docs. I couldn't open a few links I have highlighted those and also highlighted differently those councils with holding pages - please change as you see fit.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring Sept 29 v1.xls >> For you to now add Cambridge and North Herts and any other relevant details.

Let me know if you need anything else from me and I look forward to receiving the next version, please also copy to NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED. Thanks.

Do we need to have a chat about how the list will be displayed on CLG website? NAME REDACTED ?  
Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

2 new Las this week: Cambridge and North Herts.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:35 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Thanks, maybe we can just amend your spreadsheet to make sure that the listed council names tie in with your list.

I'm still working on your spreadsheet - I keep getting sidetracked with queries, sorry!

I'll send to you soon.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:31 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Telford and Wrekin does not belong to any one county. I have the list of how councils like to be known.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

OK, I'll check with LGF but should we use whatever 'title' is being used on council websites?

Would listing under Counties be a viable option?

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:24 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing



Really sorry, but it's not really actually a question, NAME REDACTED - Sheridan is sticking to his guns....!

So how can we help? Maybe NAME REDACTED can order the councils in alphabetical order so you can't just transpose onto a single webpage. NAME REDACTED - LGF should have a list of councils' 'real' names I think.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:17 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing  
**Importance:** High

Hi NAME REDACTED ,

I'd copied earlier e-mail to you, please see Sheridan Westlake's advice below. Is it possible to change the website by Friday? And NAME REDACTED, would you need to amend your database/spreadsheet also in line with this?

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Hi Hulya - no - we really, really dislike listing councils by government office region

"South East England" is not a real place

We are looking to abolish the RDAs, the GORs and the Regional Assemblies - there's a reason why

Can we change the website

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 1:48 PM  
**To:** Sheridan Westlake **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Hi Sheridan

You raised an issue a few weeks back about how we were listing councils who were publishing the £500 by geographical region, and suggested we do it alphabetically. We now do this wherever possible. However the website still

lists them by region:

[http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparenc  
y/localgovernmentexpenditure/](http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparenc<br/>y/localgovernmentexpenditure/)

To list them all on the same page would be too cumbersome now numbers are higher, and to split them by upper/ lower tier would be meaningless to the public. I can assure you this has nothing to do with Govt Offices of the Regions - people are aware of region in geographical terms rather than political ones (TV franchises) and the Guardian also uses a regional split

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/sep/10/local-council-spending-over-500-list> Data.gov.uk does not list them in any particular order -

[http://data.gov.uk/search/facet/field\\_publisher%3A1/count/co  
ntent\\_type%3Ackan\\_package%20taxonomy%3A4574](http://data.gov.uk/search/facet/field_publisher%3A1/count/co<br/>ntent_type%3Ackan_package%20taxonomy%3A4574) - but is not easily navigable.

We are only going to be maintaining this list until January - after which it will be for third parties to track them. In terms of usability/ searchability from a public point of view, the regional split seems serviceable and is not linked to the Govt Offices. Are you okay with that? We'll continue to think of other options, but have not been able to as yet, and clearly we need something workable for Friday.

Grateful for your views.

H

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** 29 September 2010 16:18 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend

That great! No.10 will be pleased

Selvin Brown MBE Programme Team  
Communities and Local Government

☞ [selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ☞ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU ☞  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:15 PM  
**To:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend

Greatm, thanks

PS I heard earlier it could be 70 ;)

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend

Both,

Ivan is on the case (they got the email) - they are getting a letter signed from the PM to 'dear leader' - and expect that we will send it out to the 60. he will come back to us - I am speaking to him first thing in morning.

Thanks

SB

Selvin Brown MBE Programme Team  
Communities and Local Government

☞ [selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ☞ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU ☞  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:12 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Selvin Brown **Subject:** RE: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend

And can someone double check NAME REDACTED got the email - I had to guess his address

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:11 PM  
**To:** Selvin Brown  
**Cc:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** FW: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend  
**Importance:** High

Hi Selvin,

We spoke. Look forward to receiving your advice on this once Ivan has been in touch. Many thanks.

Regards,

*NAME*

*REDACTED*

NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 29 September 2010 10:22  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- new format

**Importance:** High

Many thanks for this NAME REDACTED.

I spoke to NAME REDACTED this morning and she said you would be providing her with information regarding when authorities first published their spend data, will you be inserting that as another new column?

When might you be sending the latest spreadsheet round - NAME REDACTED said she needed the final version to include the formats later today. Could we have a quick chat about the flags/colour coding to be used for the forNAME REDACTED ing - I was wondering whether we should have dual colour for those publishing both CSVs and PDFs? What do you think?

Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 5:02 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500- new format

Dear All,

Here is the new format for the spreadsheet. It is not this weeks data, I update that on a Wednesday (tomorrow). I have included a holding page column for NAME REDACTED to complete as I include all LAs that have posted a holding page on their websites and updated LDGAdmin; NAME REDACTED checks the holding pages every week to see whether the actual data has been published. The data format field are for NAME REDACTED to complete.

I suggest I produce the file every week, NAME REDACTED updates with her information and then NAME REDACTED takes the completed data and publishes to the CLG site. NAME REDACTED updates with any additional information she has and passes back to me as the basis of the following weeks report.

regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED  
Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED**  
Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 29 September 2010 17:52 **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: Friday script

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:**  
Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:09 PM **To:**  
NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE:  
Friday script

Think spads are highlighting pay separately so not overdoing it in this. But have strengthened this line a little - will add in the threshold if you remind me.

"As part of meeting this target Mr Pickles has welcomed new advice documents detailing best practice for putting council spending and full senior salary information over xxx online. They stress the importance of making the data is clear comprehensible, machine readable and that local people are aware of its availability. "

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29,  
2010 1:59 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Hulya  
Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Friday script

NAME REDACTED,

Is this the press notice for both the £500 spend and the salary info? If so, it seems very heavily weighed towards the £500 spend guidance. Do we think there should be some lines on the salary guidance in the main body of the text?

NAME REDACTED NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:**  
Wednesday, September 29, 2010 1:15 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Friday script

Thanks Ok. We can say with on 64 working days till new year. The point is covered in second para. Don't think we can make sos talk

about pdfs directly, but have made that point more explicit in the body of press notice. Redrafts in below attachment.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010  
12:28 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Friday script

NAME

REDACTED  
Some small changes:

<< File: 10-09-29 Launch script.doc >>

Firstly we can't say by end of the year, esp if you're going to count days - we've only said so far 'by January' and left it open whetehr we mean 1st or 31st. We'll be more successful if we mean 31st...!

I've added a line about open formats into SoS quote - I'm slightly worried that PM is praising all 60 councils, but only a third of them are actually publishign in open format and I don't want SoS's message to get diluted, so worth saying (even though it is repeated a couple of paras later). I know this isn't strictly factual, but I think Sheridan would agree the emphasis.

Have added an editors note on the guidance on £500 - but am still in negotiations with LGA/Panel about who is 'publishing' so I may have to come back and change that.

NAME REDACTED for  
info.  
H

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:**  
Tuesday, September 28, 2010 4:47 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** Friday script

Sorry for not sending earlier. << File:  
Launch script.doc >>



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 29 September 2010 14:06  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest Local Authorities Leader list

Hi NAME REDACTED,

Very helpful, thank you. I'll speak to NAME REDACTED first but may contact NAME REDACTED as well. I'm not sure what time the letter will be issued on Friday so I'll probably use the current list and re-direct any that bounces back.

Thanks again.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 1:49 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest Local Authorities Leader list

<< File: 100831-List ofall LA Chief Execs Master.xls >> HI  
NAME REDACTED

I am very well thanks, and having a great day working from home. Hope that you are well too! Please find attached the latest updated version that I have of the LA list. Please note that I have asked my GO contacts to check/update so things may change by the end of the week. So, please let me know if you want me to send you a further updated version on Friday.

Regarding, mail merges I have never done one - sorry. But you might contact NAME REDACTED in Correspondence as they do a lot of this kind of stuff, so he might already have a system ready for you to use or even be happy to talk to you about how it is done. The reason I say this is that he normally send me emails when there are any bounce backs.

Hope that helps

NAME REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED Communities & Local  
Government Local Performance and Delivery  
Programme Office Eland House 3/H3 Bressenden  
Place London SW1E 5DU 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday,  
September 29, 2010 1:05 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Latest Local Authorities Leader list

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Hope you are well and having a good day. Could you send me your latest local authorities spreadsheet listing current leaders/chief executives please?

Also, have you ever done a mailmerge? On Friday, we need to send a letter (being issued by the Prime Minister) to all the local authorities who are currently publishing their spend data online (around 70 so far). I hope to identify the right contacts from your spreadsheet. Many thanks.

Regards,

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 30 September 2010 15:13 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Revised spreadsheet

Thank you. Looks ok to me and link works fine.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2010 3:05 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Revised spreadsheet

Se attached revised spreadsheet containing GLA under London region. NAME REDACTED, Check the details against what information you have.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring Sept 29 v4.xls >>

Regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED** Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:**

30 September 2010 18:50 **To:**

NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:

Revised spreadsheet

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Thanks, I'll also be working from home tomorrow - as I am now after a long day in the office - but hopefully we'll be able to keep in touch - via email or tel.

I don't know who would be able to provide the line on CSV vs XLS. This this will be covered in the local spending guidance but I'll run it past someone in ASD and see what they say.

Have a nice evening - will have to go and do dinner for family now!

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
September 30, 2010 6:46 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Re: Revised spreadsheet

NAME REDACTED, Working from home tomorrow so use my mob and email to contact me. I will update bristol tomorrow. What. Would be useful is the official line on csv versus xls. The 2 councils that publish in xls also tell the viewer that it is easy to convert from on to the other (which it is) but that's not the point. I will contact broken link council and tell them they will be removed from the list next week if not mended- what do you think? NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya  
Mustafa **Sent:** Thu Sep 30 18:38:23 2010 **Subject:** FW:  
Revised spreadsheet

Hi all,

I've just been informed of another council publishing spend data, Bristol - this is the link straight to the data: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/968/500/2010/08/> I've asked if they have a landing page but NAME REDACTED, you may be able to use your other contacts to get this info and update your table? Thanks.

I'm going to check my other sources to see if others know of any other authorities we may have missed. NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 30 September 2010 16:07  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Council spend data - map

**Attachments:** RE: Council spend data - map; Picture (Metafile)

Cool graphic

NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2010 3:14 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Council spend data - map

Hi NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,

Please see below and attached. Steve Peters works in ASD, GSE (Geographical and Statistical Evidence). He has also begun exploring ways of making data available on a map and he is particularly interested in making data available in an open machine readable format.

RE: Council spend  
data - map

You may wish to discuss this further with NAME REDACTED .  
Regards,

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 8:48 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Fry; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Thanks. NAME REDACTED has sent me on some info about e-comms plans.

I think that the pin-point style maps are OK - and we should go for it.

But I also think its worth experimenting with a more visually appealing (and open-data compliant) alternative. So I've built one using the fantastic (and free) geocommons service - see the map here, which doesn't work too well on my Link PC (grrrr!!!!)

<http://geocommons.com/maps/26550>

Nice part about this solution is: (a) its pulling data directly from a Google spreadsheet - so if we use that to keep a running record of Council progress, the map will update automatically; (b) Geocommons allows users to download data in CSV, JSON and other open formats.

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
Analytical Services Directorate



**0303 444 4333**

NUMBER REDACTED

[NAME REDACTED](#)

[steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Steve Peters; David Fry; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Thanks Steve - I actually think NAME REDACTED is planning something like this for Friday - NAME REDACTED can tell you about it

H

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:46 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; David Fry; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** Council spend data - map

Hulya and friends

With the spend data initiative gathering pace, I thought it would be good to map which districts and counties are now publishing data, with associated formats. PI see first version encl.

<< File: LA\_spend\_500.png >>

It is based on your spreadsheet list of 16 Sept, and so probably isn't reflecting the latest position - although I can correct that pretty quickly.

Would be good to develop this in to an on-line, interactive version - e.g. to show change over time, or maps of progress with other types of information (a sort of transparometer!). I guess we need to do it anyway to show we're operating in the spirit of open, transparent data.

It shouldn't take too long to build on-line maps based on NAME REDACTED's Google docs spreadsheet, although that will need to be extended if you'd like to cover other types of data.

Steve Peters

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
**Analytical Services Directorate**  
<< OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

**0303 444 4333**  
NUMBER REDACTED  
[steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 30 September 2010 09:21 **To:** Steve Peters ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Fry; Alistair Edwardes; NAME REDACTED; 'Adrian' **Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Steve

Thanks - I can't see this version I don't think, but I liked the other pdf you sent me (in case it's similar). Only problem is that what happens where a county AND a district within it is publishing (whether same or different formats). I'll leave you with that problem ;)

H

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 8:48 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED King; NAME REDACTED Fry; Alistair Edwardes; NAME REDACTED; 'Adrian' **Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map

Thanks. NAME REDACTED has sent me on some info about e-comms plans.

I think that the pin-point style maps are OK - and we should go for it.

But I also think its worth experimenting with a more visually appealing (and open-data compliant) alternative. So I've built one using the fantastic (and free) geocommons service - see the map here, which doesn't work too well on my Link PC (grrrr!!!!)

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Nice part about this solution is: (a) its pulling data directly from a Google spreadsheet - so if we use that to keep a running record of Council progress, the map will update automatically; (b) Geocommons allows users to download data in CSV, JSON and other open formats.

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
**Analytical Services Directorate**  
<< OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

**0303 444 4333**  
NUMBER REDACTED  
[steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Fry; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** RE: Council spend data - map



Thanks NAME REDACTED - I actually think NAME REDACTED is planning something like this for Friday - NAME REDACTED can tell you about it

H

**From:** Steve Peters **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; David Fry; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** Council spend data - map

Hulya and friends

With the spend data initiative gathering pace, I thought it would be good to map which districts and counties are now publishing data, with associated formats. PI see first version encl.

<< File: LA\_spend\_500.png >>

It is based on your spreadsheet list of 16 Sept, and so probably isn't reflecting the latest position - although I can correct that pretty quickly.

Would be good to develop this in to an on-line, interactive version - e.g. to show change over time, or maps of progress with other types of information (a sort of transparometer!). I guess we need to do it anyway to show we're operating in the spirit of open, transparent data.

It shouldn't take too long to build on-line maps based on NAME REDACTED's Google docs spreadsheet, although that will need to be extended if you'd like to cover other types of data.

Steve Peters

**Steve Peters** | Assistant Deputy Director  
Geographic and Statistical Evidence (GSE) Division  
**Analytical Services Directorate**  
<< OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

**0303 444 4333**  
NUMBER REDACTED  
[steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.peters@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Zone 4/J5 | Eland House | Bressenden Place | London SW1E 5DU

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01  
October 2010 16:31 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: expenditure

Hi,

I've just e-mailed you - could you show me your e-mail for the non-compliant - could I adapt for the e-mail to chief execs?

Thanks.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October  
2010 16:29 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** expenditure

Two email have been sent out by me to compliants and to non compliants as there are slightly different messages. Additionally I have placed a link to the news release on our CoP.

Camden just missed the deadline (Ironic as NAME REDACTED and I are both Camden employees).  
Have a good weekend  
regards NAME  
REDACTED

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED Mob:  
**NUMBER**  
**REDACTED** Fax:  
020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 15:20 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Announcement on transparency due shortly

FYI - I am sending out email this afternoon to compliants and possibly others on Monday, maybe today. Will also need to update CoP.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 11:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Announcement on transparency due shortly

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED We are releasing the story on spending data (still havent received PM's letter, but will amend when it comes). In the meantime I assume you (NAME REDACTED) have a list of email addresses for Chief Execs of each authority and you (NAME REDACTED) are able to contact web/IT leads at each authority. Would you be able to send a message to your contacts steering them to the content on our newsroom site at [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) for the latest on our transparency story. I've attached the story for information NAME REDACTED

## **MORE THAN SIXTY COUNCILS OPEN BOOKS TO ARMCHAIR AUDITORS**

Local authorities that don't put their spending detail online are denying the public the right to hold their council to account, Secretary of State for Local Government Eric Pickles said today.

Councils are expected to publish details of all spending over £500 in full online by January. With just 64 working days till the start of the New Year the clock is ticking for councils to open their files so the public can see where their money is being spent.

As part of meeting the transparency target Mr Pickles has welcomed new guidance from the Local Government Association detailing best practice for putting council spending and senior salary information online. They stress the importance of ensuring that the data is clear, comprehensible, machine readable, licensed to encourage reuse and so local people know it's available.

Mr Pickles' own department continues to lead the way. This week it published all its spending data online for 2008-09 and for the first quarter of 2010-11.

Mr Pickles said:

"I've called for a new era of transparency where all councils publish their spending over £500 online. I commend those councils that have been

brave enough to face public scrutiny so far. There are now only sixty or so working days for those lagging behind to catch up.

“This isn’t another central government box-ticking exercise. The public have a right to see how their council tax is being spent so they know they are getting value for money and the best possible frontline services.

“I want to see an army of ‘Armchair Auditors’ pore over the information and hold their council to account if things are not done right. That means the data also has to be easily accessible: today advice has been published that will help councils yet to comply. There are hundreds of computer whizzes who’ll find creative new ways to make that raw data relevant to local life.”

Central Government resources to assist citizens wanting to access national and local data for free re-use include the website [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk). The CLG datasets published this week are available on this website. Other websites like [OpenlyLocal](http://OpenlyLocal.com) are also making it easier to access data and to interrogate or compare the published information.

Some councils have also found innovative ways of using their spending data. For example, Redbridge Council has created a truly innovative budgeting tool called ‘You Choose’ which lets the public try to balance the council’s budget themselves. This gives them a say on where every public penny goes in their area. It has been so successful that the Local Government Association has decided to sponsor it and make it available to all councils.

Professor Nigel Shadbolt of Southampton University, a member of the Public Sector Transparency Board said:

"The publication of all spends by Local Authorities over £500 is hugely important. Authorities spend millions and millions of pounds in our name, so why shouldn't we know how that money is spent?"

"It will be useful in a whole range of ways. We are going to be able to see what the pattern of spend is, what particular contractors are used and whether it represents value for money. Once it's published councils can have a discourse with the citizen to find out how they want their money to be spent and where they would want to save. This is another important step in the drive for open data and transparency at all levels and across all of Government."

Chris Taggart , creator of [openlylocal.com](http://openlylocal.com) added:

"This is about a conversation with the people. Publishing information - which belongs to the public after all - allows them to look at local spending and say: wait a minute you could be saving money there.

"There are all sorts of benefits to be gained from understanding the data and using the skills of the community to understand it. Councils themselves can benchmark their data and spending against other councils. People can build applications which will allow everyone to ask questions and join the conversation."

## Notes to Editors

1. You can find out which councils have already published their spending data over £500 online at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> ; a map and timeline of these councils can be found at:  
<http://www.dipity.com/CommunitiesUK>
2. Getting data out in the open is just the first step for Government. The real potential for open government lies with greater transparency by unlocking innovation and analysis and scrutiny. Individuals and community groups can use the data to understand the decisions councils take every day or to create new business opportunities who find solutions and ideas using the information in new ways. Here Communities Secretary Eric Pickles talk more about council transparency at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp\\_Y4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp_Y4)
3. In line with the transparency agenda requirements on spend transparency for central government departments, councils should be publishing their own spend by January 2011. Today the LGA has published new advice about how councils should publish their spending details. It has taken the original advice of the Local Public Data Panel and sought to provide additional practical guidance. It sets out what should be included; how to make the information available under open license in machine readable format; and how to approach redactions and personal data. The guidance is currently aimed at councils, police authorities and fire and rescue authorities - but there is no reason why other public bodies such as parish councils and waste authorities should not also follow the guidance. Full details can be found at: <http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com>
4. In line with the transparency agenda requirements on the pay of senior public servants, councils should have their salary information published by 31st January 2011 providing a snapshot from 31st October 2010. Data to be published for each individual includes; Organisation Name, Body (organisational identifier), Individual's Name (subject to consent), Job title, Service Area, Full-Time Equivalent, FTE Pay band for disclosure – this will be shown in £5,000 bands (for instance, £80,000-£84,999). Councils are also asked to publish data on the scale of their authority in terms of; employment, expenditure and service

responsibilities. The guidance, *Transparency - publication of senior salary information Reporting Guidance*, is intended to assist local authorities in the preparation and publication of senior salary information. Full details can be found at: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=21407431>

5. Openly Local is a place to access data about the workings of your Local Council, without having to poke around through dense, difficult-to-navigate websites. It can be found at: <http://openlylocal.com/councils/spending>
6. Redbridge Council's new "You Choose" public engagement tool shows residents how the council currently spends their money and asks them to feed back and suggest how they can make savings. Redbridge council successfully trialled the tool last year and it has now been expanded to other councils across the country with the help of YouGov and the Local Government Association. Redbridge's YouChoose tool can be found at: <http://youchoose.yougov.com/redbridge>

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
.@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 16:34 **To:**  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Online Publication of Supplier Payments  
over £500

ditto the a-z page.

Just so you know. I've been talking with NAME REDACTED from press office and he suggested going live with the A-Z lists Monday as there will be a little flurry of requests to get on the site, so I'll update as much as I can and finish off Monday morning.

Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 4:18  
PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Online Publication of Supplier  
Payments over £500

afraid they haven't made the story but will add them to the map when I can.

*NAME REDACTED | Communities and Local Government | 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED.*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 4:15  
PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Online Publication of Supplier  
Payments over £500

Is it too late for Camden this week?

[www.camden.gov.uk/paymentstosuppliers](http://www.camden.gov.uk/paymentstosuppliers)

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 12:37 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency- expenditure over £500

Great, thank you so much - I might maintain it as we go along then and copy to you.

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 12:35 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency- expenditure over £500

It matches my total also . 65.

By the way I have found the new link for Kings Lynn. I will send it to NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED.

Also your spreadsheet is very useful I can added web contacts to it so it will be a nice audit trail if anyone asks.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 12:27 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency- expenditure over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

I'm sorry to burden you but I am going loopy with this - could I ask a big favour and could you please check the attached - contacts for the PM letter to go to two sheets chief execs and leaders - and let me know if I have missed off any authority - note that I have taken off the GLA - sorry about that but apparently they are not perceived as a council - which was probably why they were not on your list!

<< File: 10-09-29 LA Clist for PM letter 101001 .xls >>

Thank you very much. Do this match your total?

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED



**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 14:45 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire

Service.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:43 PM **To:** NAMES REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire Service.

Hi NAMES REDACTED

The PN has already been issued so can't alter the quote. Will get second para changed on web version so that it's clear that there is an expectation on FRS's also.

All councils and Fire and Rescue Authorities are expected to publish details of all spending over £500 in full online by January. With just 64 working days till the start of the New Year the clock is ticking for councils to open their files so the public can see where their money is being spent.

Cheers

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:31 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire Service.

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED

Could we not say local authorities including fire and rescue authorities?

NAME  
REDACTED

NUMBERS REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:30 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire Service.

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,  
I know its only 2 FRAs hopefully more will sign up once they read this. But can we leave some encouraging reference along side councils to FRAs so it is noted that this is applicable to them.

Shona our Director has asked to ensure that FRAs are reflected in communications on this issue

H

**NAME REDACTED (NAME REDACTED)**  
*Communication Manager, Fire and Resilience Communication*

*Department for Communities and Local Government 3/B1  
Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | e: NAME  
REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk*

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:11 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire

Service.

NAME REDACTED, given only two FRAs have done this to date it seems unwise to give them such undue prominence in the story. Also no PM letter anymore.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 2:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED Attrill; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** Urgent - Fire contribution now added - - - -FW: Transparency in the Fire Service.  
**Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED,

See attached redrafted version as the previous one didn't reflect FRAs at all.

NAME REDACTED not sure if you knew about this, as you can see from the email traffic below we asked to be included into anything that was going out and then NAME REDACTED kindly made us aware of this.

NAME REDACTED has confirmed the PM will be writing to the 2 FRAs and the LGA guidance does apply to the FRAs too.

Thanks NAME REDACTED

<< File: Launch script (2).doc >>

[NAME REDACTED \(NAME REDACTED\)](#)

*Communication Manager, Fire and Resilience Communication*

*Department for Communities and Local Government 3/B1*

*Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU*

*t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | e: NAME*

*REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk*

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 1:08 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Transparency in the Fire Service.

[Hi NAME REDACTED ,](#)

I attach latest draft PN.

NAME REDACTED will also add, Staffs and Kent FRS, to the map setting out which LAs are publishing their spend data. Thanks NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED

 **Please don't print this email unless you really need to.**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Transparency in the Fire Service.

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED

Our Director Shona Dunn has asked us to ensure that any future Press Notices etc. sent out relating to Transparency don't just say ' Local government ' but say for example 'Local Government and the Fire Service'.

She wishes to ensure the Fire Service is always included in any releases.

I hope this is OK

Thanks

NAME REDACTED

Finance 3/E2 Eland  
House Bressenden  
Place Victoria  
London SW1E 5DU

Phone 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 01 October 2010 15:53  
**To:** PSEricPickles; PSBaronessHanham  
**Cc:** NAMES REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED

Thanks, NAME REDACTED - this was always a 'nice to have' offered by No10, so wouldn't be a problem if no letter is issued.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 3:33 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; PSEricPickles; PSBaronessHanham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend

NAME  
REDACTED,

If we can't reach Ministers, what's plan B?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 3:18 PM **To:** PSEricPickles; PSBaronessHanham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend **Importance:** High

Dear Private Secretaries,

Please see below e-mail from Hulya Mustafa to No10.

I understand from CLG's Press Office that a signed PM letter will not be forthcoming (message from No10 Press Office). In which case and if possible, I wonder if the Secretary of State or Baroness Hanham would wish to sign the suggested congratulatory message to councils publishing £500 spend?

Grateful for your thoughts on this, please and let me know if you need any other advice. This is the contact list of current authorities publishing spend data (65) plus two fire authorities. The Correspondence Unit are on hold to e-mail out the letter if approved. Thank you.

<< File: 10-10-01 LA Clist for PM letter 101001.xls >>

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Hülya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 12:57 PM **To:** 'mstyles@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk' **Cc:** Selvin Brown; 'icollister@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk'; NAME REDACTED; Sheridan Westlake **Subject:** Draft letter from PM to councils publishing £500 spend **Importance:** High

NAME  
REDACTED

As you know, CLG is leading the way on transparency - both its own and that of town halls. As part of our publicity campaign on town hall transparency, it has been suggested that on Friday the PM should write congratulating the 60-odd councils who are already publishing £500 spend, ahead of the January deadline. This letter would coincide with the formal guidance being published - so these councils have not only been first, but have acted on their own initiative, which is great to see. I attach the draft text we would suggest for PM to see and clear. We need the letter cleared by **midday tomorrow** so we can get it ready to send and Leaders have it in their inboxes on Friday and to ensure the press notice references it correctly.

<< File: 10-09-29 DRAFT LETTER FOR PM TO SEND TO COUNCILS PUBLISHING.doc >>

We are ready to email the letters out to Leaders at the relevant councils. The quickest and easiest way would be for you to provide us with a PDF signed letter addressed to 'Dear Leader' which we can email out. In case you or the PM is interested, I've attached a list of councils who are already publishing (which is currently being updated).

<< File: 10-09-17 LIST OF COUNCILS.xls >>

Happy to discuss or draft something more formal if necessary - or you may wish to speak to Ivan who we have been dealing with on this issue.

Thanks and best wishes

Hülya

*Hülya Mustafa Transparency Division Local  
Government and Economic Growth Directorate  
Communities and Local Government 0303 444 2133*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 16:37 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Announcement on transparency due shortly

No. It wouldn't because as we discussed CEOs need to be brought in to this as do the IT/web leads in each authority. Now that our story is live we can commend the ones who have published and remind those who haven't done so what the process is.

