HM Government

The Government Response to Shakespeare Review of Public Sector Information

June 2013

Ministerial Foreword

Data is changing the way we live and work. Open data is a critical part of this story of transformation, with British businesses poised to benefit from the economic advantages it will bring.

This time last year the Government published the Open Data White Paper[1], which for the first time set out the Coalition's commitment to a 'right to data', releasing Public Sector Information (PSI) as machine readable open data wherever possible. Since then we have continued to press forward in making this Government one of the most open and transparent in the world.

A key commitment in the Open Data White Paper was the commission of an independent review of PSI which was launched in October 2012. We asked Stephan Shakespeare, Chair of the Data Strategy Board and CEO of YouGov, to look at our progress so far on opening up public data and set out his assessment of how the Government should best use PSI to support economic growth. Stephan published his report[2] on 15th May 2013 having established through new research that the current broader value of PSI to the economy is £6.8bn[3].

Stephan consulted with leading industry experts, businesses and academics in the field as well as undertaking a comprehensive market assessment of PSI. He has provided us with a series of recommendations to strengthen and take forward our agenda. His report is a landmark moment for PSI in the UK and we warmly welcome his dedicated contribution to this agenda.

There has also been a great deal of progress on other commitments in the Open Data White Paper. Within just one year we have:
- Formally launched the Open Data Institute in December 2012, designed to incubate new open data start up companies, help unlock open data and provide world-class training;
- Gained Royal Assent for the Datasets Clause in the Protection of Freedoms Act, providing a legal right to machine readable data wherever it is covered by the Freedom of Information Act;
- launched, with the Open Data User Group, a new process for individuals and businesses to request data to be released as open data, with visualisations to track progress via Data.gov.uk;
- Launched the Data Strategy Board Breakthrough Fund for Departments and Local Authorities to support them to overcome technical barriers to the release further open data;
- Launched the Immersion Programme with the Open Data Institute and Nesta to help incubate the next generation of open data applications, tools and services;
- Provided further support for entrepreneurs through the Innovation Vouchers scheme from the Technology Strategy Board;
- Published two Written Ministerial Statements showing progress of departments against their Open Data Strategies; and
- In March we passed a milestone in data publications included on Data.gov.uk with 386 datasets uploaded in just one month.

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[1] Cabinet Office (28 June 2012) Open Data White Paper: Unleashing the Potential
[2] BIS (15 May 2013) Shakespeare review: an independent review of Public Sector Information
[3] BIS (15 May 2013) Market assessment of Public Sector Information

This year's UK Presidency of the G8 will see the development of open data proposals applying to G8 government data, setting the standards for ensuring that all data released is done so in an open and useable format. These proposals will widen global markets for the advantage of British data businesses and to promote transparency that supports International Development. This Government is also using our lead co-chairmanship of the Open Government Partnership to promote open government and open data in democracies around the world.

Central to the Government's response to the Shakespeare Review is our determination to take the release of open data to the next level, to provide a comprehensive and open plan to release data prioritised on the drive for technology-led economic growth. We will:
- Set out how we will strengthen our strategy through the Information Economy Strategy and the UK OGP National Action Plan to be published in October 2013;
- Define what should be included as core data through consultation with both data users and data controllers. The plan to release core departmental data will complement the existing process whereby data businesses and others can request particular data, and government can recommend the urgent release of transformational data sets;
- Set a new ambition for this core departmental data to be released by 2015, underpinned by secondary legislation and agreements reached at an international level via the G8, ensuring the UK's continued world leadership on open data;
- Feed the plan for release of core data into revised Departmental Open Data Strategies alongside the UK OGP National Action Plan in October, giving data businesses clarity about the timetable for release of data, and a confidence in the timeliness and quality of that data;
- Set a clear priority for open data release to underpin economic growth, and for streamlined internal governance that gives a stronger voice to data businesses large and small;
- Continue to assess options to increase the efficiency and economic value of the PDG Trading Funds and remove unnecessary licensing restrictions;
- Continue to protect the confidentiality of citizens' personal information; and
- Undertake a review of Governance arrangements to open up PSI. To begin with, and in recognition of Stephan's analysis that this agenda needs a high-level focus, our first step is to create a board from the Data Strategy Board and Public Sector Transparency Board to lead delivery on opening up PSI.

Alongside this today we have:
- Welcomed the imminent publication of G8 open data proposals that set out principles, actions, and deadlines to widen the international market available to British data businesses. The UK G8 Presidency has transparency at the heart of global attempts to tackle corruption and improve accountability in the developed and developing world[4];
- Published the cross-Government Information Economy Strategy[5], developed in partnership with industry and academia, to help the UK's thriving information economy sector accelerate in the global race, focusing on our strengths;
- The Charity Commission has announced plans to make data from the public register of charities freely available to download and use by the end of March 2014;

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[4] UK Prime Minister announcement at 2013 G8 Summit
[5] BIS (14 June 2013) Information Economy Strategy

- Announced a call to arms for open data in Local Government, with a local section of Data.gov.uk, case studies of best practice, with a revised Transparency Code for Local Authorities expected shortly;
- Committed that HMRC will consult over the summer on options for making some of the data that it holds more widely available to support the Government's transparency and growth objectives, such as improving access to credit for business. The consultation will include options for the wider sharing of aggregated or anonymised data and the release of some VAT registration information (not including financial data) as open data;
- Published the Government Response to the Administrative Data Taskforce report[6], in which the Government agrees that it will work with the research community to develop the capacity and infrastructure to complement the Open Data Agenda by facilitating secure access for research and statistical purposes to de-identified administrative data that can't be made open; and
- Recognising the continued importance of the Postcode Address File (PAF) to private sector growth and the efficient running the public sector, we have agreed with Royal Mail that they will provide the PAF for free to independent[7] micro-businesses for one year and to and independent small charitable organisations. Royal Mail will consult in July on a radical simplification of the licensing regime for all users.

We are determined the UK continues to be the world leader in opening up government data and our response sets out our ambitious plans to achieve this aim. This document sets out the Government's response, and we are delighted to accept in full or part all of Stephan's detailed recommendations.

Francis Maude
Minister for the Cabinet Office

Matthew Hancock
Minister for Skills

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[6] BIS (14 June 2013) Government Response to the Administrative Data Taskforce Report
[7] Not associated or affiliated with any existing Solutions Provider

Introduction

1. The UK is currently considered to have the most coherent and far reaching open data and transparency strategy of any country. We are well placed for a number of reasons, for instance we have a history of digital innovation and we have some of the world's most comprehensive datasets in areas such as health. Stephan Shakespeare highlighted in his review[8] that we are at what he calls "*Phase 2 of the digital revolution*" where the winners will be determined by their capacity to process and learn from data. If we are to succeed and make the most of this opportunity we will constantly have to re-evaluate our strategy. Stephan's review is an opportunity to do just that – to consider whether we are being ambitious and challenging enough and how this agenda fits within broader opportunity about the use of data to support economic growth and develop better Government policy.

2. The prize is a substantial one which would make British industry best placed to further exploit the opportunities for growth that greater use of PSI could release. The Deloitte analysis[9] which accompanied the Shakespeare Review suggests a figure of £1.8bn on the direct economic benefit from use of PSI and a figure of £6.8bn if broader economic and social impacts are taken into account. The next phase is to step up our efforts and provide business with the clarity and certainty of the flow of data to encourage investment in new opportunities.

3. Whilst ensuring our continuing economic growth is the primary UK government objective, there are also clear benefits to government accountability and innovation in better access to, and use of, PSI. Providing PSI helps people to hold politicians to account and make the best use of taxpayers' money – identifying waste, and gaining insights that enable citizens, businesses and the public sector to work together to identify innovative and more efficient interventions on big policy challenges such as public health or social care.

4. Stephan Shakespeare's recommendations in his review represent key challenges to the Government. We agree there should be, in Stephan's words, a "*broadening of objectives, together with a sharpening of planning and controls*" and that we need to be "*bold in making it happen*". Some of the progress is patchy and there are some departments and wider public sector bodies which have made further strides than others. This document sets out how we propose to sharpen our strategy and continue to ensure that the UK is seen as leading the world and pushing this agenda.

Structure of document

5. The following chapters will set out our response to the recommendations and what further work we are doing in the areas highlighted by Stephan:
   a. Firstly, we will set out how we will respond to the recommendation for a National Data Strategy and respond to Stephan's call to develop National Core Reference data;

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[8] BIS (15 May 2013) Shakespeare review: an independent review of Public Sector Information
[9] BIS (15 May 2013) Market assessment of Public Sector Information

b. Secondly, we will set out the arrangements inside, and out of, Government for driving this agenda as well as changes we will be making as a result of the review which will strengthen accountability and the transparency of the process of releasing data;

c. Thirdly, we will respond to Stephan's views on the interaction of the Trading Fund model with the Open Data Agenda;

d. Fourthly, we will consider Stephan's recommendations in terms of building capability;

e. Lastly, we will consider the recommendations that Stephan makes in terms of privacy.

Chapter One – Data Strategy and National Core Reference Data

6. Stephan's key recommendation to Government is that it should produce and take forward a recognisable, actionable, and auditable National Data Strategy which encompasses PSI in its entirety. A significant part of the strategy should include the actions outlined in the Open Data White Paper, but it should also bring together other policy developments. The strategy should explicitly embrace the idea that all PSI is derived from and paid for by the citizen and should therefore be considered as being owned by the citizen. He suggests that it is therefore the duty of Government to make PSI as open as possible to create the maximum value to the nation.

7. A further recommendation is that each Government department and wider public sector body should review whether the PSI that they currently hold is being used to maximum effect in developing, evaluating and adapting policy. It should explain what data it has used to support any new policy and above all what data will be collected (and published) for continuous measure of its effectiveness. He also recommended that each Government department should develop opportunities and regularly review the potential for two-way sharing between the public and commercial sector in the policy areas for which they are responsible.

Challenges and opportunities for a refreshed strategy and approach

8. We fully accept the challenge. These recommendations and Stephan's core strategic approach (see Annex B) provides a good basis for us to develop a refreshed data strategy and broadly aligns with previous policy positions we have set out.

9. The scale of this challenge is vast. Almost all public sector bodies potentially hold data which could be used by citizens and businesses in new and innovative ways. Rich and detailed datasets are held by Local Authorities and arms length bodies - some of which are very useful to businesses and individuals alike – for example, lists of locally owned public sector buildings, locations of schools, hospitals, and taxi ranks.

10. The key issue is that central Government will not have all the insight into which datasets are the most useful to businesses nor the possibilities of how this data could be used by citizens and community groups. In addition, by harnessing the skills and appetite of people throughout the public sector and in business, we are more likely to be able to release larger amounts of data. This argues for a plan which is collaborative and open with clear principles guiding it and where public sector bodies are held to account to their commitments in a transparent way.