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010  
4:34 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Announcement on transparency due shortly

Would it then be overkill to send e-mail to chief execs?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 October 2010 16:32  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
RE: Announcement on transparency due shortly

I have covered all this , asking compliants to maintain their links and non compliants how to submit their links

**NAME REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Announcement on transparency due shortly

Thanks. How about this text?

**NAME REDACTED**, could you insert link to how/where they should notify us - thanks:

We 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](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom)

Could we ask that you:

- Take time to view our video on youtube - : [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp\\_Y4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp_Y4)

- contact the LGA with any comments on the draft guidance - :  
<http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com>

For those of you yet to publish but are about to please provide the link to your data page once published via Local Directgov ....

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Announcement on transparency due shortly

Yes. We want to send a message to ALL of them to notify them of our announcement, provide them with link to our content, including youtube video. We may also wish to remind those who havent yet published that they need to publish by January and they should let us know.

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London,  
SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 4:06 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Announcement on  
transparency due shortly

Hi NAME  
REDACTED ,  
Could I just clarify something with you, please. Did we agree to send an e-mail to **all** local authority chief executives referring them to the newsroom link? This is to encourage those who have not published to do so and to refer them to the new LGA guide.

Would this text suffice on the accompanying e-mail?

We 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](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom)

Don't think we need much more than this?

Thanks



NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, October 01, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Announcement on transparency due shortly

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED

We are releasing the story on spending data (still haven't received PM's letter, but will amend when it comes). In the meantime I assume you (NAME REDACTED) have a list of email addresses for Chief Execs of each authority and you (NAME REDACTED) are able to contact web/IT leads at each authority. Would you be able to send a message to your contacts steering them to the content on our newsroom site at [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) for the latest on our transparency story. I've attached the story for information NAME REDACTED

## **MORE THAN SIXTY COUNCILS OPEN BOOKS TO ARMCHAIR AUDITORS**

Local authorities that don't put their spending detail online are denying the public the right to hold their council to account, Secretary of State for Local Government Eric Pickles said today.

Councils are expected to publish details of all spending over £500 in full online by January. With just 64 working days till the start of the New Year the clock is ticking for councils to open their files so the public can see where their money is being spent.

As part of meeting the transparency target Mr Pickles has welcomed new guidance from the Local Government Association detailing best practice for putting council spending and senior salary information online. They stress the importance of ensuring that the data is clear, comprehensible, machine readable, licensed to encourage reuse and so local people know it's available.

Mr Pickles' own department continues to lead the way. This week it published all its spending data online for 2008-09 and for the first quarter of 2010-11.

Mr Pickles said:

“I’ve called for a new era of transparency where all councils publish their spending over £500 online. I commend those councils that have been brave enough to face public scrutiny so far. There are now only sixty or so working days for those lagging behind to catch up.

“This isn’t another central government box-ticking exercise. The public have a right to see how their council tax is being spent so they know they are getting value for money and the best possible frontline services.

“I want to see an army of ‘Armchair Auditors’ pore over the information and hold their council to account if things are not done right. That means the data also has to be easily accessible: today advice has been published that will help councils yet to comply. There are hundreds of computer whizzes who’ll find creative new ways to make that raw data relevant to local life.”

Central Government resources to assist citizens wanting to access national and local data for free re-use include the website [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk). The CLG datasets published this week are available on this website. Other websites like OpenlyLocal are also making it easier to access data and to interrogate or compare the published information.

Some councils have also found innovative ways of using their spending data. For example, Redbridge Council has created a truly innovative budgeting tool called ‘You Choose’ which lets the public try to balance the council’s budget themselves. This gives them a say on where every public penny goes in their area. It has been so successful that the Local Government Association has decided to sponsor it and make it available to all councils.

Professor Nigel Shadbolt of Southampton University, a member of the Public Sector Transparency Board said:

"The publication of all spends by Local Authorities over £500 is hugely important. Authorities spend millions and millions of pounds in our name, so why shouldn't we know how that money is spent?"

"It will be useful in a whole range of ways. We are going to be able to see what the pattern of spend is, what particular contractors are used and whether it represents value for money. Once it's published councils can have a discourse with the citizen to find out how they want their money to be spent and where they would want to save. This is another important step in the drive for open data and transparency at all levels and across all of Government."

NAME REDACTED , creator of openlylocal.com added:

"This is about a conversation with the people. Publishing information - which belongs to the public after all - allows them to look at local spending and say: wait a minute you could be saving money there.

"There are all sorts of benefits to be gained from understanding the data and using the skills of the community to understand it. Councils themselves can benchmark their data and spending against other councils. People can build applications which will allow everyone to ask questions and join the conversation."

### **Notes to Editors**

1. You can find out which councils have already published their spending data over £500 online at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> ; a map and timeline of these councils can be found at:  
<http://www.dipity.com/CommunitiesUK>
2. Getting data out in the open is just the first step for Government. The real potential for open government lies with greater transparency by unlocking innovation and analysis and scrutiny. Individuals and community groups can use the data to understand the decisions councils take every day or to create new business opportunities who find solutions and ideas using the information in new ways. Here Communities Secretary Eric Pickles talk more about council transparency at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp\\_Y4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOwG7gGp_Y4)
3. In line with the transparency agenda requirements on spend transparency for central government departments,

councils should be publishing their own spend by January 2011. Today the LGA has published new advice about how councils should publish their spending details. It has taken the original advice of the Local Public Data Panel and sought to provide additional practical guidance. It sets out what should be included; how to make the information available under open license in machine readable format; and how to approach redactions and personal data. The guidance is currently aimed at councils, police authorities and fire and rescue authorities - but there is no reason why other public bodies such a parish councils and waste authorities should not also follow the guidance. Full details can be found at:

<http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com>

1. In line with the transparency agenda requirements on the pay of senior public servants, councils should have their salary information published by 31st January 2011 providing a snapshot from 31st October 2010. Data to be published for each individual includes; Organisation Name, Body (organisational identifier), Individual's Name (subject to consent), Job title, Service Area, Full-Time Equivalent, FTE Pay band for disclosure – this will be shown in £5,000 bands (for instance, £80,000-£84,999). Councils are also asked to publish data on the scale of their authority in terms of; employment, expenditure and service responsibilities. The guidance, *Transparency - publication of senior salary information Reporting Guidance*, is intended to assist local authorities in the preparation and publication of senior salary information. Full details can be found at:  
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=21407431>
2. Openly Local is a place to access data about the workings of your Local Council, without having to poke around through dense, difficult-to-navigate websites. It can be found at: <http://openlylocal.com/councils/spending>
3. Redbridge Council's new "You Choose" public engagement tool shows residents how the council currently spends their money and asks them to feed back and suggest how they can make savings. Redbridge council successfully trialled the tool last year and it has now been expanded to other councils across the country with the help of YouGov and the Local Government Association. Redbridge's YouChoose tool can be found at: <http://youchoose.yougov.com/redbridge>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 04  
October 2010 16:35 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Not quite sure if this fits the bill re the difference between the two guidance but this is how we have asked data.gov.uk to refer to the new LGA practitioners' guide:

The Local Government Association has 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/>.

This is the response re the guide/guidances I have used so far:

In addition to the draft guidance produced by the Local Public Data Panel, available for comment on the data.gov.uk blog here: [data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance](http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance), on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Local Government Association has 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/> .

and this is the description i have recently used to describe the Local Public Data Panel:

The Local Public Data Panel is an independent panel that exists to promote and facilitate the release of public data. The Panel has played a key role in providing advice on the publication of fine grained and timely local authority spend data. More information about the Local Public Data Panel is available on the data.gov.uk website, here: <http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-public-datapanel>

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
October 04, 2010 2:21 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
FW: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel

So looks like we're on track. If you could send through those few words we can knock off the responses.

NAME REDACTED Communities  
& Local Government 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 1:35 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel

sounds good - NAME REDACTED has some Panel defined words as to what the difference is between Panel and LGA guidance which I think would be usefully deployed.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 1:33 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel

NAME REDACTED No problem at all! It strikes me we need to get out public line straight on the guidance docs that exist and how they relate to Govt plans. (we also need to amend our webpage text, which is underpinning the queries - I'll do this).

My suggested line on existing docs / Govt plans is:

- . Apologies for any confusion caused by CLG website content.
- . (Draft) Guidance has been produced by the Local Public Data Panel and Local Government Group on the publication of spend data and senior salaries / organisational structure.
- . These provide helpful advice from practitioners on how to rise to the challenge of transparency and meet Minister's expectations that local authorities respond quickly.
- . These documents are not Govt guidance. Such guidance will seek to preserve the established principle of transparency rather than detailed information needed to support implementation. At this early stage, we would also wish to be able to respond to local authority experiences in rising to the challenge.

Views?

NAME REDACTED Communities  
& Local Government 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 12:46 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: data.gov.uk Local Data Panel

Hi NAME REDACTED,

Sorry to be a pest you but we spoke this morning about the two draft local spending guide/guidance currently in the public domain. The query below asks whether DCLG will itself be publishing local spend guidance. The answer is obviously no unless a Code of Practice or new legislation is decided - you mentioned a line to take earlier - could you remind me what that was please so that I can reply to the e-mail below and I'll run past Hulya if necessary? I'd held off answering this until NAME REDACTED ers became clearer but they hadn't.

[I've sent a couple of responses like this today:](#)

In addition to the draft guidance produced by the Local Public Data Panel, available for comment on the [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spendingdata-guidance) blog here: [data.gov.uk/blog/local-spendingdata-guidance](http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spendingdata-guidance), on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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/>.

Thank you.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06  
October 2010 13:15 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: data.gov.uk Local  
Data Panel

**Attachments:** Local government transparency webpage.doc  
NAME REDACTED,

Current transparency webpage attached as word doc. you need to make changes in track before sending to e-comms and NAME REDACTED .

Ref to the Panel guidance and LGA practitioners' guides:

Draft guidance produced by the Local Public Data Panel is available for comment on the data.gov.uk blog here: [data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance](http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spending-data-guidance). The Local Public Data Panel is an independent panel that exists to promote and facilitate the release of public data. The Panel has played a key role in providing advice on the publication of fine grained and timely local authority spend data. More information about the Local Public Data Panel is available on the data.gov.uk website, here: <http://data.gov.uk/blog/localpublic-data-panel>.

In addition to the Panel's guidance, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Local Government Association has 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/>

Link to the CLG web page of authorities publishing spend data:

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

Let me know if you need anything else. Thanks.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
October 04, 2010 1:33 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya  
Mustafa **Subject:** RE: data.gov.uk Local  
Data Panel

NAME REDACTED No problem at all! It strikes me we need to get out public line straight on the guidance docs that exist and how they relate to Govt plans. (we also need to amend our webpage text, which is underpinning the queries - I'll do this).

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These provide helpful advice from practitioners on how to rise to the challenge of transparency and meet Minister's expectations that local authorities respond quickly.

These documents are not Govt guidance. Such guidance will seek to preserve the established principle of transparency rather than detailed information needed to support implementation. At this early stage, we would also wish to be able to respond to local authority experiences in rising to the challenge.

Views?

NAME REDACTED Communities  
& Local Government 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
October 04, 2010 12:46 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** FW: data.gov.uk Local  
Data Panel

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Sorry to be a pest you but we spoke this morning about the two draft local spending guide/guidance currently in the public domain. The query below asks whether DCLG will itself be publishing local spend guidance. The answer is obviously no unless a Code of Practice or new legislation is decided - you mentioned a line to take earlier - could you remind me what that was please so that I can reply to the e-mail below and I'll run past Hulya if necessary? I'd held off answering this until NAME REDACTED ers became clearer but they hadn't.

I've sent a couple of responses like this today:

In addition to the draft guidance produced by the Local Public Data Panel, available for comment on the data.gov.uk blog here: [data.gov.uk/blog/local-spendingdata-guidance](http://data.gov.uk/blog/local-spendingdata-guidance), on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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://lqtransparency.readandcomment.com/>.

Thank you.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07  
October 2010 10:23 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Council  
spending over £500

it really depends on how computer-savvy the councillor/senior council official is. Also patience is not always their main trait.

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
October 07, 2010 10:17 AM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Council spending  
over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

All that needs to be done is to just to play around with it to be honest. There are the different tags at the top to click, which on the actual map version and scrolling down the left hand side they will find it. Or on the front page/tag click on the '+' symbol and they will eventually see it. There are about 65 on there and it's only a small map. Patience and some click-throughs are needed.

The dates we have put up are not the dates the urls were submitted as we all know that in some cases urls have been submitted but not the data - the dates used are when we published - if this needs to be made clearer then we can do this, but to back track and change the time is time and energy consuming.

I'm quite disappointed that after all our hard work on putting this together, we are being criticised before some actual usage of the timeline is being done.

NAME REDACTED  
- fyi.  
thanks

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday,  
October 06, 2010 5:27 PM

**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Council spending over £500

Hi,

I've not been able to access the timeline from CLG network - is there a simple way I can describe how he can find his council - are there any search terms/methods? Thanks.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday,  
October 06, 2010 4:38 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Council spending over £500

Hi Corby is on the timeline. Added 11 August. It's not the most

user friendly timeline, but with

some research they will find their council listed.

thanks

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday,  
October 06, 2010 4:31 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW:  
Council spending over £500 **Importance:**  
High

Hi NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED ,

Please see e-mail below from NAME REDACTED from  
Corby. Not sure if this is for you or us, happy to reply if  
either of you can provide me with the current line and let me  
know when the timeline will be updated. Or happy to pass to  
you for reply? Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, October 06, 2010 3:51 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Council spending over £500 **Importance:** High

There are a couple of these queries - please can we get a reply to them QUICKLY and update the timeline. What is our line (get it out then correct it?)

H

**From:** MPSTOCORRETEAM **Sent:** Wednesday, October 06, 2010 3:05 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** FW: Council spending over £500

Hulya,

The attached email has been received in one of the ministerial EEMA accounts.

Due to the nature of the email, we feel that your team is the best placed to respond.

If this case is for you then please respond direct, by email, to the correspondent and copy your reply to the MPSTOCORRETEAM email.

If not then please return to the MPSTOCORRETEAM email as soon as possible so we can re-allocate.

MSU

**From:** NAME REDACTED [mailto:NAME REDACTED@corby.gov.uk] **Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 8:24 AM **To:** contactus@communities.gov.uk **Subject:** Council spending over £500

Hi guys

I notice that you have published a timeline of councils who have published expenditure over £500 here:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/timeline/>

This looks very impressive yet I was disappointed not to see my Council shown on this especially as you have listed it as one of the Councils in the East Midlands who have done this – see here:

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

Can you explain this discrepancy?

Cheers

***NAME REDACTED Corporate  
Development Officer Corby  
Borough Council Grosvenor  
House George Street Corby  
Northants NN17 1QB***

***Tel: NUMBER REDACTED  
<http://www.corby.gov.uk>***

◀ Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:** Hülya Mustafa **Sent:** 07 October 2010 12:28  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Dissappointing  
transparency timeline  
All

Apologies for my haste to believe correspondents - thanks very much for a) being right and b) making it so easy to put people straight (including myself). NAME REDACTED has already written to Corby and I will be writing to Northamptonshire.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Hülya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, October 07, 2010  
10:25 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; Hülya  
Mustafa; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Dissappointing transparency timeline

Hi NAME REDACTED,  
thanks for getting in touch.

Can I ask if anyone checked the timeline before coming to us with this complaint?  
Northamptonshire is on the timeline and was one of the first one there, as is Corby.

For ease I enclose a screenshot that confirms Northamptonshire's position on the timeline.

I hope someone will be responding to Northamptonshire to clear up this misunderstanding.

I am happy to develop the timeline further, I see as I write this that NAME REDACTED you have emailed as well.

Our map/timeline was based on when we as a department were in a position to confirm that they had put data online as I was informed that that was the only spreadsheet we had and the only way we could do it. If there is a better way with more accurate data I will do it - I will happily use the googledocs data if that is better, sadly it keeps crashing my pc so I can't check at present.

NAME REDACTED please let me know when you would like to meet so we can take this forward.

Regards NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday,  
October 06, 2010 6:38 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED

**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Dissappointing trasnparency  
timeline

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Please see below e-mail from Northamptonshire County Council regarding not being included in the transparency timeline on the CLG website. We've also received one from Corby saying they are not showing on timeline either (NAME REDACTED has advised that Corby are actually on and I'm waiting for advice re Northants).

I understand that you are meeting with NAME REDACTED soon to discuss how your timeline might sit with the separate map which he has developed using a googledocs spreadsheet containing all the councils currently publishing spend data - you may wish to cross-check your timeline against the Google spreadsheet, which can be found here [https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AuTCJM3Dj\\_Q8dDIRd2ZwVkrQWGVWYUZ6STMzTzFGbUE&hl=en\\_GB](https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AuTCJM3Dj_Q8dDIRd2ZwVkrQWGVWYUZ6STMzTzFGbUE&hl=en_GB)

I also input into this googledoc and I'll check it tonight against NAME REDACTED's latest spreadsheet.

Since this timeline may be a cause of concern to those already publishing spend data, we'll need to ensure this is resolved quickly. Many thanks.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED  
Transparency Division  
X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** Paul Blantern [mailto:PBlantern@northamptonshire.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:14 PM **To:**  
contactus@communities.gov.uk **Subject:** Dissappointing  
trasnparency timeline

Folks – it's a great shame that when you have come to see us, we've held conferences on transparency etc, and yet you haven't put us on your timeline, when we were one of the first (if not the first) county council to do this. Quite frankly I get slightly upset of Northants leading the way on everything from the largest public sector shared services venture (just in case you didn't know I even share my finance HR, legal and Ops directors with Cambs CC) , to the highest number of personalised budgets for elderly and the first to publish actual salaries and spend over £500. Oh and by this way we hosted a Big Society conference for over 280 people this Saturday, discussing what it meant for Northamptonshire. Of course we did get very positive coverage from Panorama for our customer consultation 'YouChoose' process around election time but even the LGA has stolen that this week, albeit they stole our 'My Council' concept and our corporate logos previously (albeit they did actually credit it us for that).

I will be very glad when our reputation catches up with the reality of us being one of the most innovative councils in the country. Fair cop we were pretty average about 5 years ago. I know we started our transparency journey before Eric got in to post (last April in fact), but that is no reason why you can't start the timeline before a Minister speaks because we are invariably ahead... I could show you my last year's corporate strategy map (developed in 2008) that showed we needed to be excellent at "building social capital" and "developing local communities"... but then big society and localism are key which is why we were glad the coalition agreed with us the following year.

Hey ho.... as long as my customers and communities are happy! It would just be nice to be credited occasionally by our own Government department.

Finally I attach a very nice letter from Hulya Mustafa, which we genuinely did appreciate, hence my somewhat late evening response when I just looked at your timeline. Please take it in the tongue in cheek way I wrote it.

Best wishes

Paul

**Dr Paul Blantern**  
Chief Executive

Northamptonshire County Council  
P.O Box  
No.93 County  
Hall  
Northampton  
NN1 1AN  
Direct tel: **01604 237100**  
Mobile tel: **NUMBER**  
**REDACTED**



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 12  
October 2010 15:28 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** Janet Dougharty;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** meeting  
with NAME REDACTED

**Attachments:** RE: Cipfa and the BVACOP codes  
NAME  
REDACTED ,

I have had another email from NAME REDACTED of Count Culture - see below

I do not have the technical knowledge that he requires - would you be happy for me to suggest a meeting between you so that you can take him through the forms? Because he is part of the Public Data Panel and one of the developers/armchair auditors that we will depend on to deliver the SoS commitments on transparency, I think we need to be as helpful as possible. I appreciate that this is an extra piece of work for you though. I think that he wants to compare the RO/RA forms with the £500 spend information to challenge local councils spending. I think he sees the BVACOP codes as a way of doing some of this mashing and comparison, and wants LAs to publish their £500 spend information with the BVACOP classification or the Proclass classification (this is what is stated in the Local Public Data Panel Guidance). This is some of the work that he has done

<http://countculture.wordpress.com/>

<http://openlylocal.com/>

Also, we have arranged a meeting with him and CIPFA (see attached), and this is taking place tomorrow. I think that NAME REDACTED (my job share partner) will be there representing CLG transparency, so if you were able to give us the lines on FoI, or let us know when they are likely to be ready, that would be helpful.

Many thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic  
Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and  
Friday.

**From:** CountCulture [mailto:countculture@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 5:49 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Re: Coffee shop at 12.30

NAME REDACTED Thanks. Can you tell me how the consolidated spreadsheet differs from the submitted ROs? I basically need to know how I'd match this to the RO from Redbridge (and other councils). Thanks

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14 October 2010 13:31 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Local Government procurement - duplicate payments

I am not sure this is about transparency - it is about rigorous financial systems and having suitable checks in place.

Transparency may mean that LAs are more likely to think about improving their systems, as the electorate may consider them inept if they are making a large volume of duplicate payments - though for them to make that as a considered judgement you would need to know what proportion were made by a business with a turnover of a similar size. It is possible that people will use the £500 data to search for duplicate payments, and maybe there will be an app developed to circumvent the marketing of the procurement people that did the piece of work with Experian...

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 5:49 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Local Government procurement - duplicate payments

Just for interest (I think) but would be good to know if transparency will reduce duplication and what kind of saving that would be?

H

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 5:46 PM  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** FW: Local Government procurement - duplicate payments

May be of interest - Experian produced this for us, and we are briefing it out with the SoS's speech tomorrow

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 15 October 2010 15:25 **To:** NAMES REDACTED

**Cc:** NAMES REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Impact and input indicators: draft note for Grant Shapps and Andrew Stunell meeting

**Attachments:** 101015 Indicators table for 19 Oct meeting.doc

Andrew,

We spoke.

We have a problem with number of LAs providing details of £500 (not £100) spend for a number of reasons:

- all councils are expected to do this by Jan, as per SoS letter. To have an indicator in the business plan would make it look as though we are expecting that not all of them will comply. We are expecting them all to comply, and we are looking at statutory options
- we are not monitoring them, and I do not think we have any plans to continue checking on them for the next four years. At the moment we have a list of LAs that have submitted their information to local.direct.gov.

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

IF it does stay in, needs to be Councils not LAs, as there is not a process for checking on all LAs (though we do have a list of fire authorities). The other lever is that SoS has written to all Councils setting out his expectations. The expectations are on salaries, contracts and tenders too, in some ways off to highlight £500 when all our important for transparency

We discussed whether there would be a process for getting sign off on this list from dataowners, as this is quite a select list of people

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 19 October 2010  
14:32 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: redbridge

That's fine, thanks, NAME REDACTED . I'll reply to NAME REDACTED P to say it was an accidental oversight and they are now listed.

Regards,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, October  
19, 2010 1:56 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: redbridge

Hi NAME REDACTED

I hold my hands up to this one - it can't explain why it's not on there so I presume I've accidentally left it off. That said, I think it must've been when I'd to switch the pages from area to A-Z as the link is in the roster so it must've been published originally. Apologies for this!! I've amended the page to display Redbridge.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**  
Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday,  
October 19, 2010 1:23 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW:  
redbridge

Hi NAME REDACTED,

I can't find Redbridge on the list of councils either but they are on NAME REDACTED's spreadsheet - am I looking in the wrong place? are they on and if not, will they appear this week? Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Friday, October 15,  
2010 4:35 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Cc: NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: redbridge

Resent to include NAME REDACTED!

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 4:33 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: redbridge

NAME REDACTED - can you check and get back to NAME REDACTED, please

NAME REDACTED - we've had a few of these, where they are on the timeline but can't see themselves etc. On the other hand the list is straightforward so if they're not there it's cos they are not linked to data.gov.uk

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 4:15 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** redbridge

I just had a call from redbridge council, they are wanting to do some publicity around £500 online and say they have been transparent for last few months but we haven't listed them in our list. Given we highlighted them for good practice are we able to add them on if this is right?

NAME REDACTED  
NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 19 October 2010 14:41 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: redbridge

NAME REDACTED,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on this.

Redbridge was listed on the CLG page when their url was originally sent but unfortunately, had been accidentally (for about a week or so) missed off the site during the recent restructuring of the CLG webpage listing the councils publishing spend data. This has now been rectified and Redbridge is now listed.

Please pass on our apologies to Redbridge for the omission. Thank you.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 27 October 2010 09:26  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Media Forecast -  
Tuesday 26 October

NAME  
REDACTED

Hulya Mustafa has just forwarded me the Tues 26 October media forecast, which contains the following:

**Issue:** Audit Commission report shows councils last year detected around £99 million worth of benefit fraud, over £15 million worth of council tax fraud, and £21 million worth of other types of fraud including false insurance claims, and abuse of the disabled parking 'blue badge' scheme. The report is embargoed until 00:01. We have briefed out the following line in response to national and regional media.

**Media:** National and regional media. **Line to take:** Local Government Minister NAME REDACTED Neill said: "It is more important than ever that councils are getting value for taxpayers' money and rooting out waste.

"Every year fraudsters are fleecing councils out of millions of pounds that should be being spent on protecting frontline services.

"Local Authorities need to continue working to clamp down on the fraudsters stealing from the public purse, improve detection, increase protections and recover losses.

"Alongside other measures the simple act of increasing transparency by putting all spending over £500 online will bring in an extra level of checks and balances and help to identify and eliminate fraud."

Is there any chance of correcting the final line to take, which I've underlined? benefits payments are deliberately excluded from £500 spend, so the line is wrong and potentially confusing.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED  
DDDT Zone 3/J3  
Eland House Tel:  
0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED Mobile:  
NUMBER REDACTED

Please note I work Mon-Weds

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28 October 2010  
15:14 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,  
Sorry I can't help you on that one I'm afraid and given NAME REDACTED has not mentioned a  
list to me or anyone else I would assume that no one is checking the Guardian lists.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, October  
28, 2010 11:10 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
FW: Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED, Could you respond in NAME  
REDACTED's absence?  
Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, October  
28, 2010 11:09 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure items over £500

Hi, I am about to create new report. I have Bristol, Babergh, Chichester and Cheshire West  
as the new boys on the block this week. Do you know of any others? Is someone checking  
the Guardian lists?

Regards

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED Mob:  
**NUMBER**  
**REDACTED** Fax:  
020 7944 8937



**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 02 November 2010 13:43 **To:** Andrew Campbell; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Lucy Makinson; Elizabeth Whatmore; Richard Harries; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Tom Walker; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing for meeting with CBI (2 November)

Andrew

On the Transparency agenda the recommendation is "local authorities should report the cost of their back-office services so local taxpayers can make value-for-money comparisons. On sharing front-line services, local communities need to know progress is being made in meeting the twin aims of cost efficiency and high quality outcomes - releasing the right data here is essential."

Our position is:

Ministers are absolutely clear that residents should be able to see what is being spent where - not just on external contracts but on salaries and the costs of running the council.

Which is why by January all Local Authorities will be providing in open and reusable formats, organograms showing senior officials in each service area, their salaries, the number of people they manage and the associated staff costs. Items of expenditure over Â£500 published by local authorities also identifies service costs.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Hulya

**From:** Andrew Campbell **Sent:** Monday, November 01, 2010 9:03 PM **To:** Michael Read-Leah **Cc:** Lucy Makinson; Elizabeth Whatmore; Richard Harries; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Tom Walker **Subject:** Re: Briefing for meeting with CBI (2 November)

Some of the recommendations are not now, strictly speaking, my business now. But I'd be interested in Hulya's views on the transparency recommendation.

As well as general thoughts on whether we are attracted by the recommendation on commissioning. There are links here to the work Tom's team is doing on diversifying supply, in the context of decentralisation.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** PSBob Neill **Cc:** PSPermanentSecretary; Irene Lucas; Andrew Campbell; Lucy Makinson; Elizabeth Whatmore; Richard Harries; Hulya Mustafa; NAMES REDACTED; **Sent:** Mon Nov 01 12:33:01 2010 **Subject:** Briefing for meeting with CBI (2 November)

<<101101 BN meeting CBI briefing.doc>> >>

NAMES REDACTED,

Please find attached a submission providing briefing for the Minister's meeting with representatives from the CBI tomorrow, covering the key topics CBI have asked to discuss:

- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Please do let me know if the Minister will require policy officials for a pre-brief and/or to be present during the meeting.