11. Government is today publishing its Information Economy Strategy[10], developed in partnership with industry and academia, to help the UK's thriving information economy sector accelerate in the global race, focusing on our strengths. The Information Economy Strategy sets out our shared vision for a thriving UK information economy sector which enhances our national competitiveness.

A National Data Strategy

12. We are witnessing a data revolution, and one that is starting to permeate many aspects of our lives, including in the operation of government. Some areas of government have a historical focus on data, including the security services, some Trading Funds and major delivery departments, supported by an analyst network across Government. The full potential of advanced data analytics has yet to be realised across many areas of government, but there are signs of how this is starting to become manifest, e.g. HMRC and fraud. Recognising the need to present a coherent strategy on the government's policies on opening up Public Sector Information (PSI), **the National Data Strategy will be taken forward through the Information Economy Strategy[11], published today, and we will set out our implementation plans through the UK OGP National Action Plan which will be published in October.**

Key Related Agendas

- CIO guidance
- Departmental Digital Strategies
- Open Access to research publications
- Government response to the Administrative Data Taskforce report
- Government Statistics Strategy
- Information Economy Strategy
- Midata initiative
- Digital by Default and the Digital by Default Service Design Standard

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13. A further issue highlighted by the Shakespeare Review was the interplay between the Open Data Agenda and other approaches to data across Government, in particular the way in which data is shared on a specified basis with research and business establishments, and through the Midata initiative which aims to permit greater citizen access to the data held about them in private companies. These will be considerations in the development of the Information Economy Strategy.

14. One of the points made in the Shakespeare Review was that government has not set out a strategic view of where and why we share data with different people in different ways. Our default position is for data to become open where it represents value for money for taxpayers, unless there are robust legal (including FOIA), security, or financial complexities. Our relentless focus will be on maximising the amount of data released in this way. In the relatively few areas where public open data publication is not possible there can still be benefits to sharing this

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[10] BIS (14 June 2013) <u>Information Economy Strategy</u>
[11] BIS (14 June 2013) <u>Information Economy Strategy</u>

information under strict conditions, a subject on which the Administrative Data Taskforce has recently reported. We have today published our response to the ADT report[12] and agreed to work with the research community to put in place the infrastructure and capacity to ensure that government data that cannot be released is nevertheless accessible in a secure way for research and statistical purposes.

15. An example of these strict sharing conditions is how pupil level schools data is shared for academic purposes with accredited universities and other research establishments in 'sandbox' or 'datalab' environments. Occasionally data might not be shared outside government, but again with strict conditions some of it can be shared across government (including local government) and agencies. In a small number of circumstances it will not be appropriate to share data in any way and this data remains closed. This is set out in the diagram below:

Open Data	Careful sharing of data	Closed data
The vast majority of government data will be published as open data and available through Dataportals such as Data.gov.uk	Where it is not possible to publish data as open data, Government will explore opportunities to share this safely across Government departments and where appropriate with relevant outside organisations in "sandbox" / "datalab" environments.	Data remains secure and is not shared outside a particular government department or agency Reasons could include: ● Privacy ● National security ● Some commercial information

A twin-track approach

16. Stephan also called for the publishing of PSI to include a twin-track policy for data-release, which recognises that the perfect should not be the enemy of the good: a simultaneous 'publish early even if imperfect' imperative and a commitment to a 'high quality core'. This twin-track policy will maximise the benefit within practical constraints. It will reduce the excuses for poor or slow delivery; it says 'get it all out and then improve'. Stephan suggests that the high quality core should be defined as 'National Core Reference Data'.

17. Our current strategic approach has combined both a strong top-down push directing departments to release the most valuable datasets and more recently a bottom-up process where datasets are prioritised for release on the basis of user requests and discussions at departmental level (a timeline of activity so far can be found in Annex C). Through the top-down process we had early success in pushing out high value datasets such as data from the Trading Funds which is vital for data businesses, such as from Ordnance Survey. In addition, we have also made progress on information that permits greater citizen scrutiny of the spending of public money, such as the COINS database of spending by Central Government departments and Local Authorities.

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[12] BIS (14 June 2013) Government Response to the Administrative Data Taskforce Report

18. The Government is hugely supportive of the call to set out a clear, predictable top-down process for the release of the remaining major data sets across Government departments, prioritised to drive economic growth. However, it is our view that this should complement rather than replace the existing, and much valued, bottom-up process that allows data businesses to highlight individual data sets that are valuable for their enterprise, but which might struggle to be defined as 'core'. This process hosted on Data.gov.uk, and supported through the Open Data User Group - representing data businesses large and small - is a world-leading innovation and marks the UK out from others who have tended towards the publication of data without reference to their potential users. In addition, we intend a continued role for the centre to highlight potential ad-hoc data releases which could have a transformational impact if they were more easily accessible.

19. In response to Stephan's recommendation about a 'twin track' approach, we will:
    a. make explicit the main departmental data that the Shakespeare Review calls 'National Core Reference Data' (see next section);
    b. maintain and strengthen the bottom-up approach we already have in place via ODUG and Data.gov.uk which allows data businesses and others to request particular datasets which are crucial to their business; and
    c. continue to press centrally for the release of particular ad-hoc datasets that provide the opportunity for transformational benefits for UK citizens, even if these would struggle to be defined as the main datasets from within each Government department.

Defining a National Information Infrastructure

20. What citizens and businesses want is a much clearer understanding of the principles of how government determines what data will be released, when and under what terms. So far there has been little forewarning for businesses and individuals about the release of core reference datasets. We have started to be more systematic about this, for instance Land Registry recently published a timetable[13] by which it will release its Historical Price Paid Information. But this process could be much improved, especially if we are to maximise the economic and business benefits highlighted in the Shakespeare Review.