Yours, NAME REDACTED xNUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 November 2010 12:10 **To:** NAME REDACTED Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Departmental Business plan - 'other data': URGANT

As we discussed, so long as we are not committed to CLG having/publishing this information, then it is fine, as we are expecting LAs to do this and will be putting appropriate measures in place

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 12:03 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Departmental Business plan - 'other data': URGANT

Hulya, NAME REDACTED

No 10 is keen, at this very late stage, for an 'Other data' section to be included in each business plan. They are suggesting for ours the following subset:

2. Data which will help people make informed choices **Items of spending,**

**contracts and tenders above Â£500, by local authority; and Job titles and**

**salaries of senior council officers, by local authority**

It seems to us that this is OK, if it is simply stating that LAs will be publishing this information themselves, but please can one of you get back to me ASAP (and by

12.30 at the very latest) if you see any problems?

Many thanks NAME REDACTED

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** 02 November 2010 16:18 **To:** NAME REDACTED; PSAdvisers **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Paul Rowsell; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency and Parish Councils PQ ( NAME REDACTED ,

Thank you for the response. Are parish councils generally aware that this is happening?

Is the department taking any steps to help them with this new requirement?

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 3:37 PM **To:** PSAdvisers **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Paul Rowsell; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency and Parish Councils PQ (

NAME  
REDACTED

Please see below the answer to Sheridan's question.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 3:33 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Transparency and Parish Councils PQ (

The Code of Practice to underpin transparency generally will be binding on parish councils.

Don't think parishes are arguing against the principle of transparency applying to them. Re the publication of £500 online, the key consideration is to ensure final requirements of a Code of Practice is proportionate to accommodate those parishes with, e.g., 1 p/t treasurer, no website or internet access.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 3:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency and Parish Councils PQ (

Please see the question below. Can you let me have a line to go back to Sheridan with please? A copy of our reply is attached for info. << File: 1561 Julian Smith MP.doc >> NAME REDACTED

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 2:26 PM

**To:** NAME REDACTED; PSAdvisers  
**Cc:** Paul Rowsell  
**Subject:** Transparency and Parish Councils PQ (

NAME REDACTED ,

You wrote a response to a PQ asking what steps the Department is taking to ensure transparency in the activities of parish councils.

Your answer stated "we are requesting [parish councils] to publish details of expenditure over £500 online".

Sheridan wanted to know if this is binding on all parish councils or voluntary?

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Private Secretary to the Special  
Advisers Department for Communities and Local  
Government 6/D1 Eland House Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

From: NAME REDACTED Sent: 04 November 2010 10:40  
To: NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTEDCc: NAME  
REDACTEDSubject: RE: Reminder: review your website  
content

Hi,

Just so you are aware.

The local Authority will be aware that the link is broken as we send a brokenlink report out every day to Local Authorities. It is trickier when the LArelocates the page and updates the information themselves. At the moment thenumbers to check are just about manageable but it is becoming quite a task tocheck all links.

Regards

NAME REDACTED

-----Original Message-----From: NAME REDACTED  
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 10:10 AMTo: NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTEDCc: NAME REDACTEDSubject:  
RE: Reminder: review your website content

Hi

Seeing as this is only staying on our site until January, I'm happy to takecontent ownership of this.

Thanks

NAME REDACTED Assistant Content Manager,  
e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED (ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )  
W: www.communities.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----From: NAME REDACTESent:  
Thursday, November 04, 2010 9:46 AMTo: NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Cc: NAME REDACTEDSubject:  
FW: Reminder: review your website content

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Can you advise on this please, some of the links below are no longer working so can't tell what the original content was but the one which do work are the LA spend list which I think you look after so would it be best to reallocate these pages to you?

Many thanks,

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 November 2010 09:42 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Briefing for meeting with CBI (2 November)

NAME REDACTED responded to this yesterday with the following, and I am not sure there is much more than can be said

Q How can people identify the cost of in-house services provided by local authorities?

A By January all Local Authorities will be providing in open and reusable formats, organograms showing senior officials in each service area, their salaries, the number of people they manage and the associated staff costs. Items of expenditure over £500 published by local authorities also identifies service costs.

Are CBI suggesting that each LA calculates the cost of their back office functions and their front office functions and publishes these? This could be very bureaucratic, and I am sure would involve a certain amount of judgement rather than publishing a set of figures they already have

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 09 November 2010 11:43  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Text for transparency website hits

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 09, 2010 11:13 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Text for transparency website hits

Quick draft. Grateful for comments

**TBA** according to the data I just received from NAME REDACTED, who collates this, the figure is 89.

### **Armchair auditors pour over council spending data**

[Large numbers hunt through](#) council data as local spending information [goes](#) online.

The Department's [Local Government Expenditure \(link?\)](#) web page, [that links to all transparent councils](#) has had well over 100 hits a day since [it was set up in](#) September. [This is growing evidence that there is an 'army of armchair auditors' out there called into action](#) by Communities Secretary Eric Pickles. According to preliminary stats the page has had [over 3,800 views](#).

[Ninety](#) councils across the country have now made their spending information [over £500](#) available to the public. [The rest have till January to act](#). [Our Transparency map and timeline \(link\)](#) show which parts of the country have opened their books and what parts of the country are lagging behind. And with over 1500 views, it's clear that progress is being carefully scrutinised.

Local Government Minister NAME REDACTED

Neill said:

"We want a new era of openness and transparency where all councils open their books to the scrutiny of the public gaze. This is not a box ticking exercise. The public have a right to see how their tax money is spent and make sure it's being spent on the right priorities. I applaud the 90 councils that have so far published their spending over £500 online and urge the others lagging behind to get their skates on. They have until January to catch up by which time I want our army of 'Armchair Auditors' to have local spending at their fingertips."

Related pages: Press notice

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1730482>

[Website Transparency page 3,820 views \(at least\)](#)

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

[Transparency timeline](#)



At least 1,500 views (at least)

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

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Department for Communities and Local Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

Tell us what you think in our 5 minute website user survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/JVNQMZM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JVNQMZM).

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 11 November 2010  
13:34 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,

Thanks to NAME REDACTED who noticed that Hampshire and Sunderland, members of the Local Public Data Panel, were not listed, I did a search and have the following links for your spreadsheet:  
Hampshire - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/opendata/datasets/supplierpayments.htm>

Couldn't find anything on the Sunderland website so grateful if you could check with your web manager contact.

Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November  
11, 2010 11:50 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Expenditure items over £500

See latest spreadsheet

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A.xls >>

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED**  
Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 11 November 2010  
13:43 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Could you send me the spreadsheet which you send to NAME REDACTED please so we can see who else is yet to publish or even do the occasional google searches - time permitting!

Thanks,

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November  
11, 2010 11:50 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Expenditure items over £500

See latest spreadsheet

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A.xls >>

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED** Fax: 020  
7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 11 November 2010  
14:47 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Sorry bit late in the day on this as I think we've already decided not to do it for now.

Don't think this is a massive issue at the moment but we might need to get a better idea of numbers at the start of Jan.

Thinking off the top of my head though (danger danger), so this is probably already a bit of a given, but in doing any briefing or lines to take etc I think it would be best to always say 'around' or 'nearly' rather than giving an exact number.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
November 11, 2010 2:03 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure items  
over £500

Good idea, this is the full list with council urls already included - we'll need to complete columns C to H.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER V2.xls >> Think conversation with NAME REDACTED just now suggested we leave it for a while unless we feel the urge and have some free time!!

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday,  
November 11, 2010 1:50 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

I think we're getting to the stage where we shd do our own check, especially as we have to do some reporting to No10. I make it 240 odd local authorities unaccounted for. A quick divvy up and a Friday afternoon googling task?

I'm just slightly nervous numbers are lower than they are.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 11,  
2010 12:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Expenditure items over £500

Having just checked... isn't it kind of odd that out of the 3 local authorities that sit on the data panel (of supreme knowledge and power) only 1 is apparently publishing spend data. Redbridge is on there but neither is Hampshire or Sunderland?!?!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 11, 2010 12:36 PM **To:** DDDT **Subject:** FW: Expenditure items over £500

For info. [90 LA s now publishing spend data .](#)

[NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED](#)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 11, 2010 11:50 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure items over £500

See latest spreadsheet

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A.xls >>

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED Mob: **NUMBER REDACTED** Fax: 020 7944 8937

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 4:26 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

All

I had a regular catch up with Baroness Hanham today. Thought it would be useful to set out her main concerns at this time.

- OUT OF SCOPE - REDACTED
- Not overall reassured that **98 councils** were already publishing £500, but noted there were a few more events on the horizon to push it. **NAME REDACTED/ NAME REDACTED** - we'll need to use publication of CoP in some way to raise profile of the issue - any ideas?

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 18 November 2010 10:52  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Comms activity this week and Government data-based apps  
**Importance:** High

Hi NAME REDACTED ,  
NAME REDACTED,  
I e-mailed earlier this week.

Grateful for details of any comms activity you have planned around Local Government data this week (you will have seen advice from NAME REDACTED that there are now 100 councils publishing spend data).

It would be particularly helpful to know if you will be issuing the article on govt data-based apps you had proposed and for which we'd sought advice from the Local Public Data Panel. Many thanks.

Regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

**NAME REDACTED**  
Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 22 November 2010 11:46  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Comms for the publication of LG guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Yes please.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 11:30 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Comms for the publication of LG guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

I haven't thought about this yet either.

I think NAME REDACTED in Comms led on this when the LGA launched the draft guide on 1st Oct, it tied in with comms around central govt data also. Shall I ask him if he has anything planned for the future announcements?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 11:00 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Comms for the publication of LG guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED

I hadn't thought about the need for any publicity from our side, had either of you?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 10:56 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Comms for the publication of LG guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED,

Could I ask that you look over email below in Hulya's absence.

Many thanks and happy to discuss.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED - Workforce, Pay and Pensions  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
030 344 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 10:51 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa



**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Comms for the publication of LG guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Hi Hulya,

As you will be aware, the LGA guidance publications for the local government sector on £500 spend and senior pay transparency have now finished their consultation period.

From discussions with our contact in the LGA, and from what NAME REDACTED has relayed from her contact in the LGA, they are planning to publish both guidance documents by the end of November, although there doesn't seem to be a definite date at this point.

To ensure a joined up approach to the guidances for the sector, and in line with the approach used in the publication of the draft guidances, we wanted to touch base with you about any planned comms for the publication of the guidances for the sector.

Do you have any comms plans for the LG sector guidance publication? If so, it would seem sensible to it to cover the senior salary guidance as well, and I would be grateful to know who in your team we should work with on this. If not, we will approach Press Office to inform them of the publication and get their views of what, if any, comms would be required. Also, has your team thought about how we communicate this to Ministers so they are informed of progress? From memory we contributed to the monthly update to Baroness Hanham when the draft guidance went out.

Your thoughts on the way forward for comms and how to keep Ministers Informed would be gratefully received.

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED** - Workforce, Pay and Pensions  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
030 344 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 November 2010 12:14 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Explanatory Memorandum for CT regs

NAME  
REDACTED,  
I would change

Government is committed to increasing transparency across Whitehall and local authorities in order to make data more readily available to the citizen, in particular by helping local authorities publish items of spending, contracts and tenders above £500. It believes financial disclosure will enable local taxpayers to see how local authorities are using public money and establish greater accountability and efficiency without requiring bureaucratic intervention.

To

Government is committed to increasing transparency across Whitehall and local authorities in order to make data more readily available to the citizen and allow them to hold service providers to account. It believes financial disclosure will act as a trigger enabling local taxpayers to see how councils are using public money, shine a spotlight on waste, establish greater accountability and efficiency, open up new markets and improve access for small and local business.

This is cribbed straight from the website. Not sure we would our actions are particularly around offering help on the £500 spend

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2010 10:08 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Explanatory Memorandum for CT regs

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED

See attached.

Lines seem ok to me but you may want to have a look before I respond.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED  
✂ Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 8:28 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Siobhan Larking; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Explanatory Memorandum for CT regs

<< File: 101122 CT regs Expl Mem.doc >>  
NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED,  
Siobhan

In my wisdom I have agreed to have a first go at the EM for the revocation of the CT efficiency regs.

**NAME REDACTED** - I have put in some text about local transparency - would you be able to look over the text and see if it accords with your lines? I have cribbed most of it off the website.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Thanks!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 November 2010  
14:50 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: LA s  
publishing £500 spend

Great, thanks - NAME REDACTED - bit misleading of them  
though!  
Regards,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday,  
November 23, 2010 2:32 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: LA s publishing £500 spend

Hi NAME REDACTED, Although they say there are 104 LAs publishing data, the list is  
way out of data and only includes 76 LAs and nothing we don't know about.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday,  
November 23, 2010 10:05 AM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** LA s publishing £500 spend

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,  
You might find this of interest - not sure if you will have time to compare with your list.

[http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/sep/10/local-council-spending-over-500-  
list](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/sep/10/local-council-spending-over-500-list)

Regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

**NAME REDACTED**  
Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local  
Government 3/H4 Eland House Bressenden  
Place London SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** 23  
November 2010 10:31 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: TRANSPARENCY

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple  
NAME REDACTED,

Thanks. It's less what is there than what's not. There are two areas where I have concerns:

1) for an organisation the size of the LGA group there's relatively little information. For example, DCLG publications include our GPC cards but there's no record of corporate card purchases on the LGA site, nor (much) travel. Given the period of publication includes the LGA Conference this leads me to think there's a lot of information that's not being published yet; and,

2) a fair bit of data has been redacted due to the 'Data Protection Act'. If someone is entering into a commercial relationship then why would that fall under the DPA?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday,  
November 23, 2010 10:22 AM **To:**  
PSEricPickles **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** FW:  
TRANSPARENCY

NAME REDACTED

Thanks for your email. I've had a look in Hulya's absence.

It's important to note that Government is not publishing any guidance on the standards expected from local government.

Draft guidance has been produce by the Local Public Data Panel, and the Local Government Group has also published a draft practitioners' guide, which offers concrete advice to councils on how they should publish spending and salaries data.

The spreadsheet is largely in line with these two pieces of guidance. 2 bits of additional info that have been suggested in the guidance are:

expense area (ie the part of the LGA that spent the money), but given that LGA are publishing separate spreadsheets for different parts of the Local Government Group I'm not sure including this info would be hugely illuminating, and supplier ID, which can help to distinguish between different suppliers with similar names.

In his letter to Leaders in June, the Secretary of State quoted Windsor and Maidenhead as a good example for other councils to follow. While W&M include expense area, they do not publish supplier IDs.

Hope this is helpful.

Regards NAME

REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles **To:** Hulya  
Mustafa **Sent:** Mon Nov 22  
14:36:49 2010 **Subject:**  
TRANSPARENCY

Hulya,

The LGA are also publishing their spending over Â£500. Here -  
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=13411384>

Please could you let me know if this conforms to the standards we expect from Local Authorities? It seems a little opaque to me.

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

Private Secretary Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP Secretary of  
State for Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 24 November 2010 17:47 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED;

Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Hi NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED,

I spoke to NAME REDACTED about this. As far as she is aware, there are no Comms activity being planned around publication of the next or final version of the LGA practitioners' guides on £500 spend and senior pay. Any comms plans would also depend on when the LGA publishes the next version and how different the guides are likely to be from the original.

We can discuss further at our next team meeting.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 1:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Hi NAME REDACTED ,  
NAME REDACTED,  
Just a quick question re the above please.

Do you have any planned comms activity around the next re-iteration of the Local Government practitioners guides along the lines of the 30 Sept/1 Oct campaign?

In discussions with the LGA contacts leading on both the £500 spend and senior pay practitioners' guides, the LGA have been reviewing the feedback received on the draft guidance and are planning to publish both final guidance documents by the end of November - although a definite date has not yet been proposed.

Just wondering whether the follow-up on this is included in your Transparency Campaign?

Many thanks.

Regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

**NAME REDACTED**  
Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local  
Government 3/H4 Eland House Bressenden  
Place London SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED [NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 25 November 2010 09:56 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend

and senior pay

Of course

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2010 9:55 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

NAME  
REDACTED,

Would be good to keep in contact so we can combine in the senior salary guidance as well, in line with the comms that was done for the draft documents.

Happy to discuss

NAME  
REDACTED  
**NAME REDACTED** - Workforce, Pay and Pensions  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
030 344 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2010 9:52 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Thanks NAME  
REDACTED

We need to plan some comms activity around transparency, to spur LAs on and to draw attention to the contracts guidance, once it is published. I am hoping to have a think about this tomorrow.

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2010 9:48 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior



pay

NAME  
REDACTED,  
I don't know if you have seen this, but below is a Grant Schapps Twitter regarding  
NAME REDACTED Ransfords salary reduction,

"Chief Exec of LGA has salary slashed in welcome u-turn. Decision demonstrates how transparency is now the new force to be reckoned with."

I wonder whether given the emphasis on transparency, some comms on a transparency issue would be welcomed by Ministers?

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED - Workforce, Pay and Pensions  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
030 344 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2010 6:04 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED; Hulya  
Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency Campaign - Local Government guidance on £500 spend and senior pay

Hi NAME  
REDACTED/NAME  
REDACTED,

I spoke to NAME REDACTED about this. As far as she is aware, there are no Comms activity being planned around publication of the next or final version of the LGA practitioners' guides on £500 spend and senior pay. Any comms plans would also depend on when the LGA publishes the next version and how different the guides are likely to be from the original.

We can discuss further at our next team meeting.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2010 1:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Transparency Campaign -  
Local Government guidance on £500 spend and

senior pay

Hi NAME REDACTED ,  
NAME REDACTED,  
Just a quick question re the above please.

Do you have any planned comms activity around the next re-iteration of the Local Government practitioners guides along the lines of the 30 Sept/1 Oct campaign?

In discussions with the LGA contacts leading on both the £500 spend and

senior pay practitioners' guides, the LGA have been reviewing the feedback received on the draft guidance and are planning to publish both final guidance documents by the end of November - although a definite date has not yet been proposed.

Just wondering whether the follow-up on this is included in your Transparency Campaign?

Many thanks.

Regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

**NAME REDACTED**

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 30 November 2010 11:31 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ;

**Subject:** Comms & transparency

**Attachments:** Transparency Campaign\_Milestones events contacts\_updated20101011.xls I mentioned last week that I wanted to do some thinking about comms & transparency

I have not got as far with this as I wanted, but thought I would send something round today, as I am on leave for the rest of the week and I think we will be looking at Comms activity in December

I think there are several drivers for the comms work, and a plan that covers all of this would be ideal:

- we need to get as many LAs as possible publishing the £500 spend, salaries & contracts by end of January, so keeping this in the media spotlight is helpful
- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

In addition, on the £500 spend we know that the LG Group will be publishing new guidance for all of the elements in the next few days

I think this means we are looking at:

- a comms event (press notice etc) in the next few days to spread the word on the new sets of guidance to keep the pressure up on LAs
- a comms event once the Code of Practice is out for consultation (NAME REDACTED, assuming this is consistent with your thinking)
- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

I have attached NAME REDACTED's tracker, that I have not had chance to update. I think the things to add are Irene's speech next week, and the press releases/Redbridge you tube piece that went out in November

We will also need to have a think about the local transparency section of the website, to ensure this has the right links going forward

I hope this helps to organise thinking a little.

**NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED** - would you be able to put together something for comms activity in the next few weeks and we can go from there. Perhaps you could arrange a meeting for next week for us to discuss a longer term plan, REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Transparency  
Campaign\_Mileston..

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 December 2010 15:43 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED Connell; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Richard Harries; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; Hulya

Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Financial Efficiency

NAME  
REDACTED

Sorry not to be able to come back to you with track changes. I'm working from home and am having problems with word docs!

The transparency lines generally look fine, but can you delete "ensuring spending decisions are scrutinised before money is allocated". While publishing £500 spend will be important in holding councils to account for how they have spent their money, this money will already have been allocated.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, December 01, 2010 3:08 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Richard Harries; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Financial Efficiency

<< File: 101130 HT BH Efficiency for Financial Efficiency LBCComments (2).doc >>  
Hi all

Please find attached the article for Financial Efficiency publication that has gone to Baroness Hanham's office.

NAME REDACTED has suggested I forward it on as there are brief references to transparency and capital asset pathfinders. These are all taken from messages have been used in the past in press notices and speeches but please let me know if there are any factual changes.

Many Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Assistant Information Officer  
Communities and Local Government 7/H5 Eland House,  
Bressenden Place, Victoria, SW1E 5DU

T: 0303 444 1168 | E:NAME REDACTED @communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 December 2010 12:38  
**To:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Update note to Baroness hanham

Hulya

Nothing specific from me, as I expect you've got the COP and numbers of councils publishing covered already. You might also mention that the LGA are expecting to publish their final guide on salaries and £500 spend shortly, and are getting the contracts guide ready for a short consultation.

Would BH be interested in the FOI? We haven't raised with Private Office as we didn't think it was particularly contentious.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 01 December 2010 12:32 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell **Subject:** Update note to Baroness hanham

All

I am doing an update note to BH in next couple of hours - just a high-level one. Anything you want to raise, let me know (drafted para would be great). Last one attached below for info. Will be the basis for a regular update chat I have with her tomorrow.

📎 File: 10-10-14 Transparency Progress Report 6.doc >>

**From:** Hülya Mustafa **Sent:** 01 December 2010 15:57 **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** PSAllMinisters; PSPermanentSecretary; PSAdvisers; David Prout; Andrew

Campbell; DDDT; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** Urgent submission on slippage on SRP

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple

**Attachments:** 10-12-01 sub to SoS on slippage.doc  
NAME REDACTED

Apologies for the short notice, but I attach a v short sub asking SoS to approve a line on why we have missed our SRP deadline on publishing a Code of Practice on Transparency in November. I did not realise until today that there was a process for clearing the report with SoS.

The action was on track when I did the last SRP update about 10 days ago, but it has since slipped as we have not managed to pin down some parallel work CO and MoJ have been doing and it has been important to keep in step with them as far as possible. The slippage does not affect our final aim of having the £500 requirement binding for January.

The report is due to be published on Friday, which is why this has to be cleared urgently.

Hülya

10-12-01 sub to  
SoS on slippag...

Am leaving the office now to try to get home to Kent, but have blackberry and mobile on me if you have any queries - . Thanks Hülya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06 December 2010 16:16 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500

No, I didn't was hoping that you might be able to shed some light - I'll let you know if I find out anything. Regards, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2010 12:10 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500

Did you find out where this figure came from- It is not one that we have supplied

Regards NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 03, 2010 9:46 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Expenditure over £500

Hi NAME REDACTED,  
Have you come across figure of 125 LA s publishing? I don't think I have - so not quite sure where that came from but I'll have to investigate! Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Thursday, December 02, 2010 4:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500

I've been using figure of 125... do you know where I've got that from?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 02, 2010 1:47 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; DDDT **Subject:** FW: Expenditure over £500

Thanks NAME REDACTED. DDDT colleagues, total LA s publishing £500 spend,

as far as we are aware, is now  
**109.** NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED



**Sent:** Thursday, December 02, 2010 1:41 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500

Hi, here are the latest files. NAME REDACTED , I don't know what happened to your file last week so I have left in all the most recent updates in Purple for you. NAME REDACTED, only LB Southwark is new. I haven't heard anything from South Holland or East Lindsay.

Regards

NAME REDACTED << File: Copy of council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A dECEMBER 2.xls >> << File: Copy of council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER December 2 .xls >>

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

Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER  
REDACTED Mob:  
**NUMBER**  
**REDACTED** Fax:  
020 7944 8937

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 07 December 2010 17:25  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Transparency

Just in case - as discussed Irene lucas confirmed in a conference discussion with MJ editor Mike Burton today that publishing £500 spend is not a statutory requirement. Know you have lines, but see below chain if you need more info.

Ta

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 07, 2010 5:21 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Line

No problem.

That's correct, the Code won't be a statutory requirement and local authorities could decide to ignore it if they wished. But the SoS does have the power to make the Code or parts of the Code (£500 spend) statutory. It doesn't give it the same emphasis as say a duty but it does give people the power to legally challenge those authorities who are not publishing information/data.

Hope that makes sense but if not let me know.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 07, 2010 5:14 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Line

Thanks NAME  
REDACTED

To clarify, although this isn't a statutory commitment, the SoS could choose to enforce this over the £500 spend?

Thanks  
H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 07, 2010 5:11 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Line

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Understand you're looking for a line on what powers the SoS has to compel local authorities to publish data... see below.

There is a power to require local authorities to publish information and to specify online publication via sections 2 and 3 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.

This enables Secretary of State to issue a Code of Recommended Practice as to the publication of information by local authorities, about the discharge of their function and other NAME REDACTED ers which SoS consider to be related. The legislation allows the SoS to specify the manner, frequency and form of publication in the Code. This existing legislation also gives the SoS the ability to require compliance with the Code by way of regulations.

For info - We shortly intend to issue for consultation a Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on transparency. This will address issues such as the scope, forNAME REDACTED ing and timing of the duty to publish the data.

Hope this helps

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

Digital Delivery and Transparency Division  
Tel. 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 09 November 2010 15:46  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** DDDT  
**Subject:** As Line on parish councils  
requested:

The general principle of transparency is that all public data should be published by default, unless there are very specific reasons for exclusion, therefore I would expect town and parish councils to publish their spending data.

NAME REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 14 December 2010 11:02  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** No. RE: Latest figures for council's publishing spend data  
Sorry.

Thanks

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest figures for council's publishing  
spend data

I don't mind counting the links myself, but I wonder if there is a count kept anywhere?

**NAME REDACTED**  
Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 10:59 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest figures for council's publishing spend  
data

Hi We are still collating the links to FRA data. You can find who's publishing  
their spending data (even on their councils site):

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencingovernment/fireserviceexpenditure>

Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010  
10:52 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Latest figures for council's  
publishing spend data

Hi NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED I was wondering whether you could  
update me on the latest number of councils that have published their data? How are we  
doing? Are we still maintaining data on fire and rescue authorities too? NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

Senior Campaigns Manager

**Department for Communities and Local Government**

Communication Directorate, 7/G6 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU  
t: 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED | f: 030 3444 3295 | e: NAME REDACTED  
.[@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** 15 December 2010 20:15 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Many thanks for this

(Definitely worth marking the 150 mark with another press release)

Sheridan

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 15 December 2010 11:29 **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Hi Sheridan,

You emailed Hulya about councils' £500 spend. Please find attached latest spreadsheet being maintained by DCLG's LocalDirectGov team, used by e-Comms to update the list of c115 authorities publishing spend data and timeline on the DCLG transparency webpages (those coloured purple are recent additions and green have holding pages but not yet publishing spend data).

We don't have resource to monitor all councils' websites, so this spreadsheet lists all authorities who have contacted DCLG to say they are publishing spend data. There are likely to be some who publish but don't tell us or do not link to data.gov.uk so the DCLG list is fairly approximate. However, the LG Group are also maintaining similar records and the Local DirectGov team are working with them to provide a more comprehensive list - we should have an update on this by tomorrow, but our understanding today is that LGA may have counted up to 150.

Hope this is helpful. Let me know if you need any further details.

Regards,

*NAME*

*REDACTED*  
NAME REDACTED

Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division  
Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Tuesday,  
December 14, 2010 6:34 PM **To:** Hulya  
Mustafa; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** Giles Kenningham **Subject:**  
Spending transparency query

Do we have a list of councils which have yet to publish their spending online?

Many thanks



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 21 December 2010 10:55 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Sounds good, many thanks NAME REDACTED

I mentioned to NAME REDACTED last week that we would need to include salaries and contracts as well as the £500

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 10:42 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Hi NAME REDACTED

I think we'll be looking at early Jan for this now as it'll take a lot of work to get all the webpages etc updated too. Will send round a very draft plan later that gives an idea of the actions we'll need to be doing to deliver the SoS's expectations on this.

Thanks  
H

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 10:37 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

NAME REDACTED,

I have left messages with the LGA, but it feels as though knowing we have got to 150 is going to be tricky unless they come back quickly

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 11:56 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

We are currently running on 118 (+4). Hopefully the LGA will get back to me with some additions, but with the bad weather it may not be a top priority in LAs.

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 11:44 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

It would be good to speak to someone today - Sheridan wants an announcement based around this milestone on the 23rd and there'll be quite a lot to do to get our webpages etc coordinated for that...

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 11:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED is the best person for this, but doesn't work Mondays. Can she give you a call tomorrow? H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 11:38 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Hi all

Grateful if someone could get in touch re 150 milestone please

Thanks  
H

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2010 11:29 AM **To:** Sheridan Westlake **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending transparency query

Hi Sheridan,

You emailed Hulya about councils' £500 spend. Please find attached latest spreadsheet being maintained by DCLG's LocalDirectGov team, used by e-Comms to update the list of c115 authorities publishing spend data and timeline on the DCLG transparency webpages (those coloured purple are recent additions and green have holding pages but not yet publishing spend data).

We don't have resource to monitor all councils' websites, so this spreadsheet lists all authorities who have contacted DCLG to say they are publishing spend data. There are likely to be some who publish but don't tell us or do not link to data.gov.uk so the DCLG list is fairly approximate. However, the LG Group are also maintaining similar records and the Local DirectGov team are working with them to provide a more comprehensive list - we should have an update on this by tomorrow, but our understanding today is that LGA may have counted up to 150.

Hope this is helpful. Let me know if you need any further details.

Regards,

*NAME REDACTED*

NAME REDACTED  
Local Public Data Unit - Transparency Division

Local Government & Economic Growth  
Department for Communities & Local Government  
3/H4 Eland House Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
[NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NAME REDACTED.@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Tuesday,  
December 14, 2010 6:34 PM **To:** Hulya  
Mustafa; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Giles Kenningham **Subject:** Spending  
transparency query

Do we have a list of councils which have yet to publish their spending online?

Many thanks

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 21 December 2010 18:04 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Thanks NAME REDACTED, this is a weight off.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 5:54 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

There only 2 new additions this week so shouldn't take long to update. Next week I expect even less unless the LGA come back with a load of additions. Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 5:44 PM **To:** eCommunications **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Thanks NAME  
REDACTED

It might be worth getting a steer from NAME REDACTED on when we expect the council data to come through and whether we expect it to be a large amount? We currently only update with the councils that contact us - my understanding is that's usually three or four councils a week, we don't necessarily need to make a bulk change to those that haven't contacted until we have more capacity...

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **On Behalf Of** eCommunications **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 5:27 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED Christopher **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Please be aware that we will be running with a skeleton level of service, with George's approval, on the week following Christmas. NAME REDACTED is the only person due to be in the office and if we can't set some of this up in advance we may not be able to turn this around quickly on the 31st.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME  
REDACTED

Content Manager e-  
Communications Team | DCLG  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 4:05 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; eCommunications; Communications - e News And Forward Planning; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Transparency

Hulya,

Thanks for copying me into the Code of Practice. Do you have any idea of timing on it? We've had a stab here at getting a plan together for the coming month - attached - with the first bit going forward on 31 Dec, would be good for it to be ready then though I knowe it's hopeful.

The full month's plan might involve quite an effort from all of us in getting the data together so I've copied most of the people involved in so they know what to expect. I'll be starting on the New Year script now - the sooner the better as they say!

Grateful for any feedback you may have

Thanks NAME REDACTED

<< File: Final push Comms plan comments.doc >>

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 22 December 2010  
11:44 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
£500 transparency

**Attachments:** 10-06-18 LG data transparency legislative options sub.doc  
NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED,

At the meeting with Selvin last week, he said No 10 were keen on understanding what would happen to councils who didn't publish £500 in Jan.

Could you do a **1-pager**, explaining the process (drawing on the original sub in terms of enforcement options which are few) and picking up some of NAME REDACTED's comms ideas.

They'd like this by 5 Jan, so they can take it to the meeting on 6 Jan.

Selvin and NAME REDACTED would also like Transparency on the agenda in the second Jan meeting - 23pm on 20th Jan - mainly to discuss the £500 I imagine. Grateful if you could cover, NAME REDACTED, as it's a Thursday (unless it ends up being wider in which case discuss with NAME REDACTED which is more appropriate). It might be a chance to push for some support on culture change/ OGDs/ competition.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 December 2010 10:06 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

**Attachments:** New years' resolution.doc  
[Hulya](#)

Thanks, we'll take those comments on board.

Should we be using 151 for 31st then or do we stick to 129? If so will our web page be updated to 151 too? Attached is the press release.

New years'  
resolution.doc (44 ...

Exciting transparency eggs sound good for 16 Jan. Also a possible for code if okayed by then.

20 Jan is only a visit in diary not necessarily a transparency visit yet. Leave that with us for now, but useful to know if Birmingham have a story to tell.

We'll speak to trades but they have shut up shop for xmas. So a Jan assignment.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 9:16 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** eCommunications; Communications - e News And Forward Planning; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED

Posner **Subject:** RE: Transparency

NAME  
REDACTED,

Please see attached the LGA's list of who is publishing £500 - they have the total as 151. I have found a couple of broken links but I have not gone through systematically. It looks like they have used the openly local site to source the information

<< File: Councils\_publishing\_spend\_data\_.xls >>  
Thanks also for the outline plan, couple of comments

- the Code will not be published by 31 Dec, as it needs HA clearance (takes at least 6 days) and we do not have SoS clearance yet - on 31 Dec (and throughout campaign) need to also refer to salaries (cc'ed NAME REDACTED) and contracts (especially as for contracts it is for new contracts and invitations to tender from January). New Years resolution is around publishing open data, starting with expenditure and salaries, rather than getting online. - on 16 Jan this does sound like a useful interview. We could use it to point to some authorities that are doing exciting things with open data if that would help (I will go through the list, but Bristol looks good from a quick glance). If Ministers want to talk about videoing meetings, could issue the press notice that NAME REDACTED suggested (see below)



<< Message: FW: Filming council meetings >>

- 20 Jan, is there anything more you can give us on this? I will have a look at what Birmingham are doing, I know there are some interesting things
- week long countdown. We need to be careful about expectations - although we want all to publish, I think we could be setting ourselves up for disappointment if we set it as who will be the last (and some LAs may even see that as a challenge...). Agree on the naming and shaming, and think should be presenting this in terms of what are those LAs not publishing trying to hide - what are they spending money on that they do not want their residents to know about?
- I am pulling together a paper on dealing with offending councils, but the actions will be based on the Code and so will not be particularly scary

Are we also looking at using trade press (have the MJ/LGC done anything recently?), and are we expecting Guardian etc to follow up the work they did before? Would we want a joint piece somewhere with the LGA? Is there scope to use number ten weight behind any of this - they are very interested in the £500 and have asked for the paper on dealing with offending councils.

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 4:05 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; eCommunications; Communications - e News And Forward Planning; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Transparency

Hulya,

Thanks for copying me into the Code of Practice. Do you have any idea of timing on it? We've had a stab here at getting a plan together for the coming month - attached - with the first bit going forward on 31 Dec, would be good for it to be ready then though I knowe it's hopeful.

The full month's plan might involve quite an effort from all of us in getting the data together so I've copied most of the people involved in so they know what to expect. I'll be starting on the New Year script now - the sooner the better as they say!

Grateful for any feedback you may have

Thanks  
NAME  
REDACTED  
File: Final push Comms plan comments.doc >>

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** eCommunications **Sent:** 23 December 2010 14:21 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED ; eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency  
Hi Hulya

The SAM portal is the tool that stores the LA spend links. NAME REDACTED manages this tool and runs a report each week that highlights the new entries to the tool. This report then comes to me and the new links are then added to the site/timeline. Basically the tool works by entering your postcode into a box, and the nearest LA pops up with a deep link to the spend page. If an LA hasn't entered their link, the page that pops up is the contact us page for that LA.

We currently have this line under the other LA transparency pages on our site with a link to this tool:

If your council is not listed above, use the [Directgov postcode search](#) (external link) to contact your council to find out their plans to provide details of their expenditure over £500.

I had add the line above next to the timeline?

Also, I've gone through the links listed on NAME REDACTED's spreadsheet. A lot of them are holding pages, broken links, incorrect links. Some of them were ones that were yet to submit their link into the SAM portal. As I understand it, NAME REDACTED had been working with LGA (provided them with their original list) and LGA were meant to get back to her.

NAME REDACTED and I have agreed that I will enter all new links on our site and the timeline by tomorrow afternoon. I will hand the list over to NAME REDACTED who will add them to the SAM portal retrospectively. NAME REDACTED is unable to do this by tomorrow due to other work commitments.  
Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications  
T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:09 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Peters **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ;  
eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency

NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,  
Have had a quick look at the campaign - NAME REDACTED's comments are v  
comprehensive so not much more to add.

The Code has been delayed and until it is finalised there is no **legal requirement** for councils to do this in Jan. (Well done on the wording of the pn which skirts this issue nicely!) Even then you/ we do need to be clear on what exactly happens to councils who do not publish. We should expect some resistance from councils who disagree on principal, but minimising those through naming and shaming would be good - and using their resistance to be ready for a good debate. **NAME REDACTED** - once you've done the one-pager setting us all straight on the consequences for those not publishing, can you work with **NAME REDACTED** and **NAME REDACTED** to develop a really robust Q&A which is clear on whether/ when this is a legal requirement etc. If you need some else to add in the timeline - not much happening between 31st and 16th - maybe you could get a video interview with one of the Local Public Data Panel (or a Minister) to post.

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Thanks for all your help on this everyone. Think it's shaping up to be a good push.

Hülya

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 10:21 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hülya Mustafa; Hülya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Transparency

**NAME REDACTED** and I will be checking and updating today. Some of the links may be broken and others may be holding pages so we wouldn't publish those. We should be able to give you a figure by this evening.

**NAME REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 10:06 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hülya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; Hülya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ;

NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:

Transparency

Hülya

Thanks, we'll take those comments on board.

Should we be using 151 for 31st then or do we stick to 129? If so will our web page be updated to 151 too? Attached is the press release.

<< File: New years' resolution.doc >> Exciting transparency egs sound good for 16 Jan. Also a possible for code if okayed by then. 20 Jan is only a visit in diary not necessarily a transparency visit yet. Leave that with us for now, but useful to know if Birmingham have a story to tell. We'll speak to trades but they have shut up shop for xmas. So a Jan assignment.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 9:16 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** eCommunications; Communications - e News And Forward Planning; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency

NAME

Please see attached the LGA's list of who is publishing £500 - they have the total as 151. I have found a couple of broken links but I have not gone through systematically. It looks like they have used the openly local site to source the information

<< File: Councils\_publishing\_spend\_data.xls >>  
Thanks also for the outline plan, couple of comments

- the Code will not be published by 31 Dec, as it needs HA clearance (takes at least 6 days) and we do not have SoS clearance yet - on 31 Dec (and throughout campaign) need to also refer to salaries (cc'ed NAME REDACTED) and contracts (especially as for contracts it is for new contracts and invitations to tender from January). New Years resolution is around publishing open data, starting with expenditure and salaries, rather than getting online. - on 16 Jan this does sound like a useful interview. We could use it to point to some authorities that are doing exciting things with open data if that would help (I will go through the list, but Bristol looks good from a quick glance). If Ministers want to talk about videoing meetings, could issue the press notice that NAME REDACTED Mcallister suggested (see below)

<< Message: FW: Filming council meetings >>

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- week long countdown. We need to be careful about expectations - although we want all to publish, I think we could be setting ourselves up for disappointment if we set it as who will be the last (and some LAs may even see that as a challenge...). Agree on the naming and shaming, and think should be presenting this in terms of what are those LAs not publishing trying to hide - what are they spending money on that they do not want their residents to know about?  
- I am pulling together a paper on dealing with offending councils, but the actions will be based on the Code and so will not be particularly scary

Are we also looking at using trade press (have the MJ/LGC done anything recently?), and are we expecting Guardian etc to follow up the work they did before? Would we want a joint piece somewhere with the LGA? Is there scope to use number ten weight behind any of this - they are very interested in the £500 and have asked for the paper on dealing with offending councils.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME  
REDACTED,  
x4NUMBER  
REDACTED

Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 4:05 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; eCommunications; Communications - e News And Forward Planning; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Transparency

Hulya,

Thanks for copying me into the Code of Practice. Do you have any idea of timing on it? We've had a stab here at getting a plan together for the coming month - attached - with the first bit going forward on 31 Dec, would be good for it to be ready then though I knowe it's hopeful.

The full month's plan might involve quite an effort from all of us in getting the data together so I've copied most of the people involved in so they know what to expect. I'll be starting on the New Year script now - the sooner the better as they say!

Grateful for any feedback you may have

Thanks NAME REDACTED

<< File: Final push Comms plan comments.doc >>

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444

NUMBER REDACTED

*Don't let your Christmas go up in smoke.*

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 December 2010 10:56 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: FOR URGENT COMMENT: Double Rule [RESTRICTED] [Non-Record]

**Categories:** NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED,

There could be a line on transparency meaning that the public will be able to see the effect that cuts are having on their local VCS, and they can hold their LA to account if they are not happy with the decisions that are being taken.

- LAs publishing expenditure over £500 will pick up grant payments to VCS and payments for services where they are pver £500
- any new contracts with the VCS signed after Jan 2011 will also be published (so if a LA signed no new contracts with VCS, but did sign lots of contracts with private providers where VCS could have provided the service, local people could challenge)

There are a couple of snags

- up to LAs how they publish the £500, i.e. how much information they provide, and I am not sure they will necessarily identify whether a supplier etc is VCS or not (though arguably someone interested enough to look would have an idea of the VCS in their area). The Guidance produced by the LG Group does suggest that supplier details are included - supplier name and companies house number/charity registration number
- it could be tricky to do a comparison of previous spend with the VCS, depending as to how far back LAs go with their figures

And of course this is all after the event.

Is this helpful?

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** 23 December 2010 14:16 **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency

We've had a lot to do with CfPS and think pairing up would be great - that means the spur for transparency in a council comes from within the council itself which is perfect.

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:15 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Peters **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ;  
eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Thanks

Yes we'll need to be sure who we pick on come 31 Jan .

The Centre for Public Scrutiny might be up for saying something. In this week's MJ there is a nib where they say public knowing how money spent is critical.. Exec Director says welcome localism bill but must come with strong local scrutiny and accountability.

SoS not back till 10 Jan, which is why not much going on, but am sure we do some smaller things for duty ministers if we have them.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:09 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Peters **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ;  
eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency

NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,

Have had a quick look at the campaign - NAME REDACTED's comments are v comprehensive so not much more to add.

The Code has been delayed and until it is finalised there is no **legal requirement** for councils to do this in Jan. (Well done on the wording of the pn which skirts this issue nicely!) Even then you/ we do need to be clear on what exactly happens to councils who do not publish. We should expect some resistance from councils who disagree on principal, but minimising those through naming and shaming would be good - and using their resistance to be ready for a good debate.

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person types in their council's name, and an automatic email to the right council is generated. Lobby groups do this stuff all the time.... Is it technically possible (even if just for the last week or 10 days - have cc'ed **NAME REDACTED** who might know) and is it appropriate for us to do?

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NAME

REDACTED

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; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
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NAME REDACTED | 0303 444

NUMBER REDACTED

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<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/newsroom/1793401>

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 23 December 2010 14:26 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; eCommunications; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Monro; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Also want the deadline to be added to timeline.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:23 PM **To:** eCommunications; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Transparency

Perfect NAME REDACTED - sorry I think I did know you're already sorted this, but forgot. As we're going to highlight the timeline in the press campaign, it would be good to move the postcode search to that page.

Thanks

h

**From:** eCommunications **Sent:** Thursday, December 23, 2010 2:21 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Oliver; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; eCommunications **Subject:** RE: Transparency

Hi Hulya

The SAM portal is the tool that stores the LA spend links. NAME REDACTED manages this tool and runs a report each week that highlights the new entries to the tool. This report then comes to me and the new links are then added to the site/timeline. Basically the tool works by entering your postcode into a box, and the nearest LA pops up with a deep link to the spend page. If an LA hasn't entered their link, the page that pops up is the contact us page for that LA.

We currently have this line under the other LA transparency pages on our site with a link to this tool:

If your council is not listed above, use the [Directgov postcode search](#) (external link) to contact your council to find out their plans to provide details of their expenditure over £500.

I had add the line above next to the timeline?

Also, I've gone through the links listed on NAME REDACTED's spreadsheet. A lot of them are holding pages, broken links, incorrect links. Some of them were ones that were yet to submit their link into the SAM portal. As I understand it, NAME REDACTED had been working with LGA (provided them with their original list) and LGA were meant to get back to her.

NAME REDACTED and I have agreed that I will enter all new links on our site and the timeline by tomorrow afternoon. I will hand the list over to NAME REDACTED who will add them to the SAM portal retrospectively. NAME REDACTED is unable to do this by tomorrow due to other work commitments.  
Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications

T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 30  
December 2010 09:55 **To:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: £500 transparency

**Attachments:** 101223 Not publish 500.doc

Hulya, Can you have a look before I send round further, in case you have any other ideas on sanctions? Thanks, NAME REDACTED

101223 Not publish  
500.doc (35...

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:44 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** £500 transparency

NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,

At the meeting with Selvin last week, he said No 10 were keen on understanding what would happen to councils who didn't publish £500 in Jan.

Could you do a **1-pager**, explaining the process (drawing on the original sub attached in terms of enforcement options which are few) and picking up some of NAME REDACTED's comms ideas. << File: 10-06-18 LG data transparency legislative options sub.doc >>  
They'd like this by 5 Jan, so they can take it to the meeting on 6 Jan.

Selvin and NAME REDACTED would also like Transparency on the agenda in the second Jan meeting - 23pm on 20th Jan - mainly to discuss the £500 I imagine. Grateful if you could cover, NAME REDACTED, as it's a Thursday (unless it ends up being wider in which case discuss with NAME REDACTED which is more appropriate). It might be a chance to push for some support on culture change/ OGDs/ competition.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 30 December 2010  
16:48 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Expenditure items over £500

Thanks very much for all your hard work on this. Little did we know what we were taking on!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 30,  
2010 4:46 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW:  
Expenditure items over £500

Just in case I get run over by a red bus tonight!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, December 30, 2010 4:42 PM **To:**  
NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; Jane Houghton; NAME REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Expenditure items over £500

Please see today's expenditure report. Total is now 146 plus 4 holding pages. Since we are so close to the magic figure of 150. I will be checking on a daily basis and will inform you when we get there.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls >>

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

Visit [DCLG's e-newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at  
<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 December 2010 12:04 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

As discussed with NAME REDACTED , slight tweak to avoid the suggestion that the Dept would take legal action

To note - code has not yet been published, we are awaiting the HA letter being sent

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 11:59 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

NAME  
REDACTED

This is line we've given to Express on compulsion:

"It would be a brave council that was prepared to explain to their local residents that they were not going to show them where their money is being spent. More formally, if needed we could make the code of practice binding to allow legal action to be taken against those failing to comply."

PN below:

**Embargoed until 00:01 01 January 2011**

### **Pickles: Councils' New Year resolution must be greater transparency**

Every council's New Year's resolution must be to open up their finance books to the public, Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles said today as he kicked off a countdown to the January deadline for putting spending data online.

Ministers have been clear that councils need to show they have done everything possible to reduce waste and duplication to save taxpayers' money before considering frontline services. The local government settlement is helping those most reliant on grants.

Six months ago Mr Pickles wrote to all councils calling on them to throw open their files to make local government spending more transparent and show waste is being eradicated. Research by credit experts Experian has revealed that town halls could be wasting nearly £150m on duplicate payments.

The call for greater transparency includes publishing details of senior pay, councillor expenses, minutes of meetings, and any useful frontline service data of interest to residents or entrepreneurs. Local Authorities now only have until the end of January to get all of their spending data over £500 published online in accessible formats.

Mr Pickles heaped praise on the 144 councils (less than half) that have already gone online, but he gave a stark warning to the 'slow-coach councils' yet to act that they will face tough questions from residents and tough action from him.

The minister's department is leading the way with all its spending over £500 already up online. In addition it is keeping a close watch on councils, logging progress on a public timeline on its website. A code of practice is due to be published shortly.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

"New Year is traditionally a time when the country sets its goals for the year ahead. In 2011 I would like to see every council make their new year's resolution to cut more waste and fully open their books up to public scrutiny.

"I've started by calling for all expenditure over £500 to be put online by the end of the month but councils should not stop there. They should also be willing to show senior and middle management salaries, councillor expenses, job recruitment, minutes of council meetings.

"One hundred and forty four councils have shown they're not afraid to be transparent and I applaud them, but that's less than half, the slow-coach councils only have a month to go before serious questions will be asked about what they've got to hide. Openness is an essential part of a proper modern democracy. The taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent, to point out waste and decide local priorities."



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 December 2010 12:54 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

Don't see why not - maybe check with SoS office (that is what we have to do for FoI when we release Ministerial letters). I am not aware of it being on the website at the moment.

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 12:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED Watson **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

Cheers - if needed can I send him the letter .... NAME REDACTED.

*NAME REDACTED, Senior Press Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government tel: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED email:NAME REDACTED @communities.gsi.gov.uk*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 12:47 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

Yes - see attached the letter

<< File: 10-06-04- SofS - Local Transparency.pdf >>

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 12:44 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution **Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED -

The journalist is questioning the Sept v Jan deadline - can we say something like below?. Do you also have a copy of the letter which makes the January deadline clear?

- As we said September was the start date by when we expected the best councils to follow our example and begin making their spending data online for public scrutiny. If they were able to publish this from September, we encouraged them to do so rather than wait for the January deadline.
- The SOS letter made clear the deadline for all councils to be publishing their data online was the end of January.

*NAME REDACTED, Senior Press Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government tel: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED email:NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk*

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 12:11 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: New years' resolution

This is the link you asked for

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1606882>

This is before I was working on transparency - we have always talked about January and this is what is in the letter, but I think the rationale for Sept was that this was when DCLG was starting to publish and LAs should just get on with it, and certainly be taking action by Jan

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 December 2010 16:17 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** What happens if LAs do not publish £500

**Attachments:** 101231 What happens if not publish 500.doc

NAME REDACTED - please see attached a note setting out what will happen if LAs do not publish £500. Grateful if you could check this is correct in legal terms, and is there anything we can add on what specific actions citizens could take if the Code becomes a legislative requirement, and is there anything they could do with the Code before it is a legislative requirement?

101231 What happens if not pub..

Selvin/NAME REDACTED - please see a [draft](#) note for use with Number 10 at your meeting on the 6 January. I am able to attend the meeting on 20 January, but it will mean that I will need to duck out of a training course, so grateful if transparency could be discussed first if at all possible

Comms - you may find this a useful reference, though please note it is still in draft

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:44 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** £500 transparency

NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,

At the meeting with Selvin last week, he said No 10 were keen on understanding what would happen to councils who didn't publish £500 in Jan.

Could you do a **1-pager**, explaining the process (drawing on the original sub attached in terms of enforcement options which are few) and picking up some of NAME REDACTED's comms ideas.

<< File: 10-06-18 LG data transparency legislative options sub.doc >>

They'd like this by 5 Jan, so they can take it to the meeting on 6 Jan.

Selvin and NAME REDACTED would also like Transparency on the agenda in the second Jan meeting - 23pm on 20th Jan - mainly to discuss the £500 I imagine. Grateful if you could cover, NAME REDACTED, as it's a Thursday (unless it ends up being wider in which case discuss with NAME REDACTED which is more appropriate). It might be a chance to push for some support on culture change/ OGDs/ competition.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 December 2010 14:20 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: EMBARGOED PA - 'SLOWCOACH' COUNCILS FAIL TO PUBLISH SPENDING DETAILS - Friday 31 December 2010

PA copy - seems OK. Thanks for your help with this.

and happy new year!

NAME  
REDACTED.

NAME REDACTED, Senior Press Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government tel: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED email:NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** MMU [mailto:MMU@coi.gsi.gov.uk] **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 2:10 PM **To:** MMU **Subject:** EMBARGOED PA - 'SLOWCOACH' COUNCILS FAIL TO PUBLISH SPENDING DETAILS

- Friday 31 December 2010

# 'SLOWCOACH' COUNCILS FAIL TO PUBLISH SPENDING DETAILS

This story is embargoed

HHH POLITICS Councils

Topic [POLITICS](#)

 Published  
31 Dec 2010 -  
By  Daniel Bentley, Press Association Political Correspondent

Embargoed to 0001 Saturday January 1

**Page 1: 14:06**

More than half of town halls have yet to comply with Government demands to throw open their books to public scrutiny. Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles called on councils six months ago to start publishing itemised spending online from September as part of the coalition's transparency drive. But still only 144 out of 354 English local authorities have released the information. The rest have until the end of January to meet the Government's deadline. A code of practice incorporating the requirements on transparency about spending is to be published shortly. Officials said it could be made binding, in which case residents would be able to take enforcement action against authorities which refused to comply. Councils are being asked to publish details of expenditure on all goods and services - from car hire to consultancy fees - of more than £500.

Also to be published online are senior salaries, councillors' expenses, minutes of meetings and data on service provision like rubbish and recycling rates. Mr Pickles today criticised the "slowcoach" councils which had not yet published the information. "In 2011 I would like to see every council make their New Year's resolution to cut more waste and fully open their books up to public scrutiny," he said. He added that local authorities had until the end of January before people would wonder "what they've got to hide". "One hundred and forty four councils have shown they're not afraid to be transparent and I applaud them, but that's less than half, the slowcoach councils only have a month to go before serious questions will be asked about what they've got to hide. Openness is an essential part of a proper modern democracy. The taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent, to point out waste and decide local priorities." end

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 31 December 2010 16:38  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: SRP December report  
NAME

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

On what we are up to to get LAs to publish, I have copied you in to the note I have drafted on what happens if LAs do not publish, and comms have worked up a plan of activity for January. I only have a draft that is a little out of date, so have asked for the latest version and will forward once I receive. This PN is going out:

**Embargoed until 00:01 01 January 2011**

**Pickles: Councils' New Year resolution must be greater transparency**

Every council's New Year's resolution must be to open up their finance books to the public, Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles said today as he kicked off a countdown to the January deadline for putting spending data online.

Ministers have been clear that councils need to show they have done everything possible to reduce waste and duplication to save taxpayers' money before considering frontline services. The local government settlement is helping those most reliant on grants.

Six months ago Mr Pickles wrote to all councils calling on them to throw open their files to make local government spending more transparent and show waste is being eradicated. Research by credit experts Experian has revealed that town halls could be wasting nearly £150m on duplicate payments.

The call for greater transparency includes publishing details of senior pay, councillor expenses, minutes of meetings, and any useful frontline service data of interest to residents or entrepreneurs. Local Authorities now only have until the end of January to get all of their spending data over £500 published online in accessible formats.

Mr Pickles heaped praise on the 144 councils (less than half) that have already gone online, but he gave a stark warning to the 'slow-coach councils' yet to act that they will face tough questions from residents and tough action from him.

The minister's department is leading the way will all its spending over £500 already up online. In addition it is keeping a close watch on councils, logging progress on a public timeline on its website. A code of practice is due to be published shortly.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

"New Year is traditionally a time when the country sets its goals for the year ahead. In 2011 I would like to see every council make their new year's resolution to cut more waste and fully open their books up to public scrutiny.

"I've started by calling for all expenditure over £500 to be put online by the end of the month but councils should not stop there. They should also be willing to show senior and middle management salaries, councillor expenses, job recruitment, minutes of council meetings.

"One hundred and forty four councils have shown they're not afraid to be transparent and I applaud them, but that's less than half, the slow-coach councils only have a month to go before serious questions will be asked about what they've got to hide. Openness is an essential part of a proper modern democracy. The taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent, to point out waste and decide local priorities."