21. Stephan makes the recommendation that Government should identify National Core Reference Data. However, the term "core reference data" means different things to different people. Clearly the definition depends on which perspective you come from and for what purposes you will be using the data. Government departments will likely see data which is 'core' as being that which is central to the delivery of their functions, entrepreneurs may consider that which would support the growth of their business, and for citizens it will be data which helps them in their day to day engagement with public services or helps them hold their public services to account. Therefore using the 'core' terminology adds confusion and so another name is necessary. But the perspective presented by Stephan does raise the potential to challenge public bodies' current practice of judging the data which they make open. And so we propose to use the term

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[13] Land Registry Historical Price Paid Data

"National Information Infrastructure" to refer to the most important datasets held by Government.

22. The Open Data White Paper[14] committed government (public bodies) to identifying and publishing priority datasets and over time removing barriers to the publication of more datasets. These were more directly identified within the Departmental Open Data Strategies with a clear timeline for publication and a route for users to request further data to be made open[15]. Given the task of identifying these data and the breadth of stakeholders involved **the Cabinet Office Transparency Team will set out a collaborative process for identifying those datasets which should be part of the 'National Information Infrastructure'**

23. This process will be driven by assessing data held by departments against the following criteria:

Economic Growth	• If open, could it stimulate growth in the UK economy? • Is it being requested by business? • Would it enable more efficient functioning of markets and reduce the cost of living for citizens?
Social growth	• Is it requested by campaigning groups? • If open, would it help stimulate volunteering and self-help? • Could it aid in promoting social development and change?
Effective public services	• Which data are fundamental to the operation of each department? • Could it be used to hold government to account? • If open, could it aid the efficiency of public services and the running of government? • Could it aid the public in making choices about which public services to use? • Is the government the sole owner of this information, or is uniquely well placed to provide the data?
Connective reference data	• If open would it aid in connecting and unlocking the potential of other data sets?
Other key data	• Is it considered to have broad importance outside the above criteria?

24. **As of today we will be publishing these criteria for comment on Data.gov.uk and inviting comment on them. We will set out the data we already have by department and invite comment from business users about what data they would like released. We will also be working with departments to complete this process so that we have a full set outlined for UK OGP National Action Plan in October. At this point we will highlight those which are of the highest priority**, and establishing when and how they will be released, including reference to our default position as in paragraph 14. **The Cabinet Office will work with those departments who have already undertaken a dataset inventory to develop guidance for other departments on how to develop their inventory.**

25. In some instances the same data sets will be important for a number of audiences and uses and so departments will need to work closely with a range of stakeholders to score their data inventories. Interested parties will include:

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[14] Cabinet Office (28 June 2012) Open Data White Paper: Unleashing the Potential A document that seeks to lay out what citizens, businesses and the public sector can expect from government to help unlock the benefits of Open Data.
[15] Departmental Open Data Strategies

a. the Public Sector Transparency Board and broader Sector Transparency Boards;

b. the National Archives (TNA) who has developed and maintains criteria and guidance to assist public sector bodies in defining their respective public tasks[16];

c. **the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and the National Statistician, who are interested in identifying those datasets of critical importance, whether for national security, responding to emergencies or more widely informing public debate, and who will conduct a review to set out this sub-set of data**;

d. the UK Government Linked Data Working Group which will be able to advise departments on those datasets which would aid in connecting and unlocking the potential of other data sets if made more openly available;

e. the Open Data User Group who will be able to channel requests from business and the public; and

f. Defra given their implementation lead on INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community) directive. INSPIRE provides a legal obligation on public sector bodies to publish a wide range of geospatial datasets in reusable formats, and it is expected to lead to over 400 newly published datasets over the next 12 months. Defra is working with Public bodies to identify additional datasets that can be published under the Open Government Licence, which is the default guidance in implementing INSPIRE.

Tracking the release of data

26. While a lot of this key data is already available via Data.gov.uk, we have no straightforward log of what these main data sets are, which have already been released, and what the timetable for release will be of the remainder. We will rectify this and provide the type of straightforward, auditable, reliable schedule the Review calls for. In response to Stephan's recommendations the Government is committing to improve the department profiles on Data.gov.uk to provide a high level description of the delivery of National Information Infrastructure.

27. **As part of a refreshed Departmental Open Data Strategy approach and development of dataset inventories the Cabinet Office Transparency Team will support departments in using the criteria above to assess their data inventories to identify their most important datasets. The Cabinet Office Transparency Team will also develop functionality so that citizens, businesses and other users can contribute to the identification of the National Information Infrastructure. These full inventories will be published by departments as part of their Open Data Strategies in October, alongside the refreshed OGP National Action Plan.**

28. In addition, **the refreshed departmental profiles on Data.gov.uk will set out current commitments to release data which departments have made in line with the two letters from the Prime Minister, the 2011 Growth Review, the Open Data White Paper and existing Open Data Strategies as well as the Transparency sections of Departmental Business plans in a more user friendly way. These improved profiles will set out the deadlines for these**

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[16] Public Tasks

commitments and act as a real-time assessment of the delivery of each department and, once launched, will replace the existing Quarterly Written Ministerial Statement on open data made by the Minister for Cabinet Office. Highlights will be incorporated into the UK's refreshed OGP National Action Plan in October. All of these assessments will also be made available as open data so they can be more easily re-used by others[17].