### **Background**

1. The list of council that have already told DCLG they have put their spending data online is at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>
2. The timeline of when councils went online is at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/timeline/>
3. The letter to councils encouraging them to throw open their files and alongside spending info publish a wide range of data online included the following 5 issues:
  - information on senior salaries, names and job descriptions
  - councillor allowances and expenses; minutes and papers of council meetings
  - job vacancies that will enable people to see why council wage bills are so high and how many of the positions are for key local services
  - frontline service data - including rubbish and recycling rates, council tax collection rates and detail of major planned projects
  - data such as food hygiene reports for food outlets - information which is routinely collected and of interest to residents, but not currently shared in an easily accessible format.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/1607061>

4. The Department for Communities is leading the way across Whitehall and

Local Government by publishing all its expenditure over £500 online too. This can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencingovernment/spenddata/>

5. Experian research suggests councils could be overpaying by as much as £150m a year: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/corporate/1738897>

Hope that is alright for now,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010 10:43 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: SRP December report

NAME  
REDACTED,

I'm just following up a couple of SRP things.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

The second action is for you to consider the comms strategy for transparency in terms of opportunities to encourage publication by local authorities - I think this was something Andrew raised. It would be useful if you could just give us some feedback on this so we can let No 10 know what we've done to take this forward on the 6th.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Many thanks,  
NAME  
REDACTED .



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 04 January 2011 11:45  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Re: 144 councils have opened up their books

Hi NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED,

We are looking to have a permanent article on Directgov along the lines of " Find out what your council spends". Initially it will cover council expenditure over Â£500 but will be expanded as other areas of expenditure are made available by councils.

NAME REDACTED, our managing editor, will be writing the article and she will pass the draft article to you for comment .We are looking to have the article ready this month.

regards

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 04, 2011 10:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Re: 144 councils have opened up their books

NAME REDACTED,

It looks like Havering were copied in on the expectation that they would have published, but if you have looked and can not find it then perhaps they have not - Michael White from Havering does not seem to have responded in the email chain from Sheridan. I will let Sheridan know.

Yes, we are the policy people for the article - what sort of thing do you need and by when?

Thanks,

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 04, 2011 10:38 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Re: 144 councils have opened up their books

Hi NAME REDACTED,

I have found the link for Bexley and Croydon updated their information themselves ( as they were asked to). However I have trawled through the Havering site and it is not obvious where the information is published. Could someone get them to supply the link .

As we come up to 150 compliant LAs, the Home and Community Franchise need to be thinking about a permanent article on Directgov for transparency. Would you and NAME REDACTED be the appropriate policy people for this article(s).

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 04 January 2011 15:24  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: London article on publishing £500

[In case you want to take a look at the other coverage \(with some interesting comments from the public\):](#)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5jSnoJSizFLq7YntuHhsnU9620pbA?docId=N0406031293804533133A>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12100017>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-12103047>

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/2011/01/01/eric-pickles-delivering-toughnew-year-message-to-coventry-and-warwickshire-councils-92746-27915333/>

[http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/8765757.Councils\\_\\_\\_slow\\_\\_\\_to\\_open\\_their\\_books/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/8765757.Councils___slow___to_open_their_books/)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-12103067>

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/news/Pickles-warns-councils-finance-details/article-3055544-detail/article.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/220441/Clamp-on-councils-waste-and-secrecy>

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 04, 2011 12:50 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: London article on publishing £500

NAME  
REDACTED

The story ran in Saturday's Sun, Star and Express and online on BBC national and regional websites.

Regional papers running the story include the Coventry Telegraph, Oxford Mail, Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph and Northern Echo. The Telegraph has blogged about how certain London councils are yet to publish their data.

NAME  
REDACTED.

NAME REDACTED, Senior Press Officer, Department for Communities and Local Government tel: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED email:NAME REDACTED. @communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 04, 2011 12:45 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** London article on publishing £500

This could explain the emails to Sheridan from Bexley & Croydon!  
<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/andrewgilligan/100070273/london-labour-councils-lag-badly-on-transparency/>

NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED - Is there any feedback from the PN and the story? I have not been able to find very much.

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 04 January 2011 16:42 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** RE: What happens if LAs do not publish £500

**Attachments:** 110104 What happens if not publish 500.doc

NAME

REDACTED,

Attached with track changes. I've copied in Hulya as well, in the light of what I'm saying about MoJ right to data.

110104 What happens if not pub..

In my view, you need to mention the MoJ right to data workstream (if that's what it's still called) - NAME REDACTED certainly knows about this.

As you can see, the SI route under the LGPLA 1980 is rather clunky and has a less than ideal enforcement mechanism. It might be too early to know whether MoJ's work will take the strain on this, so we may need to begin work on the SIs anyway (although we haven't yet even consulted on the Code).

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

NAME

REDACTE

D

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 4:17 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED

Windslow; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** What happens if LAs do not publish £500

NAME REDACTED - please see attached a note setting out what will happen if LAs do not publish £500. Grateful if you could check this is correct in legal terms, and is there anything we can add on what specific actions citizens could take if the Code becomes a legislative requirement, and is there anything they could do with the Code before it is a legislative requirement?

<< File: 101231 What happens if not publish 500.doc >> Selvin/NAME REDACTED - please see a [draft](#) note for use with Number 10 at your meeting on the 6 January. I am able to attend the meeting on 20 January, but it will mean that I will need to duck out of a training course, so grateful if transparency could be discussed first if at all possible

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**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:44 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** £500 transparency

NAME REDACTED, NAME  
REDACTED,

At the meeting with Selvin last week, he said No 10 were keen on understanding what would happen to councils who didn't publish £500 in Jan.

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They'd like this by 5 Jan, so they can take it to the meeting on 6 Jan.

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Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06  
January 2011 11:40 **To:** Mark Hayward **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** £500  
transparency NAME REDACTED

We spoke about the work you are doing on spending transparency with relation to the new way of doing affordable housing

NAME REDACTED is working on the impact assessment for the Code, which will require LAs to do the £500, and he will send you what he has done

As we discussed, I think it would be for the organisations to publish the information, rather than forwarding on to the HCA - they should be accountable for the public money that they spend.

You may want to take a look at the public data principles  
[http://data.gov.uk/wiki/Public\\_Data\\_Principles](http://data.gov.uk/wiki/Public_Data_Principles)

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06  
January 2011 11:54 **To:** Jane Todorovic  
**Subject:** Councils £500 Jane,

Should have said in the meeting earlier that the PN itself does praise LAs that have published, but the purpose of the campaign is to get to those that have not:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/localgovernment/1809156>

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06 January 2011 17:21 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- half way there

I'm sure NAME REDACTED will know the facts but from the correspondence we've had in the team here I'd say it boils down to 1) the new year article flushing out people who hadn't let us know and 2) people taking January as their start date.

Don't know whether you were thinking of a further piece being sooner but, as discussed with NAME REDACTED , with should have our Code of Practice out w/c 17 Jan. We're meeting tomorrow to talk handling of that period.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 5:16 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- half way there

This is great - how much of it is us updating our own records compared to people getting in touch? Thinking it might be worth doing a news piece on the jump since EP's new year resolution call?

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 5:12 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Expenditure over £500- half way there

Hi,

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls >> See the latest file. I have been liaising with the LGA and we have pooled our resources to produce a more comprehensive list of councils publishing transparency data. Here is the latest list. 52% publishing actual data and 13 holding pages.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER REDACTED

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**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06 January 2011 17:28 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- half way there

The vast majority of new entries came from the LGA review. However, there are an increasing number of LAs putting their links into the LDGAdmin system directly.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 5:21 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- half way there

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NUMBER REDACTED

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NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

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<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 06 January 2011 17:16 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Expenditure over £500- half way there

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NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
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**Subject:** Expenditure over £500- half way there

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Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
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<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 January 2011 13:24 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** Mtg with HMT on VAT fraud I met with HMT and HMRC today to discuss the work they have been doing to review whether Departments and LAs should be asked to include VAT numbers (VRNs) when publishing details of expenditure. The summary of the analysis is as follows:

- HMRC looked Sweden, Germany, France and the USA, and none routinely publish VAT numbers although they will be supplied if requested after checks are made
- If have a business website, then have to include the VRN on it, though this is a EU requirement and is not really enforced
- Publishing VRNs does not increase the risk of loss from fraud to the exchequer, as HMRC has checks and balances in place
- Central Departments would not be at an increased risk of fraud as they have systems in place (looking at 25k, could be an increased risk to small NDPBs if went to £500, though this is currently on hold as HMT want to consolidate current transparency work)
- However, small businesses and sole traders could be at increased risk as (1) this information may not currently be in the public domain and (2) they do not necessarily have the checks and balances in place to prevent VRN based identity fraud

We also talked about the legal position of the data, why VRNs are one solution to aggregating data but there could be others, how we assess the level of the risks to sole traders/SMEs, whether publishing as part of expenditure would lead to calls for publication of all VRNs (as a public dataset)

Next steps:

- HMRC to talk to ICO/legal about whether VRNs are public or private data, how they should be treated
- HMRC to produce a summary of their analysis for publication
- HMT to talk to CO about a consultation on whether SMEs think this would increase risks of fraud
- HMRC to look at options for support to SMEs on fraud prevention
- DCLG to try and assess to what extent LAs engage with sole traders, to determine the level of risk
- DCLG to update LG Group on progress made and next steps
- HMT to aim to produce a paper setting out the review so far and next steps by the end of January, probably linked to the launch of the consultation

I thought this all sounded sensible - there are risks and before Government sets the policy going forward I think we do need a better sense of the extent of those risks. The Government needs to have a response if they recommend publishing VRNs, a fraud is perpetrated, and a sole trader comes to Government asking for compensation etc. Having a consultation and being open about the process of the review feels like the right way to go.

**NAME REDACTED** - can we have a chat about whether you would be able to do a piece of work to determine to what extent your authority deals with sole traders who could be adversely affected by the publication of VRNs?

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED Local Government  
Policy and Productivity

Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 January 2011 16:16 **To:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: What happens if LAs do not publish £500

**Attachments:** 110107 What happens if not publish 500 final.doc  
With thanks to NAME REDACTED for her detailed comments, please see attached a note on what happens if LAs do not publish the £500 information.

Selvin - understand that No 10 requested this (I was not at that meeting I do not think)

Comms - this may be helpful, though we are working on a full Q&A that will be a bit more user friendly, and go beyond the scope of this note to set out what the Code will do and the wider policy picture on transparency.

110107 What happens if not pub..

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2010 4:17 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED

Windslow; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** What happens if LAs do not publish £500

NAME REDACTED - please see attached a note setting out what will happen if LAs do not publish £500. Grateful if you could check this is correct in legal terms, and is there anything we can add on what specific actions citizens could take if the Code becomes a legislative requirement, and is there anything they could do with the Code before it is a legislative requirement?

<< File: 101231 What happens if not publish 500.doc >> Selvin/NAME REDACTED - please see a [draft](#) note for use with Number 10 at your meeting on the 6 January. I am able to attend the meeting on 20 January, but it will mean that I will need to duck out of a training course, so grateful if transparency could be discussed first if at all possible

Comms - you may find this a useful reference, though please note it is still in draft

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government & Economic Growth I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:44 AM



**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** £500 transparency

NAME REDACTED, NAME REDACTED,

At the meeting with Selvin last week, he said No 10 were keen on understanding what would happen to councils who didn't publish £500 in Jan.

Could you do a **1-pager**, explaining the process (drawing on the original sub attached in terms of enforcement options which are few) and picking up some of NAME REDACTED's comms ideas.

<< File: 10-06-18 LG data transparency legislative options sub.doc >>

They'd like this by 5 Jan, so they can take it to the meeting on 6 Jan.

Selvin and NAME REDACTED would also like Transparency on the agenda in the second Jan meeting - 23pm on 20th Jan - mainly to discuss the £500 I imagine. Grateful if you could cover, NAME REDACTED, as it's a Thursday (unless it ends up being wider in which case discuss with NAME REDACTED which is more appropriate). It might be a chance to push for some support on culture change/ OGDs/ competition.

Thanks

H

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED **Sent:** 07 January 2011 14:16  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Transparency

REDACTED - OUT OF SCOPE

**Boulton - transparency**

You are due to appear on Adam Boulton and Co on Sunday and new thematic programme to discuss transparency. This coincides well with the 2 week to go deadline for councils publishing £500 spend data online and will be a nice follow up to the successful new year's resolution story. We will provide latest figures on how many councils have got online, currently, half. You will also be able to say that you will publish the Transparency Code shortly which will tell councils what is required of them and possibly that .

To lay the ground for this we are working with advisers on print stories highlighting the deadline showing that many more councils have acted following your new year reminder and and more on excessive chief executive pay. We would formally update the department website transparency timeline on 18th.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 10 January 2011 13:49 **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT today - TOPICAL ORAL PQS BRIEFING  
PACK

Piece on sky is set to be about the existing £500 request. So we'll need updated figs on how many councils doing it and which ones.

Is a possibility that it will also broaden out the policy piece. i.e. £500, salaries etc is simply the start. Need to move to be fully open and accountable: i.e. filming / blogging at council meetings, all the other sorts of data sets.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 1:09 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT today - TOPICAL ORAL PQS BRIEFING PACK

Great - thanks all.

NAME  
REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **On Behalf Of** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 1:08 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT today - TOPICAL ORAL PQS BRIEFING PACK

NAME REDACTED - SoS is speaking on Sky about transparency on Sunday. NAME REDACTED is trying to find out more from Comms and will let you know if there is anything we need to update in the brief; otherwise it looks OK to me.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 10 January 2011 12:40 **To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Northants quote

Thanks - does this need to go to the Secretary of State or are you happy for me to send to the Telegraph?

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** Giles Kenningham **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 12:18 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Northants quote

Fine

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 11:20 AM **To:** Giles Kenningham **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Northants quote

Giles

You will have seen the below article launching the Northants Evening Telegraph's campaign for their councils to be more open. We spoke to them to see if they'd like our support and they requested a quote for this week and a ministerial article, which we will draft after the code of practice has been announced.

Below is a draft quote - are you content?

<http://www.northantset.co.uk/news/You-have-a-right-to.6678669.jp>

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

"I'm delighted to support the Evening Telegraph's 'you have a right to know' campaign calling for local councils to make all their information available for public scrutiny.

"Openness is an essential part of modern democracy. The taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent, and to make sure it's being spent on the right priorities. That's why I've asked all councils to publish everything they spend over £500 online by the end of the month."

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Department for Communities and Local Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 12 January 2011 13:41 **To:** Lucy Makinson; David Prout **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

**Attachments:** council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls  
[NAME REDACTED - attached spreadsheet as not sure its come through.](#)  
NAME  
REDACTED

council expenditure  
monitoring...

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** Lucy Makinson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 1:36 PM  
**To:** David Prout  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Transparency

[To see.](#)

Green rows are councils that haven't yet published; purple rows are newly published data (ie since last week).

Lucy

Lucy Makinson Director, Local Government Policy  
and Productivity Department for Communities and  
Local Government Eland House Bressenden Place  
LONDON SW1E 5DU

PA NAME  
REDACTED Tel:  
030 3444 4148  
Blackberry: NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:59 PM **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson; Hulya Mustafa

**Subject:** RE: Transparency

NAME REDACTED - here it is. NAME REDACTED << File: council  
expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls >>

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson; Hulya Mustafa  
**Subject:** Transparency

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Would you be so kind as to send me the most up to date list/spreadsheet of  
Local Authorities publishing expenditure over £500 and those that aren't?

Many  
thanks,  
NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

Private Secretary Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP Secretary of  
State for Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 12 January 2011 15:51 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

Thanks NAME REDACTED - when was the next scheduled update?

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 3:51 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

<< [File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls](#) >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 2:50 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

Hi NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED

We'll be briefing out a story from tomorrow for next week around the list - two weeks to go. Can we have the latest number tomorrow please? It won't need to go online until Friday/Monday but we'd like to be as accurate as we can for the SoS's interview on Sunday.

Thanks NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 11:02 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

I was on the timeline last night (aren't I boring!) and noticed that the Herts link is broken.

Can we chat later to discuss capacity for updates over the next two weeks? Likely to be picking up the pace of updates from Monday if we can.

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 10:59 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

Bromsgrove and Mid Devon never made it onto the list; they switched off before we published. the holding pages are not included in the numbers I supplied (except as a supernumerary entry)

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 10:54 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

So will we remove them from the list as a result?

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 5:05 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

I think the number went up to 11 this week plus a couple may have removed the page entirely.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 4:35 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: transparency

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

It looks like some councils have changed back to holding pages...

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 4:23 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** transparency

I spoken to this guy. Apparently some councils on our list haven't been updating their pages regularly and some have just set out what format they will publish in. Can you check with officials.

**From:** NAME REDACTED Young



**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2011 12:37 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** LBC

I just answered your phone. Have you got time to call Jim Denton at LGC about the rules for councils to publish their spend data online...he's already looked at the lists and guidance from the new years resolution story in December, but he had other questions. If not I'll get someone on newsdesk to call him back but he needs guidance in next 30 mins. 020 7728 3766

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 12 January 2011 14:56 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** 11-01-12 List of authorities (3).doc

NAME  
REDACTED

Here's the list of MPs and whether their Las are publishing their £500 spend data or not. This is a snapshot of where we are now. Some of the councils down as a no are not publishing yet, but are in the process of getting the data ready. Others that are down as a yes are publishing but not always in an open and accessible format. This list does, therefore, need to be treated with caution.

11-01-12 List of  
authorities (...)

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 1:25 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Subject:** RE: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs

Here's the revised list of authorities - sorry for the delay. I need to re-order the table too - the LGF spreadsheet is proving to be a nightmare so just send me the info in whatever format you have an I can add it into the table as it ends up.

Thanks

NAME REDACTED. << File: List of  
authorities.doc >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:53 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Subject:** RE: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs

NAME  
REDACTED

I've just clarified with NAME REDACTED and he means just our opposition front bench so I'll resend the table reflecting this.

NAME  
REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:31 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Subject:** RE: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs

NAME REDACTED

I don't think we should be doing the opposition front bench - this is for spads. Can you send through a revised list minus opposition front bench. Thanks NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:26 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs

Yes, Labour front bench (but not Scotland/Wales as I don't have the info) and other people who have asked a lot of PQs recently as read out to me by NAME REDACTED following prayers this morning.

NAME  
REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:24 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPQs **Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED Can I just check the criteria for looking at the constituencies that are not on the order paper. NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:16 PM

To: NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPOs **Importance:** High

Here's the long list of MPs we need to check. Grateful if you could fill in the final column on £500 spend with a simple yes/no.

Divvy up as follows: NAME REDACTED: Nigel Adams to Liam Byrne NAME REDACTED: Yvette Cooper to Caroline Flint NAME REDACTED: Richard NAME REDACTED to Sadiq Khan NAME REDACTED: Jessica Lee to Sheryll Murray NAME REDACTED: Chinyelu Onwurah to Laurence NAME REDACTED son NAME REDACTED: NAME REDACTED Russell to Shaun Woodward.

Here's the latest list from NAME REDACTED which may help

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER-A .xls >>  
NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 11:03 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; **Subject:** URGENT TODAY Briefing for OPOs **Importance:** High

Dear All

Please see attached chart of MPs and local authorities to which information needs to be added by your teams to fulfil the SoS's commission. This should give you a list of the authorities against which I need additional data on -

Chief Exec's salary for each authority Expected NHB for each authority and Whether the authority has so far published data over £500.

Could you please provide the information **by 4.30pm today** as I need to get a single chart up to the Secretary of State tonight.

Many thanks

NAME  
REDACTED.

<< File: MP briefing table 201112.xls >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 12 January 2011 16:03 **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** Michael Winders; NAME REDACTED ; Giles Kenningham; Sheridan Westlake;

NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** Transparency countdown

**Attachments:** Two weeks notice.doc Hi there

Please see attached press release on the final two weeks before councils' deadline to get their £500 spend online. Can it please go in the box tonight for approval? This story has been drafted to accompany the SoS's Sky appearance on Sunday so we're planning to brief to press tomorrow and Friday, and publish Monday.

Thanks

NAME

REDAC

TED

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Department for Communities and Local Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

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Two weeks  
notice.doc (67 KB)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 13 January 2011 14:48 **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Article on transparency

Sorry, that was me getting weeks confused - the point was that I think the Code should be mentioned and I was not sure when this article was being published

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 2:32 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Article on transparency

Think ministers are expecting the code next week shortly after HA clearance, as he is planning to mention on Sunday on Sky. It is in diary for 19th. So we need to get this right.

We should stick to the same number we are using for the Sunday press notice, which is 193.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 2:30 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Article on transparency

NAME REDACTED,

I have made some changes below to the transparency section. I am assuming the other text is being cleared by people that lead in those areas. Sorry I have not done this in track, but hope it is clear when I have deleted text.

The Code is due for publication w/c 24 Jan, I was not sure when this article will be published. Also, how specific do you want to be on the number of LAs publishing as it changes almost daily? Copying NAME REDACTED given the reference I am suggesting on the Code and for timing considerations.

**NAME REDACTED** - I had not before realised that 'in due course' had been added to the PN by SpAds (I think) on the publication of other information. I think this is wrong. SoS called on LAs to publish information, and said they would not be called on data set by data set. Also, they are already expected to do contracts and tenders by the end of January, as well as salaries. Can we discuss?

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED

**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 1:32 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Article on transparency

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

Giles wanted an article in response to this story about councils still spending money on lobbyists.

NAME REDACTED and I have done the following. I think it should be alright, but could you just give it a quick once over please?

<http://www.prweek.com/news/1049091/Public-bodies-stick-lobbying-firms-despite-coalition-crackdown/?DCMP=ILC-SEARCH>

Many thanks  
NAME  
REDACTED

Today, public sector borrowing stands at £149 billion - and that's got to mean a change in mindset towards public money. Every part of the public sector has to play its part in cutting the highest deficit in the UK's peacetime history - and rediscover respect for taxpayers cash rather than assuming it will continue to come pouring in.

Councils will play a particular role in this. They spend around £122 billion a year, including £42 billion on buying services. What they choose to spend their money on can have a huge effect - not just on local public services but on the local economy as a whole. And every single council taxpayer is going to be looking to their council to make wise and prudent decisions about where their hard earned money is spent. They will want to make sure that every penny is going on the front-line services they rely on - collecting the bins, keeping the streets clean and safe, maintaining the roads and parks.

What people absolutely don't need or want is to see their money being fritted away on projects that don't make a blind bit of difference to anyone's life. Whether that's some of the ridiculous 'non-jobs' that we hear about, or lavish spending on lobbyists. This seems so obvious, that frankly, it is shocking to hear there are 100 public bodies, including, eight councils and 15 housing associations, still showing up in the latest Association of Professional Political Consultants records as employing public affairs firms.

Councils should not be spending taxpayers cash on bankrolling elaborate lobbying campaigns. Government paying to lobby government is indefensible. It undermines democracy to the level of decisions being made behind closed doors in smoke filled rooms - exactly the sort of corrosive practices which have undermined faith in the political process. And more immediately, when councils face some difficult decisions about how to spend their money, it is impossible to see how they can justify that kind of spending to the public. Good luck to any council who tries to explain to local residents why they need to keep this sort of spending going - especially if they then start to hit frontline jobs and services.

Of course, I absolutely want to hear what councils have to say - but if they want to persuade me of anything they can drop me an email or give me a ring. I'm simply going to put the phone down to any hired gun lobbyist.

For any council which fails to get the message, I am determined to see this wasteful practice stop. At the end of the month, I will be publishing new stricter rules on local

authority publicity - which will guard against campaigning with public funds and make it tougher for councils and police authorities to employ lobbyists.

The whole ethos of this sort of lobbying goes absolutely against the new era of openness and transparency which is so important. It's important to rebuild trust in politics - but also to protect money. [Transparency](#) will expose waste and enable [the 'armchair auditors' we are empowering](#) to see exactly what their council is up to and ensure it represents value for money. Six months ago, I called on all councils to put their spending over £500 online. [More than half of all councils \(193\) have got their house in order.](#) But by the end of the month I expect all councils to be up to speed.

[The Draft Code of Recommended Practice on council transparency will be published shortly. Publishing expenditure details should only be seen as the start of fully opening up.](#) I can't see any reason why councils shouldn't put details of senior pay, councillor expenses, tenders and contracts, meetings, and frontline service level [data](#) into the open so that the public can clearly see the decisions being made on their behalf - and challenge them if they aren't happy.

Yes, there are difficult times ahead for councils and some tough choices. But at the same time, any council which starts to cut jobs or reduce services without doing everything possible to reduce costs elsewhere isn't . As I've said repeatedly, there are lots of steps that councils can take - cutting excessive chief executive pay, sharing back offices, joining forces to procure, and rooting out wild overspends, embracing innovation, thinking creatively and protecting the frontline services that people want - before they even start to think about the alternative.

The standard has got to be more service for less cost, not more cost for less service. The public expect and deserve nothing less.

NAME REDACTED Speechwriter for  
the Secretary of State Communities  
and Local Government 0303 444  
NAME REDACTED



**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 13 January 2011 15:30 **To:** Michael Winders;  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Note for SoS

**Sky on Sunday interview:** You have agreed to appear on Sky's new Sunday show Murnaghan, presented by Dermot Murnaghan. This coincides with the two weeks to go deadline for councils publishing £500 spend data online and will be a good follow up to the successful new year's resolution story. We will provide latest figures on how many councils have published their data online - currently standing at half. You will also be able to say that you will publish the Transparency Code shortly which will inform councils what is required of them.

You have agreed a story to lay the ground for this - putting councils on two weeks notice - we are working with advisers to place in weekend or Monday papers highlighting the upcoming deadline and those councils that have yet to publish their data. We will update the transparency timeline on the department website on a daily basis in the week leading up to the deadline.

**REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE**

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14  
January 2011 14:32 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** Article on  
transparency

Councils are being encouraged to throw open their files and alongside spending info publish a wide range of data online including:

- information on senior salaries, names and job descriptions
- councillor allowances and expenses; minutes and papers of council meetings
  
- Expenditure over £500
- Contracts and tenders over £500

Greater transparency will root out wild overspending, expensive mistakes and waste and could be the key to saving the public purse millions of pounds.

Getting council business out in the open will revolutionise local government. Local people should be able to hold politicians and public bodies to account over how their hard earned cash is being spent and decisions made on their behalf. They can only do that effectively if they have the information they need at their fingertips (quote from SoS)

Throwing open the council books will open the door to new businesses and encourage greater innovation and entrepreneurship. Organisations that might have been effectively locked out before, including voluntary sector and small business, will be in a much stronger position to pitch for contracts and bring new ideas and solutions to the table."

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

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<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14 January 2011 17:23 **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Parliamentary; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT briefing for OPQs by 1030 Monday: DCLG Questions - Supplementary and Topicals

**Attachments:** Orals briefing pack - January.doc

NAME REDACTED

et al,

I have updated the topical brief to reflect the latest number publishing (195) and to amend a point made about guidance to tighten the accuracy. I have done this in track (page 28)

In terms of the supplemental:

I ask my honourable friend that when Councils publish their spending over £500 that the date when the decision or contract was made is also published to allow members of the public to see clearly when the decision to spend the money was actually taken so accountability is not misplaced when administrations change.

Suggest: Support and practical advice on how to prepare spend data for publication has been produced by both the LGA and the Local Public Data Panel. The Draft Code of Recommended Practice on council transparency will be published shortly. Transparency is the foundation of accountability.

Notes: We are not prescribing how LAs publish the £500. I strongly suspect that to do what the MP suggests would impose a significant burden - contracts will of course have the date that they were signed, but each line of £500 spending will not be linked to a specific decision, and this information is not included within the financial system that a LA will use to generate the data.