Embedding the release of data

29. Moreover, we need a process that gives strong underpinning to the release of this information. The Government has already made commitments in the Open Data White Paper[18] setting out a "presumption to publish". **Before Parliament's Summer Recess, which starts on 18 July, we will commence amendments to the Freedom of Information Act which will give a 'right to data' wherever release of a data set is required by that Act. Where reasonably practicable, any public authority will be required to release such a data set in a machine readable format.** Commencement will be accompanied by a data sets code of practice issued under the FOI Act that will set out best practice for public authorities when complying with the new duty of FOI. We are also expecting a significant announcement in the G8 to confirm an 'open by default' approach across the major industrialised countries.

30. However, there is always an opportunity to go further. The Government notes the recent publication in the USA of a Presidential Executive Order mandating the release of open data from Federal Government. In the UK, the Government is determined to maintain our pace in release of open data and we are committed to secondary legislation to create a legal requirement to release main departmental data. **The EU Directive on the re-use of PSI will be adopted in Summer 2013. The Government aims to transpose the terms of the revised Directive into UK legislation during 2014-15.**[19] The Directive and corresponding UK legislation will give an absolute right to most public sector data being made available for re-use, except in limited circumstances where privacy, legal or charging exceptions apply. It will establish marginal cost pricing as the default position, which is in relation to the provision of data in a machine readable format at mostly zero cost. It reinforces oversight and a mandatory framework for PSI re-use. Combined with the main data sets provision set out above, this will give a strong legal underpinning to the availability of this data for re-use. We aim for all the main data to be freed no later than 2015.

Call to arms to Local Authorities

31. Given the breadth of the agenda and the number of different actors involved, the role for central Government here is to set the ambition, bring cohesion and direction to the effort, push out as much of the data that it owns and to provide facilities and support for others to use the data. Recognising the wealth of information that exists at a local level and its potential to

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[17] The Transparency Team will be in touch with Departments in the next few weeks to set out a timetable for this work.

[18] Cabinet Office (28 June 2012) Open Data White Paper: Unleashing the Potential

[19] The UK implemented a European Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information in 2005. Since then the UK has made considerable progress in promoting and encouraging re-use. Indeed, in recent European Commission funded reviews the UK is shown as being the leading member state on re-use.

strengthen democratic accountability, facilitate deeper engagement with communities on service delivery, and spur growth we are launching a call to arms for Local Authorities to support the Government Response to the consultation on the Code of Recommended Practice.

32. The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a 'Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency'[20] which enshrines three principles of transparency: demand-led, open and timely, while clearly setting out the information and data authorities should publish as a minimum, including expenditure of £500 and over, senior salaries, organisation chart, contracts, spend on the Voluntary and Community Sector, policies and performance information, data on democratic running of the authority, and councillor expenses. The Government consulted in late 2012 on updating the Code and making it mandatory through regulation, and will issue a Government Response in due course. The Department and Local Government Sector bodies are working to promote innovation and best practice on transparency and open data amongst local authorities.

33. Local authorities have already made significant progress - for example, all publishing their spending transactions over £500, and there are several examples of innovative best practice, including Redbridge's DataShare website, the Surrey-i data portal, and tools such as the Ratemyplace website on food safety covering councils in Staffordshire. **This summer, the Local Government Association will launch its LG Inform tool - allowing authorities to compare their performance on key areas. LG Inform will go-live for Local Authorities during September with public access by late Autumn**. **To integrate Local Authorities more fully into the UK's open data structures and provide one accessible website location, we will develop a local section of Data.gov.uk providing a forum to help local authorities share data more widely and work with developers and citizens to build best practice**.

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[20] DCLG (29 September 2011) Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency

Chapter Two - Driving the next phase of delivery

34. The Government's Open Data Agenda has matured and developed considerably since being launched as part of the Coalition agreement in May 2010[21]. The transparency commitments started with high profile releases of Government spending data and data on the structure of the civil service, and in time have become focussed on the growth potential of British data businesses. These commitments were incorporated in letters from the Prime Minister to his Ministers setting out the expectations of data publication[22]. Overseeing this drive were the members of the Public Sector Transparency Board[23] who advise the Minister for the Cabinet Office. Further commitments to the release of open data were made in a second letter from the Prime Minister in July 2011 as well as in the Growth Review as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement[24].

35. In the Coalition Agreement[25], the Government set out clearly our commitment to opening the doors to release open and reusable data that will drive greater economic growth and accountability. Transparency was to become an ethos of how this Government operates, rather than another set of bureaucratic processes. This has been reflected in Departmental Business Plans, where transparency and open data commitments are built into measurable actions that run through all departmental core priorities. Additionally Departmental Open Data Strategies, as part of the business plans, are summarised so that departmental progress can be measured and weighed and be challenged if found lacking.

36. Underlying each Department's Business Plan is each Department's Open Data Strategy, which will be subject to review this year. The Strategies set out each department's commitments to the Transparency and Open Data Agenda. These cover not just the release of new datasets, but also the supporting changes to publish the data, be it cultural, legal or technical, and each department's plans to engage with open data business and other stakeholders.

37. As part of the Structural Reform Plan in 2010, departments were tasked with producing comparable costs on everyday resources used by departments, this included buildings, IT, staff and raw materials costs. This commitment became the Quarterly Data Summary that has become a measurable record of progress by departments showing not only their progress against priorities but also the common resource usage. It breaks down costs to individual level, such as how much it costs to supply one PC and associated products. In June 2013, a new tool is

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[21] A timeline of the high level activity is in Annex B
[22] 31 May 2010 letter to Secretaries of State and 7 July 2011 letter to Secretaries of State
[23] Public Sector Transparency Board
[24] 2011 Autumn Statement
[25] 2010 Coalition Agreement

being launched for departments to upload their data and where citizens will be able to go in and interrogate the data.

38. A number of supporting Sector Transparency Boards were set up so that there could be more detailed discussions between departments and stakeholders. In addition, governance arrangements, in the form of the Data Strategy Board, were set up to focus specifically on the economically critical release of open data from the Public Data Group of Trading Funds - Ordnance Survey, Met Office, Land Registry and Companies House - and other data that has previously been released under a charging regime.

39. This move from a top down to more federated model of delivery was in recognition of the fact

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Current List of Boards and their Chairs

1. Public Sector Transparency Board – Chaired by Francis Maude
2. Crime and Justice Transparency Sector Board (Chair: Prof. Kieran O'Hara)
3. Health Transparency Board (Chair: Dr. Dan Poulter, DH)
4. International Development Sector Transparency Board (Chair: Liz Ditchburn, DfID)
5. Local Public Data Panel (DCLG) (Chair: Prof Nigel Shadbolt)
6. Research Sector Transparency Board (Chair: David Willetts, BIS)
7. Social Mobility Transparency Board (Chair: David Willetts, BIS)
8. Tax Transparency Sector Board (Chair: Edward Troup, HMRC)
9. Transport Sector Transparency Board (Chair: Steve Gooding, DfT)
10. Welfare Sector Transparency Board (Chair: Gill Aitken, DWP)
11. Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Transparency Panel (Chair: Ian Trenholm, DEFRA)

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that in many cases negotiating to get data released openly was a relatively time consuming process and the best results are achieved by engaging both those who are familiar with the data and those who use the data. Transparency Sector Boards are typically comprised of senior officials as well as key outside stakeholders and open data experts. This broader approach has enabled activity to be undertaken independently from the centre of Government and reduced the likelihood of a central team becoming a bottleneck for the release of data.

40. To strengthen the voice of data users in this process, and to support the work of the Data Strategy Board in the first instance, we created the Open Data User Group, an independently chaired group of open data users. Heather Savory was appointed the Chair in May 2012 and the Group has met 14 times since July 2012. They have looked at data sets which might benefit users and the broader economy through a process developed in collaboration with the Data.gov.uk team.

> **The Open Data User Group**
>
> Our development of the Open Data User Group was motivated by a desire to both more fully understand in government and give users more of a say about which datasets Government should release. The Open Data User Group, through functionality hosted on Data.gov.uk, asks broader users to nominate datasets to be considered for release as open data and to set out the possible uses that others could put the data too. In addition, users are also requested to give a sense of the benefits to themselves and broader society of the release of this data.
>
> This is also a broader experiment in openness allowing discussion about prioritisation to happen in the open which would have previously been kept between civil servants and Ministers. This process has resulted in some early wins in terms of commitments by the Land Registry and Met Office to release their historic datasets - two of the initial cases championed by the Open Data User Group.

41. Subsequently the further strategy and rationale for the Government's Open Data Agenda was set out in the 'Open Data White Paper – Unleashing the Potential'[26] published in June 2012. At the same time, we launched a refreshed Data.gov.uk website which provided an improved interface and further tools for users and publishers of open data.

42. We accept Stephan's critique that the Governance of the agenda is confusing to those outside government. We agree that there is room for simplification and so we will be streamlining the governance arrangements. This will allow departments and users to be clearer about which body has responsibility for exploring the feasibility of which datasets should be made available as open data. A refocused Cabinet Office Transparency Team will also work closely with departments and Transparency Sector Boards in this endeavour. **We agree with the Shakespeare Review that the governance surrounding the PSI has become overly complex, and we will initiate a review that aims to radically simplify the landscape. To begin with, and in recognition of Stephan's analysis that this agenda needs a high-level focus, our first step is to create a board from the Data Strategy Board and Public Sector Transparency Board to lead delivery on opening up PSI.**

43. In recognition that part of Stephan's criticism of the governance of the agenda is due to the outward communication of arrangements**, the Transparency Team will start to blog on a monthly basis from June about the delivery of the domestic transparency agenda**. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight the way the agenda supports and compliments the Government's Digital Strategy.

Ongoing evidence development

44. Stephan also highlights the need to look at new ways to gather evidence of the economic and social value of opening up PSI and government data, and how it can be further developed taking into account the latest innovations in technology. His proposal is to create a "data intelligence and innovation group" that includes experts from within and outside government that as part of its wider role supports, challenges and takes forward thinking on how to improve the collection,

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[26] Cabinet Office (28 June 2012) Open Data White Paper: Unleashing the Potential

processing and use of PSI. **We will consider how best to draw upon experts from within and out with government and will feed this recommendation into our fuller governance review.**

Chapter Three – Trading Funds and support for open data

45. Since the development of the Data Strategy Board and the Public Data Group a lot of data has been made available already from the PDG Trading Funds as open data (see Annex D).

46. **The Met Office is working with the Open Data User Group, small businesses and other users to expand their already substantial portfolio of open data, by increasing access to historic weather observations.** This will take a phased approach, i) to increase awareness of what is already available, ii) to consider options for providing some additional years of historical data in the near term, using existing systems, iii) to gather additional requirements for an online portal that would create a long term solution suitable for use and re-use by the open data community. **Over summer 2013, a working group will collect and define the user requirements and parameters for the historic data, followed by user testing of access to the additional years of historic data in Autumn 2013. The aim is to complete this phase by spring 2014.**

47. However, providing open data is not the sole objective for all of the Trading Funds. There are therefore various differences in how they operate, how they collect and charge for data, and how this complements the release of open data. Issues such as the long term sustainability of the organisations, and the differences in their respective public tasks also need to be taken in to account.