Please advise if you need more or these lines in a different format

NAME

REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 14 January 2011 11:35 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

Julie Carney; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Single data list, directgov & a PQ on compliance with transparency

2376 compliance.RTF  
(15 K)

**Attachments:** RE: Submission - Local Government Data Transparency - Draft Code of Recommended Practice ; 2376 compliance.RTF NAME REDACTED

,  
NAME  
REDACTED

We spoke about directgov and you asked me to send a quick email, copying in **NAME REDACTED** as the lead on local directgov, **NAME REDACTED** on the DCLG contribution to the single data list, and **NAME REDACTED** as lead on tricky data list issues. There is also a related **PQ**, which I have attached and discussed at the bottom of this email.

The team here working on local directgov ask local authorities to send them their transparency links, so that they can prepare an article which will link out to local transparency pages. They need to ask for this information because it is not yet business as usual. They have a similar process for emergency weather pages. I wondered whether the team asking for this information is a data request. They ask for the weblink - they do not check that the local authority is publishing information in accordance with the LG guidance, or that they are keeping the information up to date, and they do not ask for the raw data itself - just the link to where the data is. They currently ask for the link to £500 spend, the link to publishing contracts and tenders and will shortly be asking for the link to senior salaries and councillor allowances. NAME REDACTED can provide more information about how all this works. That we ask for the £500 information is included on our website with the timeline, and there is information about local directgov on the DCLG website too.

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

NAME REDACTED - you said that publishing £500 was already on the list, but I was not sure whether this aspect of it was. **NAME REDACTED** - I wondered whether you were aware of progress on the Code of Practice on Council Transparency, which will set out a series of expectation for LAs on publishing data, which you may want to consider. NAME REDACTED is leading on this - the Code is due to be published for consultation next week once we get HA clearance. I have attached a sub to give some background should this be helpful.

RE: Submission -  
Local Governm...

There is a related **PQ** on whether the Department keeps a record of compliance. I think this is a bit tricky - we are not checking that LAs are doing everything we would like on transparency in terms of datasets and formats (e.g. the Code), but we do have a process in place to ask for information on them on transparency so we can produce lists of who is producing some of the information, and in time we can facilitate citizens to use this data from directgov. I have drafted the attached response and would be grateful for comments. **NAME REDACTED C** - if you were able to take a look before I show this to Lucy, I would appreciate it. I want to make sure we get this right, as it could have implications for future work objectives etc. The deadline for the PQ is midday on Monday, so if possible grateful for **comments by close today (copied to NAME REDACTED)** so we can show it to Lucy on Monday. **NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED** - I have made some changes to this since the last draft that you saw.

NAME REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 17  
January 2011 14:19 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

**Categories:** NAME REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED

Thanks for your help with this, this morning.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 10:34 AM **To:** PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger

Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew  
Campbell; PSAllMinisters **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. Yes, secondary  
legislation is required to turn the Code into a legislative requirement.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 10:23 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire

Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew  
Campbell; PSAllMinisters **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

NAME REDACTED,  
NAME REDACTED,

Which Act grants SofS powers? Is it secondary legislation to turn the Code into a  
legislative requirement?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 10:20 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;  
PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger

Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew  
Campbell; PSAllMinisters **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

I'm sorry, 'they risk very quickly finding themselves on the wrong side of the law' is not an  
accurate description of the position. There is nothing very quick about enacting two pieces of  
secondary legislation, one of which is subject to the affirmative procedure. 'Wrong side of the law'  
is not the case in respect of non-compliance with the Code. It also suggests criminality, which is  
not the same as unlawful.

I think you should go back to what was suggested earlier 'If councils fail to comply

with this code once it is in force, then I will consider making it a legislative requirement. A legislative requirement would mean that failure by a local authority to comply would be unlawful.'

That is accurate, and contains a warning as to further action. This could be said orally without any problems.

NAME

REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Lawyer  
Communities and Local Government  
Zone 4/A3 Eland House Bressenden  
Place SW1E 5DU Tel: 0303  
444NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** PSEricPickles; NAMESREDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAllMinisters  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

Michelle

I suggest this should be in the background note/supplementaries.

NAME

REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 9:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAllMinisters **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

Is the information below in the background note or is this the answer that is going to be given?

Thanks, Michelle

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 9:30 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAllMinisters; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals

So would it be fine to say:

**Q: What action will you take against local authorities that have not published their spend data by the end of January?**

A: The public must be able to hold local authorities to account through more transparent data.

A Draft Code of Recommended Practice on council transparency will be published shortly. If Local Authorities do not comply they risk very quickly finding themselves on the wrong side of the law.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; Chris Woolf; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAllMinisters; Michelle Harrison  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Orals  
**Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED

Here's a more detailed line on possible next steps if councils do not publish their £500:

A draft Code of Recommended Practice on council transparency will be published shortly. If councils fail to comply with this code once it is in force, then I will consider making it a legislative requirement. A legislative requirement would mean that failure by a local authority to comply would be unlawful. There is no particular sanction for non-compliance but local authorities generally endeavour to comply with the law.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 8:48 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAllMinisters; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** URGENT: Orals  
**Importance:** High

NAME

REDACTED,

SofS would like to strengthen this response. What can/will he do if LAs are not publishing over £500? Fine them?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**Q: What action will you take against local authorities that have not published their spend data by the end of January?**

A: The public must be able to hold local authorities to account through more transparent data.

A Draft Code of Recommended Practice on council transparency will be published shortly. I am prepared to do whatever it takes to ensure local authorities publish their data.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2011 10:45 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAILMinisters; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Orals

[NAME REDACTED](#)

In response to Andrew's suggestions:

- question 2 (2314). We do not think that the SoS new year message prompted the additional 50 responses. The bump in numbers was largely as a result of the LG Group doing some checking (we depend on LAs telling us they have published for directgov, and lots had not). The other points that Andrew has included are listed in supplementaries (other than specific reference to the SoS NY notice).
- content from policy perspective for 22 (2334) to be grouped with the lot at question 2  
NAME REDACTED

[NAME REDACTED](#), [x4NUMBER REDACTED](#) Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is [NAME REDACTED](#).

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2011 9:56 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Claire Cooper; Roger Wilshaw; Jane Cockerill; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; PSAILMinisters; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Orals

Dear all,

[Andrew Campbell](#) has made some suggestions, below, for revisions to the submitted Oral draft replies. I know that discussions are going on the wording of some of the answers but I would be grateful if you could consider whether the answers could be amended to reflect Andrew's suggestions.

Thanks



NAME REDACTED

Parliamentary Clerk  
0303 444 3407

**From:** Andrew Campbell  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2011 9:52 AM  
**To:** PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTEDf@communities.gsi.gov.uk  
**Cc:** Michael Winders  
**Subject:** Orals

Chris/NAME  
REDACTED

Some thoughts that struck me when reading the answers this morning:

- question 2 etc: could say more here (eg S of S new year message; pleased that over another 50 responded by putting data online; look forward to the rest doing so forthwith; the taxpayer has a right to see where their money is being spent)
- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Is there a technical reason why 24 can't be grouped with 1 (and 22 with the grouping at question 2)?

Happy for you both to exercise your judgement about which of these you agree with and whether (and when) to commission revised draft answers.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 18 January 2011 16:11 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

**Attachments:** 110118 £500spendmaps.ppt; RE: Displaying the list of councils who are publishing

Here are a couple of maps based on the file I sent out earlier - no mention of regions!

110118  
0spendmaps.ppt (89

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 3:40 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** DDDT **Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

The headline data below is very interesting, however, please see attached e-mail exchange between Hulya and Sheridan Westlake regarding his view that information should not be provided by geographical regions. Think Comms also share this view.

RE: Displaying the list of cou...

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 2:25 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** DDDT **Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

Probably. We're getting another update on the number of councils publishing tomorrow, so will be worth updating and forwarding to Press Office for the end of the week. There's another comms push next week, as only 1 week to go until end of Jan deadline.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 2:20 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** DDDT **Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

NAME REDACTED - this is interesting - NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED is it something press might want to use?  
NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME  
REDACTED  
D

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18,  
2011 12:34 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** DDDT  
**Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

NAME  
REDACTED,

Here's a cut of the councils by authority type and region based on latest list (Rochdale aren't publishing at the moment due to technical issues ).

A few headlines (see the 'summary' and 'final' worksheets in the attached file).

- 196 areas (55% of 354 local authorities\*) are publishing while 158 aren't.
- 71% of authorities in London\* are publishing compared to 41% in Yorkshire and Humber.
- 70% of London Boroughs are publishing compared to just 39% of metropolitan districts.

*\* Includes the GLA*

NAME  
REDACTED

<< File: 110118 LAstatus £500spend.xls >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 17,  
2011 4:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW:  
EXPENDITURE OVER £500

NAME  
REDACTED

Here's the list of councils that are publishing. We've also been notified of two further councils - York and Rochdale.

Grateful if you could have a look and provide breakdown of councils by type/region. The tricky bit is comparing this to councils who aren't publishing - which we don't have a list for!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12,  
2011 11:53 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

See attached

Regards NAME REDACTED << File: council expenditure monitoring

alphabetic MASTER-A .xls >>

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 11:08 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: EXPENDITURE OVER £500

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,

Many thanks for this information which can be used for the oral PQ briefing.

We will also need as soon as possible your updated spreadsheet as we now have another list (around 40/50) to check against councils publishing spend data which has to be completed by 4pm today.

Many thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 10:58 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** EXPENDITURE OVER £500 **Importance:** High

Hi,

I am aware of 193 LAs (including GLA) that are publishing their expenditure details on their web site. In addition there are 10 more that have holding pages on their web site in preparation for the data.

I extracted the data from the system at 10.00 am this morning

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

Visit [DCLG's e-newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at <http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 18 January 2011 12:05 **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Hansard

Thanks NAME  
REDACTED

Durham has been picked up by BBC, and Northern Echo that includes a comment from Durham:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house\\_of\\_commons/newsid\\_9360000/9360696.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house_of_commons/newsid_9360000/9360696.stm)

[http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/local/durham/8796469.Minister\\_\\_\\_s\\_abacus\\_jibe\\_at\\_group/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/local/durham/8796469.Minister___s_abacus_jibe_at_group/)

Spoke to Comms, apparently Sky focussed on cuts. Done some google news searches:

Useful piece on accessibility of data, quote from taxpayers alliance, and the push from SoS branding a slow coach

[http://www.banburycake.co.uk/news/8786826.County\\_council\\_publishes\\_payments\\_over\\_\\_\\_500/](http://www.banburycake.co.uk/news/8786826.County_council_publishes_payments_over___500/)

Article chastising Hackney, and now they are publishing

<http://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2011/01/14/hackney-council-yet-to-publish-spending-detailsover-500/comment-page-1/>

<http://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2011/01/17/hackney-publishes-council-spending-over-500/>

Journalists using the data to question Harborough District Council and issues with the Council publishing confidential information

[http://www.lutterworthmail.co.uk/news/local/council\\_discloses\\_all\\_its\\_payments\\_above\\_500\\_but\\_questions\\_remain\\_1\\_2287885](http://www.lutterworthmail.co.uk/news/local/council_discloses_all_its_payments_above_500_but_questions_remain_1_2287885)

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 18,  
2011 9:01 AM **To:** DDDT **Subject:** Hansard

Here's the Hansard record of yesterday's oral questions.

<< File: 11-01-17 Hansard Local Authority Spending.doc >>  
NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED  
DDDT Zone 3/J3  
Eland House Tel:  
0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED Mobile:  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 19 January 2011 11:05 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Councils £500 Spend: Comms Activity Next Week

NAME  
REDACTED

There'll be some activity around it, including one week to go news stories.

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 9:22 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Councils £500 Spend: Comms Activity Next Week **Importance:** High

NAME  
REDACTED

We're giving Baroness Hanham an update on transparency today. I just wanted to check whether you've anything specific planned for next week given that it's the week before the 31 Jan deadline on publication of £500 spend.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED  
DDDT Zone 3/J3  
Eland House Tel:  
0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED Mobile:  
NUMBER REDACTED

Please note I work Mon-Weds

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 25 January 2011 11:43 **To:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Cabinet office/No10 catch up on transparency - meeting item on council publication of spend data

**Attachments:** 110125 CO meeting points to make.doc

Lucy

2 side brief cum speaking note attached. Not sure who is managing your inbox today. If you'd like 10 mins to run through it please let me know.

CO have said the focus for today is on two commitments made by the PM's 'transparency' letter last year: publishing Â£500 expenditure and contracts / tenders. So other SRP unlikely to come up.

Prof Nigel Shadbolt due at the meeting together with Katie Davis - CO director on transparency, digital engagement and open data. Both are supportive voices on what we've been doing.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** Sheridan Westlake; Lucy Makinson **Cc:** David Prout; Andrew Campbell; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tue Jan 25 07:47:44 2011 **Subject:** RE: Cabinet office/No10 catch up on transparency - meeting item on council publication of spend data

Thanks Sheridan - the meeting has now become an update with Francis Maude and we understand Steve Hilton won't be attending although Rohan will be. I had a meeting with Ivan Collister last week and he didn't raise any issues with our progress - we should be clearer after the meeting and we'll raise the points you raise here. We've stressed that momentum appears to be growing - 21 councils were added to the list last week, and as you say we expect a number to publish as soon as we publish the Code. The publicity is very timely and we'll make sure we refer to this and come back to you if there are any more substantive issues.

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 8:38 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Cc:** David Prout; Andrew Campbell; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Re: Cabinet office/No10 catch up on transparency - meeting item on council publication of spend data

Hi - thanks for the invite, though I think I'll pass on a 90 minute meeting.

But is there a problem with No10 thinking we aren't moving fast enough on transparency, or is it concerns about quality of the data being published to date (not sufficiently open)?

I can give Rohan an update if that helps.

I would have thought that the upcoming transparency code (of recommended practice) and the separate announcement of bloggers' rights/hyper-local reporting shows good progress on DCLG's part. But it's a journey - it won't all be done overnight by 350 different bodies.

We are now gradually upping the political pressure on council transparency - there should hopefully be some coverage in tomorrow's (tues) papers as we turn the spotlight to the slowcoaches.

Sheridan

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** Lucy Makinson **Cc:** David Prout; Sheridan Westlake; Andrew Campbell; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Mon Jan 24 12:50:27 2011 **Subject:** Cabinet office/No10 catch up on transparency - meeting item on council publication of spend data

Lucy

Cabinet office have asked us to attend their regular catch-up with no 10 on transparency. This is because NAME REDACTED Hilton and Rohan Silva are concerned about the progress we are making on getting councils to publish spending over £500. The meeting is 2.30 - 4 tomorrow at cabinet office. I am unable to attend but NAME REDACTED/NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED could rearrange other commitments to do so. However, I think this warrants more senior level engagement from us because of the cast list and that it's highly likely the discussion will quickly go beyond this brief into issues around transparency of VCS spending and the double rule. Nigel Shadbolt has also been approached to attend and he is going to see if he is able to rejuggle his commitments to attend the first part of the meeting.

I'm not sure who has flexibility to attend the meeting - Sheridan copying you in as you may also wish to be involved.

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED



Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 25 January 2011 14:21 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Briefing request - SoS interview with the Yorkshire Post

**Attachments:** 110124MJ interview briefing (4).doc  
NAME REDACTED

I've updated the numbers at the end too now. My excuse - NAME REDACTED's eyes are younger than mine!

110124MJ interview  
briefing (4...

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Briefing request - SoS interview with the Yorkshire Post

NAME  
REDACTE

I've suggested some amendments on the attached.

We're uncomfortable with the phrase 'the Pickles Code'. Not sure where it came from, and while it might be catchy the Secretary of State didn't personally sign off the code for publication nor, as far as we know, has he ever agreed to the phrase.

<< File: 110124MJ interview briefing.doc >>  
NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:46 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Briefing request - SoS interview with the Yorkshire Post

Hi to see the briefing request below, could you have a look at the transparency stuff in the attached briefing drawn up by NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED. They really want an emphasis on the positive impact that the £500 will have so anything you can add along those lines would be helpful

NAME  
REDACTE  
D x44051

<< File: 110124MJ interview briefing.doc >>

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:57 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; PSAdvisers; NAME REDACTED ; Lucy Makinson **Cc:** PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Briefing request - SoS interview with the Yorkshire Post

NAME REDACTED and

Lucy,

SoS is being interviewed by Mark Conrad from the MJ on Wednesday. I would be grateful if you could provide:

- positive examples of how LAs are saving money through shared services and other innovations
- how VCS and frontline services are being protected
- Innovative and cost effective procurement
- some examples of reductions to ChEx pay and (if possible) an overall figure for savings to the taxpayer as a result
- a line on LAs publishing spend over £500 online and the positive impact this will have
- Key LGFS facts

Ideally the briefing should be 2-3 pages of bullet points with key figures attached as background. Grateful if this could be with us **by 5pm tomorrow**.

Thanks NAME REDACTED xNUMBER

REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 25 January 2011 09:05 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: January report

NAME

REDACTED ,

As I job-share, grateful if you could send requests like this to NAME REDACTED and I. Copied NAME REDACTED given reference to salaries and NAME REDACTED & NAME REDACTED on comms.

Also - what is this for? Is it for publication?

In terms of support:

- SoS wrote on 4 June setting out expectations
- SoS, Ministerial team & senior officials have made this expectation clear repeatedly with speaking engagements, press notices, articles & correspondence, and we have answered enquiries from LAs
- LG Group and other experts including Local Public Data Panel have produced practioners guide. These have been done in open consultative way with the sector
- DCLG has kept list of LAs that are publishing and is encouraging people to contact LA if not publishing (they can find details through Direct Gov - at the moment they cannot use Direct Gov directly to see if their LA are publishing - we are preparing an article)

So, something like

Since the start of June, led by the Secretary of State, the expectation on Local Authorities in terms of spending transparency has been made clear. The Local Government Association and other experts have produced guidance. The Department for Communities is leading by example and has published all its expenditure over £500 online too

NAME

REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:03 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** January report

NAME

REDACTED,

Re action 3.3i, can you give me a very short line on the work we've done to support Las on publication of spend over £500 and senior salaries?

I think Eric Pickles wrote to Las in June, there is the LG Group guidance and local people can use Driect.gov to see if their council is publishing. Is there anything else we're doing to support Las?

Thanks,  
NAME  
REDAC  
TED .

NAME REDACTED  
Structural Reform Plan Team  
Programme Team CLG Zone  
6/H6 Eland House  
Bressenden Place London  
SW1E 5DU

T: 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 26 January 2011 10:10 **To:** Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED; Lucy Makinson **Cc:** David Prout; Andrew Campbell; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Cabinet office/No10 catch up on transparency - meeting item on council publication of spend data

Read out of the meeting yesterday with Francis Maude, Steve Hilton, Rowan Silva and other assorted No 10 / CO bods. Was v brief.

- Provided the headline number of councils currently publishing £500 expenditure (238 as of yesterday). Happy with the forward plan to ensure the remainder of councils also publish: "name / shame" campaign in particular.
- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 26 January 2011 09:20  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending Data Legal Ramifications

Thank you v much.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 5:34 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending Data Legal Ramifications

NAME  
REDACTED,

I don't see why the auditor would be interested in this any longer. We have cut back inspection regimes so that auditors are in future only going to be interested in authorities who are seriously underperforming, and not being transparent won't fall into that category. Audit itself is about what money has been spent on, not furthering the transparency agenda, and I can't see that transparency has any relevance to audit.

However, it remains open to us to seek to add policing the transparency agenda to the auditor's responsibilities by making it part of the new audit framework, work which is being taken forward as part of the Future of Local Audit work (new name for disbanding the Audit Commission team). However I'm not sure it's a good fit with what is proposed, but you could have a chat with NAME REDACTED and/or NAME REDACTED and see.

Another non-court alternative is a complaint to the Local Government ombudsman. But you can't complain about 'Something affecting all or most of the people living in a council's area, such as a complaint that the council has wasted public money', according to their website. So a complainant would need to demonstrate a personal interest in the council's failure to comply, such as a contractor unable to see the amount of the winning tender, rather than someone making a general complaint about the failure to comply.

Perhaps of more relevance are the duties of the Monitoring Officer (colloquially known as the 'whistleblower'). Authorities must have a Monitoring Officer, whose personal duty it is, if at any time it appears to him that any proposal, decision or omission by the authority has given rise to a contravention by the authority of any enactment or rule of law [*by way of an aside*: unfortunately the words 'or of any code of practice made or approved by or under any enactment' that were in this provision have been repealed!], he must prepare a report to the authority with respect to that proposal, decision or omission.

The MO must send a copy of the report to each member of the authority, and the authority must consider the report at a meeting within 21 days of that report. These duties must be performed by the MO personally (subject to the rules permitting nomination of a deputy).

So, failure to comply with the legal requirement to comply with aspects of the Code (i.e. to comply with any subsequent SI, not the Code itself) should be escalated by the MO to the attention of each member of the authority, and they have to have a meeting about it - so the failure will be transparent. Still falls short of an enforcement mechanism per se, but it works for lots of other LA duties. What's so special about transparency one must ask?

I've spoken to my colleague who advises on the publicity code and he's in agreement, we don't think the auditor would be interested. They have an alternative enforcement mechanism, breach of the code is breach of the code of conduct for councillors. We've spoken before about the advantages of using the FOI route and ICO enforcement mechanism.

On timing, there would be a 3 month consultation (one presumes), drafting time for 2 instruments

has got to be about 2-3 months, so you're already up to 6 months. Then there's the time required to take account of consultation responses plus passage through the house, so I reckon 9 months is a fair estimate.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:53 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Spending Data Legal Ramifications

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

I tried to call but not sure if your phone is still on the blink?

1) The short email chain below gives gist of why I'm getting in touch. You'll see I've gone back based on the note on 'what if a LA doesn't publish' that you contributed to. The follow up q about whether a resident could complain to the district auditor has thrown me. Presumably they could complain if the data hadn't been published - as it isn't a requirement this would be to the LA itself. I'm not sure what further role the auditor could play. Do you?

2) On timing for making regs, I understood there would be something like a 9 month lead time, subject to consultation responses (and whether it was the appropriate policy vehicle, etc etc). Does that sound about right?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:34 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Spending Data Legal Ramifications

Thanks NAME REDACTED - this is helpful.

A couple of follow up queries: could a concerned resident complain to the district auditor if a council hadn't published their spending data online? (Apparently this will be possible with the Publicity Code). Secondly, roughly how long would it take to make regulations - I guess we would be looking at October 2011 (if they require affirmative resolution)? Also, to confirm your third point - we could therefore make regulations under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 to make this more legally watertight?

Specific sections below:

*Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980*

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/65/part/II>

*Section 2:*

*"(2) The Secretary of State may issue for the purposes of this section **a code of recommended practice** as to the publication of information by such authorities about the discharge of their functions and other NAME REDACTED ers (including forecasts) which he considers to be related."*



Section 3:

*"(1)The Secretary of State **may make regulations requiring** authorities to whom section 2 above applies to publish any description of information specified in a code issued under that section if in his opinion it is necessary to make such regulations in order to ensure that authorities publish information of that description.*

[...]

*(8) The power to make any such regulations or order shall be exercisable by statutory instrument."*

Thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 11:12 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED Jones  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Spending Data Legal Ramifications

[NAME REDACTED](#)

Paras below. There are no legal ramifications for not publishing online by end of Jan. There is a lot of detail I have not included - especially on the procedure for making regulations involving, as it does, parliamentary debate and further consultation (twice), and wider CO / MOJ provisions on establishing the 'right to data'.

1. The Secretary of State wrote to all English local authorities in June asking them to publish items of spend over £500 – whether they are invitations to tender, contracts or the actual payments – online by the end of January 2011. Legally speaking, this was simply an 'ask' of local government by central government – there is no way to enforce this particular request.
2. We are due to publish a Code of Recommended Practice, under the SoS's powers in the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, on the publication of information by local authorities about the discharge of their functions. (A draft Code is set for a 5 week consultation to commence on 28 Jan – delayed, following comms planning, from 21 Jan). This picks up the data requested in SoS June letter and other data sets. Once the draft Code has issued for consultation there is a clear expectation that local authorities should comply with it, but it is not clear that there is a legal obligation for them to do so.
3. The Act upon which the Code is based does provide the power, should it be deemed necessary, to require publication of information specified in the Code by way of regulations, thereby making publication a legislative requirement. A legislative requirement would mean that failure by a local authority to comply would be unlawful.

**From:** NAME REDACTED Jones **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 10:51 AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Spending Data Legal Ramifications  
**Importance:** High

Hulya, NAME  
REDACTED,

Could you please provide me with three bullet points on what the legal ramifications would be if a council doesn't put its spending data online by the end of January?

Apologies for the short deadline but I need this as soon as possible - within the next 15 minutes if possible.

Many thanks,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Private Secretary to the Special  
Advisers Department for Communities and Local  
Government 6/D1 Eland House Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 26 January 2011 11:51  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: OK for transparency consult tweet?

Looks good. Am also going to find out if we can tweet the latest £500 spend numbers, which I hear have gone up to 240.

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 11:20 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** OK for transparency consult tweet?

Our #transparency consultation on @CommunitiesUK data ends on 31 Jan. Don't miss the chance to have your say <http://bit.ly/ezBkUH> #opendata

NAME REDACTED Content Manager | Social  
Media Lead e-Communications |  
Communications Directorate  
T: 0303 444 1191

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 27 January 2011  
09:49 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Bradford defies £500  
rule

Agree, but think it would be worth a note in the Q&A - in case journalist says to press, what about Bradford. Maybe an 'if pressed' line would be appropriate?

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 27,  
2011 9:48 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Bradford defies £500 rule

Thanks, raised this with NAME REDACTED yesterday - since Bradford are not saying they wouldn't publish, we decided to simply bear in mind their position but not include in Q&A ... unless you have strong views on it being mentioned?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 27,  
2011 9:40 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW:  
Bradford defies £500 rule

TBA for the Q&A (in case not already seen)

Needs careful wording - Bradford not saying they will not do it, just that they will not meet the end of Jan deadline

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **On Behalf Of** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 12:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED;

NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Siobhan Larking; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Bradford defies £500 rule

[Here it is](#)

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3

Eland House  
0303  
444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 12:33 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa;  
PSNAME Bob Neill; PSGrantShapps; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; PSAdvisers  
**Subject:** Bradford defies £500 rule

*"It would be more embarrassing if an organisation from London was able to sell to the Council more cheaply than a local firm as a result of the information in the published invoices."*

The mind boggles...

[http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8807480.Bradford\\_Council\\_defies\\_order\\_to\\_publish\\_bill\\_details/](http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/8807480.Bradford_Council_defies_order_to_publish_bill_details/)

**NAME REDACTED**

Private Secretary Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP Secretary of  
State for Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED

Please note: all e-mails and attachments sent by a Private Secretary to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Ministerial Group does not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Similarly, e-mails and associated attachments sent to the PSEricPickles account by officials are not retained by Private Office long term and should therefore be recorded as most appropriate by the sender. Thank you.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 27 January 2011 15:36 **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** RE: Forward planning

. not one to make predictions but I guess we've been operating to an 80 / 20 rule on expectations. So 280odd LAs (what a good result that would be). As we know, it's a journey and wont all be done overnight.

. REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 1:47 PM **To:**  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED ; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** Forward planning

Hi all

We had a quick discussion about next steps for the transparency campaign earlier today. I was just wondering if there's any way you could give a flavour of likely timings coming up so we can build a clearer plan. In particular:

- Once the deadline's up what sort of number/percentage of compliant councils do we want to have achieved?
- REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

**NAME REDACTED** | Media and Campaigns | Department for Communities and Local Government | **0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED**

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**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 27  
January 2011 15:11 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
Publishing spending information by 31 January

ok, yes we will be 100% on list before naming and shaming hence why we won't do till later next week. Also why they need to give us next steps.

OUT OF SCOPE - REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011  
2:59 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
FW: Publishing spending information by 31 January

FYI

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011  
2:37 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; DDDT **Cc:**  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Publishing spending  
information by 31 January

NAME  
REDACTED,

OUT OF SCOPE - REDACTED

In terms of naming and shaming, grateful if you could let us know once you have any names that you are planning to use. LAs are still not always telling us when they publish, so we will need to do some double checking before we use any LAs that are not on NAME REDACTED's excellent list. Now that we are down to 100 not publishing and the number is dropping every day, then checking those not publishing is becoming a more manageable task for the team.

Thanks,

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28  
January 2011 16:19 **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest figures

Many thanks NAME REDACTED, that's great going, must have been difficult to keep up with all the recent notifications.

Have a lovely weekend as well. I've copied to transparency team.

Best regards,

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 4:12 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:**  
Latest figures

Here is the latest file.

There are 12 LAs with holding pages....

.....There are 294 LAs on my file.....( is the suspense killing you?)....

.....**282** LAs publishing data ( Cumbria, Sedgemoor and Somerset contacted me in the last hour)

Have a good weekend

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER .xls >>  
NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local Government Home  
& Community Franchise Zone 7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

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<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 28 January 2011 15:15 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; DDDT; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Nottinghamshire County Council publishes chief officer salaries and expenses online

**Attachments:** FW: LGA release: Nine in ten councils publish £500 spending  
Thanks, NAME REDACTED - can you let us know how many have holding pages as well, please copy to NAME REDACTED.

The LG Group are announcing 278 - see attached.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 2:27 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Nottinghamshire County Council publishes chief officer salaries and expenses online

I need to check all the holding pages again but, if you include them , we have **291 publishing**.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 2:01 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Nottinghamshire County Council publishes chief officer salaries and expenses online

Hi NAME  
REDACTED,  
Can you let us have the latest number please. Thanks.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 1:57 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Nottinghamshire County Council publishes chief officer salaries and expenses online

what is our latest number?

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 31 January 2011 16:20  
**To:** Sheridan Westlake; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

**Attachments:** Picture (Metafile)

Yes. If it is poss, it would be good to confirm first thing tomorrow. We'll know for certain how many LAs published by the end of Jan. It will be something like 314 claimed in LGA notice - but LAs still sending in confirmation. But 9 out of 10 a legitimate ballpark statement.

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 4:10 PM **To:** Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

Here's the source: *LGA press release, 28 January 2011*

**From:** NAME REDACTED@local.gov.uk [mailto:NAME REDACTED@local.gov.uk] **Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 1:31 PM **To:** Press Office **Subject:** LGA release: Nine in ten councils publish £500 spending

### **Nine in ten councils publish £500 spending online**

The Local Government Association (LGA) can reveal that 276 councils have published details of spending in excess of £500, with a further 38 confirming their intention to publish by the end of January.

The information has been made available online, so that residents can see exactly how their local authority is spending its money.

### **Cllr NAME REDACTED Sparks, Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, said:**

“Councils have led the way in giving taxpayers detailed and transparent information about how their money is being spent, making their accounts even more easily accessible to public scrutiny.

“Local government is the most directly accountable part of the public sector and councils work hard to stay in close touch with residents to ensure they provide the best, most efficient services possible. With local authority budgets being cut by 28 per cent over the next four years, councils are aware that they have to demonstrate that the money they spend is going on the things their residents want and need the most.

“The vast majority of councils have invested considerable time and staff resource to make their spending information available to their residents. This is an excellent effort by the sector at a time when councils are having to find

efficiencies and savings in all areas. The LGA is supporting councils to pioneer this new level of openness and accountability and is working with local authorities to make sure the information is as transparent and user-friendly as possible.”

### **Notes for editors**

Of the 353 councils asked to publish details of their spending over £500 online, 276 have already posted the information. A further 38 have confirmed to the LGA their intention to do so by the end of January.

A list of the councils which have provided details of spending in excess of £500 is available from CLG from the following link. Due to the CLG's weekly updating procedure the number of councils which have posted their spending online will exceed the number listed on this site.

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

The LGA has created a guidance note to help councils provide information in the most transparent, user-friendly way. It is available from:  
<http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/>

### **NAME REDACTED**

Senior Media Relations Officer  
Local Government Group

Telephone: NUMBER REDACTED

Email: [NAME REDACTED@local.gov.uk](mailto:NAME_REDACTED@local.gov.uk)

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** 31 January 2011 16:05 **To:** Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

NAME REDACTED  
Can you answer Sheridan question?

As I understand it our figures come from a voluntary source (NAME REDACTED can you say which?). Quoting the LGA press release would be ideal - but not if it is not true and we later have to prove that 315 of 350 LAs have published (either to parliament e.g. select committee or NAO etc).  
Thanks

SB

Selvin Brown MBE Programme Team  
Communities and Local Government

✂ [selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ✂ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU ✂  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** Sheridan Westlake **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 4:02 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Selvin Brown; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

[Draft] As at 25 January, over 210 local authorities are publishing expenditure data. Information about which Councils have published is online at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

- Can we note the LGA press release from Friday which states 9 out of 10 councils have already met the £500 spending requirement?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 January 2011 12:27 **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

NAME  
REDACTED

LGA press notice last week said 276 councils publishing with 38 intending to publish by end of Jan (so total of 314 expected by close today). I think we need to have some consistency with these LGA figures - OK they are the LGA figures, but our figures aren't up to date and neither is our website. I've already had a call from one council this morning that aren't on our list (Cornwall) but who published last week, and they've had enquiries following a BBC article, so this is a real issue. If we don't want a load of angry councils phoning us then we need to make sure the numbers are correct.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31,  
2011 12:15 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: transparency

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 11:55  
AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: transparency

Hi there

This is the news piece we are planning to put up today for the deadline. Please let me know if there are any inaccuracies.

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

## **All councils should be transparent from today**

All councils should have opened their books up to public scrutiny by the end of today.

Six months ago Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles called on every council in the country to publish all of their spending data over £500 online in accessible formats by 31 January.

The latest figure reported to the Department show that over 280 or 80 per cent of councils across the country had got their details up in time.

More councils are expected to go online today and a final analysis will be published in due course. Ministers are also expected to set out the next steps in

transparency should any council deprive its residents from having access to this information.

A draft code of practice will be published shortly to help councils get on track.

Councils are expected to put details of senior pay, councillor expenses, tenders and contracts, meetings, and frontline service data into the open so that 'armchair auditors' can clearly see the decisions being made on their behalf by the council in due course.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

"A new era of transparency unfolds today where every aspect of council business is open to public scrutiny and a new army of armchair auditors can shine a spotlight on waste and unnecessary cost to help protect frontline services.

"Transparency and openness must underpin every decision a councils makes for its residents. The vast majority have shown they agree and their communities will now see the benefits.

"Those who choose to leave their local electorate in the dark will face serious questions about why - the public have a right to know how their tax pounds are spent."

The Department for Communities and Local Government has already set the precedent for councils to follow, regularly publishing all spend data over £500.

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 31 January 2011 13:18  
**To:** PSEricPickles

Afraid not. Wasn't that sort of meeting. Whenever you can is fine if needed.

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011  
1:15 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: transparency

At the risk of sounding mad, was this not cleared with SofS in the comms meeting?

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday,  
January 31, 2011 1:05 PM **To:** PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED **Cc:**  
Giles Kenningham; PSAdvisers; Jane Houghton **Subject:** RE:  
transparency

That's separate to this. We are just marking the deadline today. Code will be later in the week.

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 1:04 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham;  
PSAdvisers; Jane Houghton **Subject:** RE: transparency

NAME REDACTED,

Happy to do so. But how does this fit with the push on the VCSE No10 wanted to see in the Code? Are we doing that and issuing the letter another time?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31,  
2011 12:48 PM **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED; Giles Kenningham **Subject:**  
transparency

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

Below is the news story we are planning to put online to mark the deadline for councils to publish their £500 spend. Giles has agreed this - can you run it past the SoS if you think it needs to be? Otherwise we'll get it on the website ASAP

Thanks  
NAME  
REDAC  
TED



## **All councils should be transparent from today**

All councils should have opened their books up to public scrutiny by the end of today.

Almost seven months ago Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles called on every council in the country to publish all of their spending data over £500 online in accessible formats by 31 January.

The latest figures reported to the Department show that over 280 or 80 per cent of councils across the country had got their details up in time.

More councils are expected to go online today and a final analysis will be published in due course. Ministers are also expected to set out the next steps in transparency should any council deprive its residents from having access to this information.

A draft code of practice will be published shortly to help councils get on track.

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"Those who choose to leave their local electorate in the dark will face serious questions from them about why. The public have a right to know where their tax pounds are spent."

The Department for Communities and Local Government has already set the precedent for councils to follow, regularly publishing all spend data over £500.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 January 2011 12:36 **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

NAME  
REDACTED

We've been clear with councils that they need to contact us to get on their list. This news story is quoting a higher figure than the LGA, which is not unreasonable given the fact they have had the weekend to upload, and the story makes clear that final analysis of the numbers is yet to be done.

We will update the figures again at the end of the day when people down here have had a chance to process it. I understand if you are getting calls from councils, but we cannot use the LGA's numbers when ours differ any more than they would use ours.

Thanks  
H

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 12:27 PM **To:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency

NAME  
REDACTED

LGA press notice last week said 276 councils publishing with 38 intending to publish by end of Jan (so total of 314 expected by close today). I think we need to have some consistency with these LGA figures - OK they are the LGA figures, but our figures aren't up to date and neither is our website. I've already had a call from one council this morning that aren't on our list (Cornwall) but who published last week, and they've had enquiries following a BBC article, so this is a real issue. If we don't want a load of angry councils phoning us then we need to make sure the numbers are correct.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31,  
2011 12:15 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: transparency

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 11:55  
AM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: transparency

Hi there

This is the news piece we are planning to put up today for the deadline. Please let me know if there are any inaccuracies.

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

## **All councils should be transparent from today**

All councils should have opened their books up to public scrutiny by the end of today.

Six months ago Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles called on every council in the country to publish all of their spending data over £500 online in accessible formats by 31 January.

The latest figure reported to the Department show that over 280 or 80 per cent of councils across the country had got their details up in time.

More councils are expected to go online today and a final analysis will be published in due course. Ministers are also expected to set out the next steps in transparency should any council deprive its residents from having access to this information.

A draft code of practice will be published shortly to help councils get on track.

Councils are expected to put details of senior pay, councillor expenses, tenders and contracts, meetings, and frontline service data into the open so that 'armchair auditors' can clearly see the decisions being made on their behalf by the council in due course.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

"A new era of transparency unfolds today where every aspect of council business is open to public scrutiny and a new army of armchair auditors can shine a spotlight on waste and unnecessary cost to help protect frontline services.

"Transparency and openness must underpin every decision a councils makes for its residents. The vast majority have shown they agree and their communities will now see the benefits.

"Those who choose to leave their local electorate in the dark will face serious questions about why - the public have a right to know how their tax pounds are spent."

The Department for Communities and Local Government has already set the precedent for councils to follow, regularly publishing all spend data over £500.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 February 2011 11:39 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Harrand; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest transparency situation

Hi NAME REDACTED ,  
NAME REDACTED,

We've received a few more new notifications which I've forwarded to you. Could you please send your latest spreadsheet once you have updated and could we have a chat re next steps.

As discussed and agreed with NAME REDACTED yesterday, once we have the list of those not yet publishing (including those with holding pages) we/Transparency Team will help in checking the council websites to see if any are actually publishing and have not informed us - as the numbers should now be relatively low, it should not take too long. NAME REDACTED, you also said you would send an e-mail to those councils who are listed as not publishing.

This would ensure that we have a more accurate picture prior to any departmental publicity around those councils who are not yet publishing spend data.

Thanks.

NAME REDACTED X4NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:24 AM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED ;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Latest transparency situation

Hi NAME REDACTED,

I've updated the spreadsheet based on current position - apologies I was in a bit of a rush yesterday and missed a few off also some of the links I sent to NAME REDACTED had not been included in spreadsheet - current total stands at 309.

<< File: council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER 1.xls >> I have not had a chance to look at all the non-compliant sites yet to see if they have published and I am expecting a link from Mansfield shortly.

Cheers

NAME  
REDAC  
TED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 01 February 2011 16:14 **To:** Selvin Brown; Sheridan Westlake  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

Yes - colleagues verifying the last dozen or not doing it.

**From:** Selvin Brown **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:06 PM **To:** Sheridan Westlake; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Andrew Campbell; Paul Downie; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Missed SRP milestones

Sheridan

No.10 want to say complete on LA £500 spend - but name the LAs that have not published. Are you ok with this approach

NAME REDACTED - can we supply list of LAs that have not published?  
Thanks

SB

Selvin Brown MBE Programme Team  
Communities and Local Government

✂ [selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:selvin.brown@communities.gsi.gov.uk) ✂ 0303 444 2066  
J6/6, Eland Hse, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU ✂  
[www.communities.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 February 2011 14:57 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: For Action please: Urgent - Progress reports on LG Burdens and Cutting Red Tape exercises

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** 110202 cutting red tape lg burdens.doc

NAME REDACTED/NAME

REDACTED

Between the two of you can you update the attached for NAME REDACTED (no 42 in the list) referring to both the consultation period for the draft code and the number of councils publishing. I have my doubts as to whether the £500 spend should actually be on this list. It's something that's been introduced by this government to increase transparency and accountability to the public, is requiring councils to publish information that they already hold and has not been considered as a new burden by people here.



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 February 2011 10:47 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Media update: Wednesday, 2 February

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:38 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Media update: Wednesday, 2 February

[See highlighted article for Nottingham](#)

### **LOCAL/SPECIALIST MEDIA**

**Nottingham Evening Post** -Nottingham City Council still refuses to publish spending data online

**Newbury Today** - West Berkshire Council has published details of every item of its expenditure over £500, including how much it spent on laundry fees, fairtrade food, and wrestling entertainment

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 February 2011 16:01 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

Russell **Subject:** RE: Sir NAME REDACTED 's newsletter - paragraph on LAs publishing spend  
[All](#)

[Grateful if you can copy NAME REDACTED into any further exchanges on numbers, as she'll have the latest figures.](#)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:55 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Sir Bob's newsletter - paragraph on LAs publishing spend

NAME  
REDACTED

[NAME REDACTED is away so I've drafted the following - NAME REDACTED, I know the Code isn't now being published until Monday - if the list of councils not publishing is going to be published before then can we say which date?](#)

"I'd like to thank all of you who have met the Secretary of State's request to publish items of expenditure exceeding £500. As of Monday there were only 15 councils not publishing this data, although I understand 2 have made clear they plan to very shortly. The department will now be publishing the list of councils which are not complying with this request alongside publication of the Code of Recommended Practice on Transparency. You can check that we have included your authority in the list of councils publishing on <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/>

NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 4:00 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Sir NAME REDACTED 's newsletter - paragraph on LAs publishing spend

NAME  
REDACTED

You've kindly agreed to provide NAME REDACTED with a paragraph thanking those councils who have published their data in line with SoS's request, and letting them know we will be publishing a list of non-compliers. Ideally NAME REDACTED would like this weds close or first thing Thurs - this would give us time to confirm that the code is being published which would be really good to include.

We need to make sure the figures we are publishing are accurate and give some reassurance about this in the letter - NAME REDACTED I think we'll have the accurate figures in time for this and we'll clear the paragraph with you so we are not giving out different public messages.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 02 February 2011 13:09 **To:**  
NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency/Spending  
DRAFT - send for review

**Attachments:** 11-02-02 Finding out how your council spends your money-DRAFT24-  
1-11 (vw).doc

Thanks. I've suggested a couple of changes in the draft - are you OK with these before I send over to No 10?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02,  
2011 1:03 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

I hope this helps , It was something that I wrote some time ago:

The article on Directgov will concentrate on the citizen who wants to see what their own council spends (not long lists of those councils who have published).Data.gov.uk is not really an end user site ( it is primarily a data warehouse for would be developers) and no 10 appears to be about consultation. The CLG information is an implementation/"name and shame" site and will disappear by the end of the month. None of these sites actually targets the average citizen who does not use spreadsheets to manipulate data. This view is supported by CIPFA who is supporting transparency through their Service Reporting Code of Practice, but they argue that Government is yet to win the argument on spending transparency, in part because focussing on masses of data rather than on ensuring it is intelligible to citizens

[http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature\\_story.asp?id=15461](http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature_story.asp?id=15461)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02,  
2011 12:25 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

NAME  
REDACTED

I'll whizz the article over to Ivan Collister at No 10 this afternoon, once I've checked with colleagues whether it was mentioned at an earlier meeting. In the meantime, have you got a couple of paras on why the article is being published. Sorry if you've sent it through to NAME REDACTED before - too many emails!

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02,  
2011 11:42 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

thanks

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:41 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

NAME  
REDACTED

This is on my list of things to do! NAME REDACTED mentioned that No 10 were told about the article in a comms note, but I don't think they ever commented. I'll check, have a look through the article and get back to you.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:38 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

Hi, I am not sure how far NAME REDACTED got with OKaying this article. I think Directgov want to be sure that No 10 is happy with the article.

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2011 8:43 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Fw: transparency/Spending DRAFT - send for review

Hi NAME REDACTED, Here is the draft of the article we are proposing for Directgov. Note that we are including 4 different types of expenditure which we will be collecting from LAs I am assuming that DCLG will not be mounting a campaign to monitor the collection of the other3 links. Happy to discuss the content. Regards NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme Manager This message was sent on my blackberry

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Mon Jan 24 17:52:25 2011 **Subject:** Spending DRAFT - send for review

<<Finding out how your council spends your money-DRAFT-24-1-11.doc>>  
NAME REDACTED | Franchise Manager  
Directgov Home and Community Franchise

Communities and Local Government  
Eland House, Zone 7/F5 Bressenden  
Place London SW1E 5DU Tel: 030 344  
4NUMBER REDACTED NAME  
REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/homeandcommunity](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/homeandcommunity)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 03 February 2011 14:41 **To:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Selvin Brown; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

Prob best you discuss with Selvin / NAME REDACTED as they'll know for sure. But basically this is the regular update on SRP commitments published on the No 10 site. The current "non compliant" number continues to change. Shall we just let you know as at 4pm today and reference as such?

**From:** NAME REDACTED NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:36 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Latest publishers

What is it exactly that no10 want to do Friday?

I think our minister want to be the ones to name the non-compliants first.

We'd need to square anything with spads/private office first.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:18 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

NAME  
REDACTED

Sorry to be mailing again! Given that No 10 are keen to list councils not publishing in their Friday update, could you ask the Councils you are contacting today to get back to you urgently with details on when they expect to publish, so that we can make sure any announcement is as up to date as possible.

Thanks

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:11 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

2 of the non compliants remain on the other list and NAME REDACTED found Lincs CC this afternoon. Hopefully I will have consolidated the main list by mid morning tomorrow.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:07 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

NAME  
REDACTED

Can I ask one final question before you take out the shot-gun? Does the list of 300-odd that are publishing include any holding pages still, or are all holding pages covered in the non-compliant list?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:04 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

<< File: non compliant.xls >>  
13 + 3

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:52 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

NAME  
REDACTED

Thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice in the name of transparency!

V

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:51 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Latest publishers

Yes there is (was) another list - but I have just accidentally deleted it while answering your email! I will start again and send you the latest list(!!!!).Then I will go out and summarily execute myself.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:42 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Latest publishers

NAME  
REDACTED

This is what you sent through 20 mins ago - is there another list?



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:20 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Latest publishers

Here is a list of all the latest publishers that came from the list of non compliants. Have you any problem with NAME REDACTED adding them to the DCLG website?

Regards

NAME REDACTED << File: non compliant.xls

>>

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov Programme  
Manager Department for Communities and Local  
Government Home & Community Franchise Zone  
7/F5, Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E  
5DU MOB: NUMBER REDACTED Tel: 0303  
44NUMBER REDACTED

Visit [DCLG's e-newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at  
<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 03 February 2011

13:59 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME

REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME

REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency -  
expenditure over £500

Agree you should no longer waste your time on it if it's glitching all the time.

Some old press releases refer to it - is there any way we can keep it but put a note on it saying that it's no longer being updated due to technical difficulties?

NAME REDACTED | 0303 444  
NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, February  
03, 2011 1:49 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency -  
expenditure over £500

Hi

Can we remove the timeline from our site please? It's been nothing but trouble this past week. It's taken almost 3 hours just to update 14 links onto it - my other work is suffering and LA are disappearing off from the timeline.

Can all press items point to our links please and we remove the timeline?

Thanks

**NAME REDACTED**

Assistant Content Manager, e-Communications

T: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

(ext: 4NUMBER REDACTED )

W: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, February  
03, 2011 1:41 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Transparency -  
expenditure over £500

Hi,

Can you update me on the current situation with the timeline? I have several of these emails (see Wycombe below) and to be able to respond to them , I need to know whether they can be entered and/or re-entered onto the timeline.

regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED [mailto:NAME REDACTED@wycombe.gov.uk]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:49 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED

**Subject:** FW: Transparency - expenditure over £500

Hi there

Wycombe District Council does not appear on the timeline. Please can you add us?  
We published our data on 30 November 2010.

Thanks very much

NAME REDACTED Web Manager,  
Wycombe District Council  
[www.wycombe.gov.uk](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 February 2011 16:08 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Coram; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES AND THE TRANSPARENCY

## AGENDA

NAME

REDACTED,

All councillor allowances of £500 and over should be published as part of local authorities monthly spend data. The Secretary of State wrote to all local authority leaders in England in June 2010 urging them to publish all spend of £500 and over by 31 January 2011. As of 7th Feb 347 local authorities are publishing spend data. With regards to payroll this depend on the authorities processes etc so it's not one I can really answer but in theory there shouldn't be a problem.

For info - today we have launched a Code of Recommended Practice for consultation which sets out the scope, for timing of publishing data and the minimum expectations of what data local authorities should release - includes councillor allowances.

Regards

NAME

REDACTED

### **NAME REDACTED | Department for Communities and Local Government**

Local Authority Transparency | Digital Delivery and Transparency Division  
Eland House | Zone 3/J4 | Bressenden Place | London | SW1E 5DU Tel.  
0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 1:43 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Coram; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES AND THE TRANSPARENCY AGENDA

NAME

REDACTED

We receive a lot of correspondence complaining that councillors' allowances are too high. Allowances for councillors in large authorities may well exceed £500 per month and are probably paid by adding councillors to the staff payroll. Does the payments of councillors' allowances come under the requirements of the transparency agenda, please? If so, can you please let me know from what date and how frequently LAs will be/have been required to publish expenditure of over £500?

Incidentally, although the payroll is the mechanism for making the payments, I assume that there is no difficulty in releasing information relating to the payroll? The payments are not a salary as councillors are not employees. The regulations on councillors' allowances already require allowances paid to individual councillors to be published, but only after the end of the financial year in question. Armchair auditors may wish to report during the year that where a councillor claimed an allowance for attending a meeting, (s)he was not even

there! Thanks for your

help. NAME

REDACTED

Conduct and Council Constitutions Team

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 February 2011 16:24 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

Fine.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 4:20 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

I have edited the paragraph as follows, as I understand this is a moveable feast:

I'd like to thank all of you who have met the Secretary of State's request to publish items of expenditure exceeding £500. As of the January 31 deadline there were only 15 councils not publishing this data and the number is going down every day. You can see your local authority in the list of councils publishing this data at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> . We will also publish the list of councils yet to do so and shortly consult on a new Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency.

Is this ok with you, please?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 4:19 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

NAME REDACTED  
The latest figure we have is that only 7 aren't publishing.

V

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 4:07 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

Yes, thank you. Also, just to check, the most up to date info we have is indeed still from 31 Jan, is it not? Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 4:04 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

NAME REDACTED

Is this what you wanted me to do?

## Transparency

I'd like to thank all of you who have met the Secretary of State's request to publish items of expenditure exceeding £500. As of Monday 31 Jan there were only 15 councils not publishing this data, although I understand 2 have made clear they plan to very shortly. You can see your local authority in the list of councils publishing this data at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/transparency/localgovernmentexpenditure/> . We will also publish the list of councils yet to do so, and are now consulting on a new Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 4:02 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

NAME  
REDACTED

At the risk of sounding really silly, please could you cut and paste your changes into an email for me? It's getting tough to manage changes from so many people in the body of the text. Thanks,  
NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 3:38 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc

NAME  
REDACTED

Re the transparency Draft Code of recommended Practice - this is now out for consultation. Amended text attached.

<< File: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc >>  
NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 3:07 PM **To:** Director General; Directors **Cc:** NAMES REDACTED

**Subject:** 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc  
**Importance:** High

Please see the most up to date draft newsletter to be sent by Sir Bob to LA chief execs. Thanks to those who have contributed. You will see that space is at an absolute premium. I have tried to edit down as much as possible, while keeping the original meaning. Please do check your

own item for accuracy and confirm you are happy **by 4pm today**. Apologies for tight deadline but this must go into Sir Bob 's box tonight so it can be sent first thing in the morning.

<< File: 080211 Perm Sec LA CEX Newsletter DRAFT 1.doc >>  
Many thanks, NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Strategic  
Communications Manager  
Communities and Local Government  
0303 444 1175

*My working days are: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday*

Visit [DCLG's e-newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at  
<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>



**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 07 February 2011 15:28 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: DCLG select committee  
NAME  
REDACTED  
[A small suggestion below.](#)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 1:16 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: DCLG select committee **Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED/NAME  
REDACTED  
How does this sound by way of a response.

Q Do you consider there to be potential limitations with transparency?

Suggested response

Public access to public data is needed to ensure local people can have a bigger say over what happens in their community. Real transparency means seeing how government works, what their money is spent on and what public spending achieves. We have made a lot of progress and I am delighted that all but six councils are now publishing line by line information [on all their spend over £500](#). I have also initiated a consultation on a Draft Code of Recommended Practice on Transparency to reinforce our determination for transparency to be part of the day to day way we do business.

NAME  
REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Floor 3/J3 Eland House 0303 444NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED Martindale **Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 12:44 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** **Importance:** High

NAME

REDACTED,

I am currently compiling the briefing for Greg Clark on behalf of NAME REDACTED Curtis (see attached commission, and then list of topics attached to that).

The question on decentralisation issues - "Do you consider there to be potential limitations with transparency?" was allocated to Hulya Mustafa but I'm told she has been on leave and that perhaps you would be able to provide something? If you were able to provide something either today or latest tomorrow that would be most appreciated. Or if you are unable to then perhaps you can point me to someone who might?

<< File: Select Committee Localism Inquiry - Commission.rtf >>

Any questions just let me know.

Thanks in advance,

**NAME REDACTED**

5 / J3 Department of Communities and Local  
Government Tel: 0303444NUMBER REDACTED

NAME REDACTED @communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 08 February 2011 10:27 **To:**  
NAMES REDACTED **Subject:** Council Spend over £500

**Attachments:** council expenditure monitoring alphabetic MASTER 2 feb V6.0.xls;  
1829193.pdf Dear All

As requested, please find attached our latest spreadsheet showing councils that are publishing their payments to suppliers over £500.

Only 7 councils are yet to publish, 2 of which (Lincolnshire and Eastbourne) intend to do so shortly. The 5 remaining councils who are yet to publish are: Bradford (who we understand expect to publish today), Epsom & Ewell, Nottingham City, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Peterborough.

council expenditure  
monitoring...

Ignore the different colours on the spreadsheet, these are for our monitoring.

You might also be interested in the attached article from the BBC yesterday:  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/opensecrets/2011/02/nottingham\\_could\\_be\\_only\\_counc.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/opensecrets/2011/02/nottingham_could_be_only_counc.html)

A draft Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency (copy attached) was published for consultation yesterday (7 Feb). It is intended to set out the requirement to publish data and minimum expectations and considerations. The consultation period for the draft code ends on 14th March.

1829193.pdf (156  
KB)

Let me know if you need any more.