48. The Government welcomes Stephan Shakespeare's acknowledgement that the Trading Funds that make up the Public Data Group – Companies House, Land Registry, the Met Office and Ordnance Survey – are high quality organisations who each have key functions to fulfil. The Trading Fund model allows for the delivery of revenue generating operations by departments in a flexible and more commercially orientated manner. This can include charging for data. The issue of charging for data provokes a variety of reactions from individuals, businesses and sectors, and has been considered at length by the Government over recent years, notably in the 2011 consultation on 'A Data Policy for a Public Data Corporation'[27].

49. For example, for Companies House and Land Registry, their data is a by-product of their core function as registrars, with the costs of data collection covered by the statutory fees they charge. During the past year, both have passed on efficiency savings to customers, Land Registry through reduced charges and Companies House through reduced charges and making company appointment information available free of charge.

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[27] Data Policy for a Public Data Corporation

50. **Land Registry and Companies House have reviewed or are currently reviewing their business strategies. The Shareholder Executive will report on progress in the Autumn. Furthermore, the Government continues to keep all of the PDG Trading Funds under review and ensure that the organisational structures continue to deliver open data whilst ensuring the best value for money for the tax-payer.**

51. The Met Office and Ordnance Survey also take their open data obligations very seriously. They fund their operations through customer agreements with Government and data licenses to private sector customers. For both of these organisations, the Government considers that the value they deliver resides in the benefits of a unified approach to data collection, processing, maintenance and services, and market interaction directly with customers. These datasets are naturally considered as high value – a direct correlation to high costs of collection, maintenance, and ensuring that the data can be relied on as authoritative and of the highest possible quality. As acknowledged in the Deloitte market assessment of the PSI market, cost does not currently appear to be a genuine barrier to use of this data.

52. The Government is especially keen to support smaller enterprises and not-for-profit organisations to ensure that the entry levels do not preclude them from being able to use and re-use data. The Information Fair Trader Scheme – and also the PSI Regulations (and Directive) establishes the principle of non-discrimination. Therefore terms of re-use and any charges are driven by the form of re-use rather than the size and turnover of the company or whether an organisation is run on a not for profit basis. Some of the initiatives adopted by Government, such as the Open Government Licence, were designed in part to assist smaller players to readily re-use information. **The Government will review the scope for further supporting smaller enterprises and not-for-profit organisations under the existing framework in place under the Information Fair Trader Scheme run by the National Archives.**

53. **The Government agrees that there are further positive steps that can be taken in response to Stephan's recommendations, building on existing work. In particular, through increased promotion of what data and support is available to raise greater awareness. The PDG communications group will commit to taking this action forward. They will ensure wider promotion of data availability going forward via co-ordinated publicity, and will support wider government efforts to give clarity to existing and future data releases.** This includes initiatives such as Land Registry's publication of a data inventory.

54. **The Government will also work with the Public Data Group and other interested stakeholders to provide more support for third-party users including 'hack days' and data-user competitions, such as the successful GeoVation programme run by Ordnance Survey.** PDG members have already hosted a number of 'hack days', and competitions, including with the Technology Strategy Board, and there are plans to work with the Open Data Institute on further similar initiatives.

GeoVation programme

Run by Ordnance Survey, helping to stimulate innovation, development and implementation of business ventures, while promoting the use of OS OpenData.	
What it does: ~ Encourages collaboration through a series of themed challenges using geographic data. ~ By submitting new ventures, products and applications, participants can win a share of a six-figure prize fund to make their prototype a reality.	**The numbers:** So far there has been: ~ 5 challenges ~ 1,500 participants have registered over 500 ideas ~ 60 teams have participated in GeoVation camps ~ 20 winners have been awarded approaching £450,000 in funding (from a range of funders including Ordnance Survey)
one winner was able to use the award to leverage further investment, generating 8 new jobs and preserving another 3 in a high unemployment region of the UK.	
What's happening now: ~ GeoVation's current challenge is encouraging British businesses to improve environmental performance with support from the Open Data Institute and the Environment Agency. ~ Forty seven ideas were submitted and 10 teams will be participating at GeoVation Camp on 21-23 June for a slice of £100,000 in seed funding and in-kind support to help them launch their ventures.	

55. The use of 'sandbox' environments to allow developers to access datasets to explore opportunities is also supported by the Public Data Group members. For example, developers can already access Ordnance Survey data under a 'try-before-you-buy' arrangement, and Land Registry provides sample data via their website. The commitment to this will continue, and will also form part of the increased communication about what is available.

56. The Government also considers that these initiatives should not be limited to the Public Data Group. Hack-days, sandboxes, and other initiatives can and should be developed by more organisations across the public sector.

Chapter Four – Building data analysis capacity in the UK

57. Stephan recommends that there should be a focused programme of investment to build skill-sets in basic data science through our academic institutions, covering both genuinely unfettered 'basic research' and research of 'practical immediate value' to the national data strategy. The Government supports this recommendation and it closely aligns with work already underway to address capability gaps, as set out in the Government's Information Economy Strategy.

Capability within government

58. We fully agree that government analysts should be appropriately equipped to analyse and interpret PSI effectively. Analysts across government are already using PSI to deliver valuable insights, by matching data sources, creating longitudinal data series and analysing administrative data, and training in the use of specific PSI data sets is already delivered across Government.