Regards

NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED DDDT Zone  
3/J3 Eland House Tel: 0303  
444NUMBER REDACTED

Please note I work Mon-Weds. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED, who works Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 09 February 2011 07:47  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Local Government Finance Settlement Statement - Wednesday 9 February House of Commons 15:50 - 18:50

**Categories:** richard  
**Attachments:** 500 ONLINE.doc; Annex A Summary table by MP.xls; Annex B Summary Table by Local Authority.xls; G LGRR LB.doc; 9 Feb 2011 Index of briefing.doc; V CT Capping and Freeze.doc

**From:** PSEricPickles  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 6:53 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Local Government Finance Settlement Statement - Wednesday 9 February House of Commons 15:50 - 18:50

NAME REDACTED,  
Hulya,  
Do we know why Epsom and Peterborough haven't published?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011 6:29 PM  
**To:** PSEricPickles  
**Cc:** PSAdvisers; PSAndrewStunell; PSBaronessHanham; PSBobNeill; PSGrantShapps; PSGregClark; PSPermanentSecretary; NAMES REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Local Government Finance Settlement Statement - Wednesday 9 February House of Commons 15:50 - 18:50

Further to my earlier email please find attached:

Briefing Index - replaces previous Briefing G -replaces previous Briefing V - new section Annex A Annex B List of Councils who have not published items over £500 online

Annex A & B are still incomplete - we hope to finalise the tables tomorrow morning. You also asked us to include details in our look-up tables on whether councils have published their spending above £500 online yet. All but [6] councils have done so, so rather than cluttering up the table, I attach the list as a separate sheet. However, if Ministers want this incorporated in the look-up tables, we can do so.

500 ONLINE.doc Annex A Summary Annex B Summary G LGRR LB.doc (35 9 Feb 2011 Index V CT Capping and (27 KB) table by MP.xl... Table by Local... KB) of briefing.d... Freeze.doc (7...

NAME REDACTED Formula Grant Distribution Local Government Finance  
Directorate Dept for Communities and Local Government 5/J2, Eland  
House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU Tel: 030344 4NUMBER  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 09 February 2011  
09:19 **To:** PSEricPickles **Cc:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** RE: TRANSPARENCY  
UPDATE

NAME  
REDACTED

The only councils that aren't now publishing spend data are Epsom & Ewell, Peterborough and Nottingham City, Lincolnshire and Eastbourne. Lincs and Eastbourne intend to publish by the end of Feb, and I'm checking the position with Epsom and Peterborough - according to the attached BBC article, Peterborough intend to publish this week and Epsom by the end of Feb. That just leaves Nottingham. We've heard nothing formally from them that they won't be publishing, but the attached article suggests they will only do so when it becomes a legal requirement.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/opensecrets/2011/02/nottingham\\_could\\_be\\_only\\_counc.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/opensecrets/2011/02/nottingham_could_be_only_counc.html)

I'll let you know if I hear anything more definitive.

Regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2011  
6:37 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED **Subject:** TRANSPARENCY UPDATE  
**Importance:** High

NAME REDACTED,  
Hulya,

Please could you let me know the latest position on authorities publishing over £500. I think it is only a very small number who haven't done so. Am I right?

Thanks, NAME REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

Private Secretary Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP Secretary of  
State for Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED

Please note: all e-mails and attachments sent by a Private Secretary to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Ministerial Group does not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Similarly, e-mails and associated attachments sent to the PSEricPickles account by officials are not retained by Private Office long term and should therefore be recorded as most appropriate by the sender. Thank you.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 11 February 2011 14:07 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: publication of spend over Â£500

Thanks, NAME REDACTED.  
Best

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 2:06 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Re: publication of spend over £500

We don't generally go down to parish level with legislation. However if Swanley wants to be seen to be transparent I would suggest that they ask their owning district to feature a link to their page from their own transparency pages.

Let me have a think about the googledocs. Spreadsheet and I will get back to you  
Regards NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Directgov  
Programme Manager This message was sent on my blackberry

**From:** NAME REDACTED **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 11 09:29:09 2011 **Subject:** FW: publication of spend over Â£500

Hi NAME REDACTED, Hope you are well and work is now less manic for you? Please see message below from Swanley Town Council. I'm not sure if it was ever intended that you

would include Town Council details on the DCLG list?

Now that the Code has been published for consultation, we may get some more of these as other local public sector bodies realise that they are also covered by the Code. On another issue, did you see my e-mail to Gesche and Jonathan about tracking the other commitments in the existing googledocs spreadsheet? Do you have any views? Happy to discuss.

Regards, NAME REDACTED

x4NUMBER

REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:14 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: publication of spend over £500

**From:** CONTACTUS **Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 5:50 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: publication of spend over £500

Please see the attached email which has been received into the Contact Us email account.

Please can you reply direct to this email. Officials have requested that we revert to forwarding these emails direct without recording on the Ministerial Correspondence Database as this is a general inquiry into the department.

If this is not for you please let us know ASAP by emailing the [contactus@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@communities.gsi.gov.uk) - grateful for suggestions as to whom it might fall to.

Regards.

Correspondence Team

**From:** NAME REDACTED [mailto:NAME REDACTED@swanley.org.uk] **Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 12:23 PM **To:** [contactus@communities.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@communities.gov.uk) **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; [fallonm@parliament.uk](mailto:fallonm@parliament.uk) **Subject:** publication of spend over Â£500  
Dear Sir/Madam

Whilst the local council sector is not currently obliged to publish the expenditure over £500, I write to advise that Swanley Town Council has been doing this since October 2010. (I note that in the latest consultation this sector is included in draft code of recommended practice)

Unfortunately due to the limitations on our website we cannot retain more than one monthâ€™s information and we have to publish in excel format.



I note from the DCLG web site that you have links to authorities that have done this; our web site is [www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

We also publish our annual report which includes the publication of salaries

Yours faithfully

***NAME REDACTED***

**Chief Executive and Town Clerk**

Swanley Town Council, Civic Centre, St  
Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU Telephone:  
NUMBER REDACTED

[www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

Swanley Banqueting [www.swanley.org.uk](http://www.swanley.org.uk)

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 11 February 2011 15:16 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Request for information on FAQs for DCLG website

Yes. NAME REDACTED could you sort next week. Think this is actually more focussed on the key messages than rest of Q&A. Ta.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 3:03 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** FW: Request for information on FAQs for DCLG website

Hi NAME REDACTED/NAME

REDACTED, Can you assist on

the LA side. Thanks NAME

REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED

✂ Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

**From:** NAME REDACTED Jones **Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Request for information on FAQs for DCLG website

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

Thanks for sending me this information - it's a very useful starting point for what I am trying to achieve with the FAQs on the website.

However, I wondered if you were able to highlight what you regard as being the most common questions out of this list? I will then make these questions the top level FAQs so that they are the most visible on the page.

We are likely to use all of this material, although some of the more specialist questions may be at a lower level in the structure of the page. We may also have to alter/adapt them slightly to make them suitable for the FAQ format that we will be using to build the page.

Thank you

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:45 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** DDDT **Subject:** FW: Request for information on FAQs for DCLG website

Hi NAME  
REDACTED

I attach the most recent Q&A on Transparency.

<< File: 110207\_Town Hall Transparency QA\_February 2011.doc >>

Key contacts are: Town Hall Transparency: NAME REDACTED

Code of Practice:

NAME  
REDACTED

Corporate Transparency:

NAME REDACTED

Please come back to me if you require any further assistance.

Thanks NAME REDACTED

NAME REDACTED | Data Transparency- Local Government & Economic Growth | 3/H4 Eland  
House | 0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED

\ Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:29 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Request for information on FAQs for DCLG website

Dear NAME  
REDACTED

I work in the eCommunications team and we are currently working on a project to improve the frequently asked questions section of the website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/faq/>. This work is one of the Secretary of State's priorities and is part of a wider project to improve the way the Department handles correspondence, enabling users to get quick answers to their queries online and therefore lowering the volume of emails that the Contact Us account receives.

We need help from colleagues in each area to update the current FAQ content, provide new information, maintain the information and be a 'content owner' in the future to ensure that these sections remain relevant and up to date.

The specific area that we need your help with is **transparency**. Some recent examples of questions received by the Contact Us account on this include:

. Is there any legislation that obliges local authorities to publish details of expenditure over £500?

. Are there any codes of practice or guidance being made in advance of the requirements to publish contracts over £500?

At present there are no existing FAQs about this on the website so it would be helpful if we could formulate some to avoid the need for standard questions on the same subject being sent to the correspondence team.

**We would therefore be grateful if you could please do the following, or pass this request onto a suitable colleague:**

1. Compile a list of what you deem to be the most commonly asked questions in this area, along with concise answers.
2. Consider areas that the general public or our partners are most likely to want answers to. We're not solely asking for answers to the above; although these are real examples from Contact Us, these are just used to *illustrate* the main area we need FAQs on and the type of questions that have been asked in the past.
3. If you are already aware of questions that are often asked by partners and members of the general public then please incorporate these into this list.

In keeping with the prevailing spirit of transparency, it is important that we should aim to make these FAQs as comprehensive as possible, without swamping the users with unnecessary detail so your assistance in providing information for this section of the website is very much appreciated.

It would be helpful if you could please get back to me by no later than **Thursday 17 February**.

**If you are not responsible for this type of work then I'd be grateful if you could please pass this onto a suitable colleague and ask them to respond to me.**

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this.

Kind regards

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**

**Communication Directorate  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Zone 7 H4 Eland House  
Bressenden Place SW1E 5DU  
0303 444 NUMBER  
REDACTED**

Visit DCLG's e-newsroom [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at <http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

From: NAME REDACTED Sent:  
14 February 2011 12:19To:  
DDDT Subject: Emailing:  
article

Here's the latest local news on Nottingham's refusal to publish their spenddata.

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Shortcut to: <http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/news/Publishing-city-spendingcost-163-100-000-claimed-council-row/article-3211106-detail/article.html>

 Please don't print this email unless you really need to.

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 17 February 2011 11:20 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** 110217 Topical Briefing Template for Orals.doc

**Attachments:** 110217 Topical Briefing Template for Orals.doc

110217 Topical  
Briefing Templa...

NAME REDACTED

Briefing attached. You wanted it to cover transparency, £500 expenditure and £58K jobs. These are covered. NAME REDACTED - I've cribbed from the recent PQ and your contribution to the TO for defensive Q&A on 58K jobs. Hope this ok but do shout if got anything slightly wrong.

NAME REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 24 February 2011 16:01 **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Collecting information on LA transparency NAME REDACTED and I met with NAME REDACTED on Tuesday to discuss her work collecting information from LAs for Local Direct Gov and what we wanted to do going forward. This was really helpful, and I thought I would just note down the key points

. NAME REDACTED is going to press ahead with the local transparency/find out what your council spends landing page on Direct Gov. She has sent the text to Number 10 for comment, who have passed it on to Francis Maude's office. It is written in very general terms, and will link to postcode searches for £500 spend, contracts and tenders, councillor allowances and senior salaries (this is the postcode search for £500.  
<http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=1465&LGIL=8>) The pages will include a link to the Number 10 transparency pages.

. NAME REDACTED & NAME REDACTED will look at the content on the DCLG page. Now that the timeline has gone it is a bit messy, and will be better when we can just link to the Direct Gov page. It is probably also worth having a more strategic think about what we want to be saying on the local transparency pages, and NAME REDACTED is aiming to have a first go at this next week.

. NAME REDACTED will continue to ask LAs to provide the links for £500 spend, contracts and tenders, councillor allowances and senior salaries. This is on the basis that these are the pieces of information that have had most interest from Ministers, and that to include other data items (e.g. organograms) it would soon become a never-ending task given the scope of the Code. She will not have a large push on this, but will make a bit of a splash once the Direct Gov local transparency page is live. We are happy to share the information on who is publishing with LG Group, and it will eventually be published as part of the drive to publish all the Departments data as all the Local Direct Gov links will be published (NAME REDACTED keen to publish via a live tool, rather than a CSV that will soon become out of data). We are not expecting to have to produce percentages of how many are publishing particular types of data, and we will not be checking whether LAs are putting the full transparency information on the contracts page for example, as we do not have resource to do this. We can reassess as we progress, particularly if there is interest from Ministers/media. We will not be asking LG Group to check the list as we did for £500, but if they want to do any work, that is for them to decide.

Hope I captured everything - grateful if NAME REDACTED and NAME REDACTED could chip in as needed,

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity Department for Communities and Local Government 030 3444 NUMBER REDACTED I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 03 March 2011  
15:37 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: £500  
spend - brief query

Yes - both guidance docs were developed during the 6 months from June (when SoS issued the call) and Jan deadline. What's the interest?

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, March 03,  
2011 3:17 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE:  
£500 spend - brief query

Was there anything issued prior to the first release of the data in January?

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, March 03,  
2011 12:20 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: £500 spend  
- brief query

NAME  
REDACTED

We've not produced any guidance. The Code is the only thing we're proposing to issue. On £500 expenditure two guides have been produced by the Local Govt Group and, separately, the Local Public Data Panel.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Thursday, March 03,  
2011 12:14 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** £500  
spend - brief query

NAME  
REDACTED,

Did the Department issue any more detailed guidance on how authorities should go about releasing this data other than the draft code of practice, or is the LGE practitioners guide the most comprehensive publication for authorities to use?

NAME  
REDACTED

**NAME REDACTED**  
Workforce Pay and Pensions Department for  
Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED  
NAME REDACTED  
@communities.gsi.gov.uk



**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** 03 March 2011 12:09  
**To:** NAME REDACTED; Janet Dougharty; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Claire Cooper; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Nick Burkitt; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency  
**Categories:** NAME REDACTED  
**Attachments:** 110303 No 10 template sub RM.doc  
NAME REDACTED,  
Further to what NAME REDACTED provided, LG Group are developing an app for the Knowledge Hub that will pull in £500 spend.

I have also added some more on contracts and some other bits and suggestions - in tracked changes.

NAME REDACTED

110303 No 10  
template sub RM.d..

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:42 PM  
**To:** Janet Dougharty; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Claire Cooper; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Nick Burkitt; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

All

Please see attached attempt to respond to the No. 10 template idea. Thanks to NAME REDACTED n for earlier discussions. NAME REDACTED / Janet - not sure if you've got any further?

What do people think? While the VCS data can't be sorted there is a counter offer in trying to work it out within current constraints; we can also offer to do something with existing RO and future QRO data.

**LGF colleagues:** happy with the suggestion? It's your data... If so, **NAME REDACTED** are there any obvious LGID activities / plans we can refer to?

**NAME REDACTED** : see exchanges below. Are any of your apps-in-development relevant?

<< File: No 10 template1.doc >> << File: QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE DATA\_3.doc >>  
>> NAME REDACTED

**From:** Janet Dougharty **Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 3:40 PM

**To:** Richard Harries; PSEricPickles  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED Ridley; Claire Cooper; Hulya Mustafa; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
; Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Nick Burkitt  
**Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

Richard

Thanks for alerting me to this - it certainly seems to overlap with the regular local government finance returns and in particular our new work on quarterly reporting.

I have asked NAME REDACTED here to look into it further.

Janet

**From:** Richard Harries **Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 11:21 AM **To:** Janet Dougharty; PSEricPickles **Cc:** Simon Ridley; Claire Cooper; Hulya Mustafa; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED

; Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Richard Harries; Nick Burkitt **Subject:** FW: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

Janet: You will want to see this. It seems that lines 1, 2, 4 and 5 are already captured by your somewhat more robust data collection processes.

NAME REDACTED: Number 10 appear to have excluded (non-charitable) social enterprises from their proforma.

R.

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:21 AM **To:** Claire Cooper; Hulya Mustafa; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Richard Harries; Nick Burkitt **Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

All,

As promised, please find attached the draft template to aid LAs' publication of the VCS funding details, as drawn up by No.10.

Regards,

NAME REDACTED << File: QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE DATA\_3.doc >>

**From:** Claire Cooper **Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:14 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Richard Harries; Nick Burkitt **Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

Sorry, I wasn't suggesting that you should. I'm quite happy for this team to provide some advice on this - what we can't do is advise on guidance on transparency. That seemed to me to be the more immediate and substantive issue, which is why I had suggested you might want to pull together the note with us feeding in. But I'm happy to do it the other way around if you prefer.

Claire Cooper Deputy Director:  
Community Action

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Tel: 0303 44 42003

**From:** Hulya Mustafa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** Claire Cooper; PSEricPickles; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Richard Harries; Nick Burkitt  
**Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

Claire

Our emails crossed, mine (and NAME REDACTED's) attached for the benefit of yr wider cc list. << Message: RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency >> I'm not happy to lead on this, I'm afraid. My side can clarify what transparency can do re VCS, and see what more we can do which I'm sure there may be something (though I'm not sure any additional guidance or templates are immediately appealing - NAME REDACTED, what draft template are you talking about?) but we're not running a competition for which councils are most can-do re the VCS.

Hulya

**From:** Claire Cooper **Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 3:57 PM **To:** PSEricPickles; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson; NAME REDACTED; Richard Harries; Nick Burkitt **Subject:** RE: LAs' VCS funding and Transparency

Thanks NAME REDACTED.

Hulya - are you happy to take the lead on this from the transparency angle? We'd be happy to feed in on the "can-do" councils front. (As NAME REDACTED says, I think we might need to do something to make the prize a bit more appealing.)

Claire Cooper Deputy Director: Community Action  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Tel: 0303 44 42003

**From:** PSEricPickles **Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 3:01 PM **To:** Hulya Mustafa; Claire Cooper; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED **Cc:** Mark Carroll; Lucy Makinson **Subject:** LAs' VCS funding and Transparency **Importance:** High

All,

No.10 and Oliver Letwin have come up with some ideas for building on the transparency agenda,

specifically our consultation on the Transparency Code's question as to if and how LAs should publish details of the funding they provide to VCS organisations.

Firstly, they suggest making available a template for LAs to use when publishing VCS funding details. I believe that there is already a draft of this drawn up, which I'm trying to get a copy of, and will send on as soon as I do. This would a) make it easier for LAs to comply with the transparency requirement and b) result in a greater level of uniformity of publications, which will in turn make it easier for the public to access and understand the data.

SofS agreed to explore the possibility of producing a guidance note to LAs on this with the LGA nothing too prescriptive.

REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

The SofS has agreed in principle to these ideas. I would therefore be grateful if you could draw up :

- . a brief note with ideas of how this could operate in practice (preferably 2 pages max);
- . a short confirmation letter for SofS to send to Oliver Letwin; and,
- . a draft letter for SofS to send to the LGA on a possible guidance note on the publication of funding data via a template.

Please could you get this to me for the end of this week (Thurs pm/Friday am) so I can put it to SofS on his return from recess?

Happy to discuss further,

Thanks and regards,

**NAME REDACTED**

Private Secretary Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Tel: 0303 444 NUMBER REDACTED Mob: NUMBER REDACTED

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**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 17 March 2011 15:41 **To:** NAME REDACTED  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Community Safety Performance Team -  
Papers and agenda for 22 March 2011

NAME  
REDACTED

I don't think there's much for us to say on transparency. Our headlines are covered in the slides accompanying the papers.

Data on DCLG spend over £500 is now routinely published each month.

On local government data:

All but one council (Nottingham) is now publishing its £500 spend data. This is very good news, and has been done just on the back of the letter that the SofS sent to councils last June. Consultation on a draft code of practice on local government data transparency ended on 14 March. DCLG is working with the LG Group to support the spreading of good practice, and Making a Difference with Data microsite is now up and running and includes examples of policing and crime open data.

DCLG is supporting a workshop on understanding local government finance next month in Oxford. Aimed at citizens, journalists and anyone with an interest in understanding spend data, with delegates asked to bring along data they want to understand better.

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:04 PM **To:** NAME REDACTED;  
NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME  
REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTEDpott **Cc:** NAME  
REDACTED; Jane Cockerill **Subject:** FW: Community Safety Performance Team - Papers and  
agenda for 22 March 2011

Colleagues,

Jane Cockerill is representing DCLG - standing in for Lucy at the Home Office's next Community Safety Steering Group on the 22 March. *I would like to provide her with a few lines to take in response to some of the issues that may come up in the attached papers.*

**For background** - At the last meeting of this group there were a number of actions for DCLG - in terms of providing information to enable the Home Office to *map existing Community Safety Partnership funding streams ( Actions - Action 7 & 8 on pages 5-6 of attached minutes).* There was also *discussion on the Baroness Newlove initiatives on addressing ASB.*

Some of you have already provided responses in completing actions 7-8, which are now included within some of the papers for this meeting (for

example, Annex A). To provide Jane with lines to take - **can I ask the following colleagues for contributions:**

**REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE**

**NAME REDACTED &  
NAME REDACTED,**

Can I please have a transparency line to take in connection with paras 8-9 on page 3 of the attached 05-04 Funding paper. I think we are ahead of the game here so might be an opportunity for Jane to give a good news story.

**Can you please get contributions back to me by midday Monday the 21 March at the latest.**

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this commission before replying.

Thank you for your help.

NAME REDACTED Communities & Local  
Government Decentralisation and Local  
Government Strategy

TEL: 0303 444NUMBER REDACTED Email:  
NAME REDACTED@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** 23 March 2011 16:11 **To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: BBC Piece on Transparency - Briefing

**Attachments:** 110322 BBC Transparency Briefing (Lines).doc  
Many thanks for this NAME REDACTED.

Just to flag that I've added to it slightly with key facts:

NAME  
REDACTED

110322 BBC  
Transparency Briefi..

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:28 AM  
**To:** PSAdvisers  
**Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: BBC Piece on Transparency - Briefing

NAME  
REDACTED

Updated brief attached. Also attached is Nottingham City Council's response to the Code consultation.

NAME REDACTED

<< File: 110322 BBC Transparency Briefing (Lines).doc >> << File: 2011\_03\_14 Covering Letter and Response on Data Transparency.doc >>

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:21 PM  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; Hulya Mustafa **Subject:** BBC Piece on Transparency - Briefing

NAME  
REDACTED,

As discussed on the phone earlier, the Secretary of State will be recording an interview with the BBC on Thursday for a piece they are doing on transparency. The BBC are doing a wider piece looking at council expenditure (over £500), focusing on three councils - Leeds, Bury and Bolton. Bury spent £1,000 on cakes (flapjacks, to be precise) during February, Leeds spent £0.9m on furniture and Bolton spent almost £1,000 on Heineken beer.

Giles has asked if we can draw out a few other items of spending by these councils from their data lists. The briefing below contains these examples, as well as more general lines to take.

**Could you please look over the attached lines, check that they are accurate and update if necessary? If you are aware of any further examples of unusual spending by these three authorities, it would be helpful to include these.**

In particular, can you update to (1) note that the code consultation has now ended and (2) reflect Nottingham's recent comments on spend data publication:



<http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/news/City-Publishing-details-expenses-cost-163-86k/article3355221-detail/article.html>. It might be sensible to add a question to the Q&A addressing Nottingham's arguments.

Sorry for the short deadline, but it would be helpful to have this back by mid-afternoon tomorrow.

Thanks,

NAME

REDACTED

<< File: 110322 BBC Transparency Briefing (Lines).doc >>

NAME REDACTED Private Secretary to the Special  
Advisers Department for Communities and Local  
Government 6/D1 Eland House Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

0303 44 4NUMBER REDACTED NAME

REDACTED

@communities.gsi.gov.uk

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 25 March 2011 10:39 **To:** Hulya Mustafa; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Input please: Meetings next Tuesday 29th

Hulya,

I met with NAME REDACTED from HMT last week. I think the position on VAT is clear, so I don't think we need to spend a lot of time on this, and I am not sure it needs to feature so prominently on the agenda. I have asked NAME REDACTED to provide a note for the LPDP setting out the position, and will chase today (he could not provide it for the meeting as he was tied up with work for the Budget). Basically, they are going to have an informal chat with the CBI and then launch a formal consultation with CBI and Federation of Small Businesses etc proposing that VAT numbers can be published by LAs and Government Departments, but asking for views of the risks that this would pose to SMEs who currently do not publish their VAT numbers on their website (there is EU law that says if a business has a VAT number and a website then they should publish their VAT number on the website). I asked Ian to take back the point that if LAs start publishing VAT numbers, this could lead to calls for HMRC to publish a list of businesses and their VAT numbers as a public data set. They may therefore just want to do this, as this would aid comparability and may help get round the issue that LAs may not publish VAT numbers particularly speedily, but you would be able to do comparison as you would have a source of unique identifiers for most suppliers (not all businesses have a VAT number). We would want to see any consultation document as it was drafted, to ensure that we were happy with the language with regard to LA expectations. I will raise this with Ian.

Meeting with CfPS sounds helpful. Be interesting to learn about their event in June, and may be worth passing on SoS concerns about 'glitzy' events <http://www.cfps.org.uk/what-we-do/events/cfps-annual-conferences/?id=87>

NAME REDACTED - to note they have published their response to the Code

Given links to self regulation, you may also want to think about CfPS links to accountability <http://www.cfps.org.uk/what-we-do/events/cfps-events/?id=94>

Fine to come to both meetings.

NAME  
REDACTED

NAME REDACTED, x4NUMBER REDACTED Local Government Policy and Productivity I work part-time and my working days are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My job-share partner is NAME REDACTED.

**From:** Hulya Mustafa **Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 10:02 AM **To:** NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED; NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** Input please: Meetings next Tuesday 29th

All

I am meeting HMT at 11-12 and CO at 2-3.30 next Tuesday to catch up on where our sector is on transparency. HMT is at Treasury, not sure about CO. REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE

Following the Panel discussion and Board discussion and Code responses last week, I'd propose

the following agenda, but what do you think? Comments and whether you want to attend, by midday Monday please so I can let them know.

**HMT**

- LG £500 spend - next steps (ie on Nottingham) - ?PW
- fraud issues - what's next - HMT
-

**From:** NAME REDACTED **Sent:** 31 March 2011  
12:39 **To:** NAME REDACTED ; NAME REDACTED  
**Subject:** Directgov article on transparency Hi,

The Directgov article is finally live and can be viewed at:

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/YourlocalcouncilandCouncilTax/YourCommunity/DG\\_196382](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/YourlocalcouncilandCouncilTax/YourCommunity/DG_196382)

You may want to amend the wording on the article on the DCLG website to highlight this page from now on.

Regards

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

Tel: 0303 44NUMBER

REDACTED

Visit [DCLG's e-newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) [www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom](http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom) and follow us at  
<http://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

**From:** PSAdvisers **Sent:** 13 April 2011 15:03  
**To:** NAME REDACTED **Cc:** NAME REDACTED  
; NAME REDACTED **Subject:** RE: Transparency

**Attachments:** 110322 BBC Transparency Briefing (Lines).doc  
NAME REDACTED,

Thanks for this. Could you please provide an additional line on what we will do to compel Nottingham to publish, if they continue to hold off. Could we also strengthen the lines so that they are directed towards Nottingham more directly - perhaps we might want to include the third bullet point from the attached document, which you provided a few weeks ago?

110322 BBC  
Transparency Briefi..

NAME  
REDACTED

**From:** NAME REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 2:52 PM  
**To:** PSAdvisers  
**Subject:** Transparency

Patrick

You asked for the latest re Nottingham and publication of £500 etc. What we have comes from their response to the code of practice consultation.

- Nottingham City Council has stated that the data will be published as / when it becomes a regulatory requirement.
- The requirement to publish data on items of expenditure above £500 will not yield much useful information - financial ledger systems were not intended to make transaction level data useful to an external individual.
- The Council has estimated that the indirect costs of publishing basic ledger data could be c£100,000 a year through the need to redact personal data and additional queries relating to basic ledger data, particularly from commercial organisations.

Suggested lines to take:

- Transparency has the potential to transform government. It can strengthen people's trust, shine a spotlight on waste and open up markets.
- The taxpayer has a right to see how their money is being spent, go through the books and hold councils to account. It is their information.
- This is about changing the relationship between citizen and state. Taxpayers should not have to search high and low for information: it should be easily accessible when they want it.

- Our actions complement broader changes to Freedom of Information laws proposed by the Government. We want to extend FOI to a range of additional bodies, such as the LGA. The Protection of Freedoms Bill, introduced to Parliament, proposes the need for proactive publication of datasets for reuse and reusable formats.