59. The analytical professions within Government are committed to ensuring that their members develop and maintain the skills needed to carry out high quality analysis. As the amount of data held by government continues to grow, it will be increasingly important for Government to keep up with developments in data analytics, which is why analysts can access a wide range of internal and external training allowing them to benefit from the latest techniques.

60. The Cabinet Office's recent 'Meeting the challenge of change: A capabilities plan for the Civil Service'[28], sets out the key actions Government will take to strengthen professional capability throughout, including introducing a new Civil Service Professions Council. The council will support the Heads of Profession – including the Heads of the analytical Professions – in their role of building organisational and individual specialist capabilities. The council will be a co-ordinating body, bringing the professions together to work as a coherent force and maximise their overall contribution to capability building.

61. In addition, we are working to improve the basic understanding of open data more broadly across government. We will continue to promote existing courses such as the current e-learning module on open data, available to all civil servants.

Capability outside government

62. The Government is also committed to encouraging capability in research institutions. Work is underway in BIS which includes: open access to publicly funded research publications in

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[28] Cabinet Office (April 2013) Meeting the challenge of change: A capabilities plan for the Civil Service

response to the recommendations from the Finch Report[29]; the linking of government-held administrative data in response to the Administrative Data Taskforce report[30]; and finally, exploring the complex issues around greater sharing of scientific data through the Research Sector Transparency Board; all crucial aspects of opening access to government funded data and information for research and statistical purposes.

63. We also recognise that further work is needed to be able to maximise the opportunity of PSI. The Information Economy Strategy includes a key work stream on skills and capability, which will be an important way in which Government will address capability shortages. It focuses on the need for a strong flow of future talent for the information economy, a skilled workforce and a digitally literate population. The Strategy recommends that business, academia and skills organisations work in partnership to develop a digital skills strategy, including on specialist areas such as data science. The Strategy will also take forward the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology in their letter on algorithms and data science[31], published on 7 June 2013.

64. Additionally, the Research Councils have implemented a new pioneering Open Access policy[32] which took effect from 1 April 2013 in response to the Finch Review. Colleagues at Department for International Development are already enthusiastically following Business Innovation and Skills' policy lead and other departments are in the process of doing so. We are now also engaged in promoting the UK's policy on Open Access for published publicly funded research within the EU and was a key discussion topic at the G8 Science meeting on 12 June. Implementation of the Langlands Report[33] is also about to get underway through a 'Big Data' Research Councils project which includes £34 million for the development of an Administrative Data Research Network[34].

65. **In summary, in response to the Recommendations:**
    a. **The Government will continue to emphasise the importance of data analytics skills across all disciplines of the civil service and through the new Civil Service Professions Council, which will be the co-ordinating body, bringing the professions together to work as a coherent force and maximise their overall contribution to capability building.**
    b. **Through the Information Economy Strategy, the Government will support an industry-led exercise to develop a digital skills strategy.**

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[29] Finch Report
[30] Improving Access for Research and Policy
[31] CST letter to the Prime Minister on 7 June
[32] RCUK Policy on Open Access
[33] Improving Access for Research and Policy
[34] Pre-announcement of two pending calls for an Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN)

Chapter Five - Maximising the benefit from personal data

66. Stephan recommends a clear pragmatic policy on privacy and confidentiality that increases protections for citizens while increasing the availability of data to external users. This is exactly what the Government is arguing for in ongoing negotiations in the EU on a new data protection framework. We have always been clear that we want a data protection framework – within which data sharing operates – that protects the civil liberties of individuals while allowing for economic growth and innovation. These things can and should be achieved together, not at the expense of one or the other.

67. It is important to maintain the privacy of personal data and the use of 'safe havens' technologies would provide an opportunity to work on personal data in a safe environment. This is particularly the case in relation to sensitive personal data if, for example, the data is properly anonymised prior to access and with an appropriate and proportionate accreditation process for those who access it.

68. The Review points to that "*we currently have an unrealistic degree of expectation of any data controller to perfectly protect all of our data – an attitude that inhibits innovation*". We agree that many of the issues around privacy and data sharing are cultural and there is a responsibility on all of us – both Government and data controllers across the private and public sectors, to better inform people about the benefits and safeguards of data protection legislation. It is not simply the responsibility of a data controller who releases data to ensure that the data is handled in a proper way and to be held accountable for use of the data, all those who have access to personal data have a responsibility to handle it in a secure way. The Data Protection Act (DPA)[35] sets out that all those who process personal data should do so fairly and lawfully and that it should only be obtained, and subsequently processed, for one or more specified lawful purposes.

69. There are many misconceptions about the impact of the DPA on data-sharing which will need to be addressed if we are going to unlock the potential behind the widening of access to PSI. **The Law Commission is conducting a scoping project on data sharing between public bodies looking specifically at the barriers public bodies might be encountering to data sharing that is preventing them fulfilling their duties to citizens. The report will consider whether any such barriers are legal, rather than cultural or based on a misunderstanding of the law. The review is due to report in the Spring of 2014.**

70. Stephan recommends that the Government should provide clear guidelines to all involved in data sharing but that we should firstly conduct an assessment of the existing guidance tools.

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[35] [Data Protection Act](#)

The Government believes that good practice guidance is essential in enabling data sharing and encouraging open data. As Stephan rightly points out the ICO has produced a range of guidance that is relevant in this field. This includes the ICO's Code of Practice on Data Sharing[36] in 2011; the Anonymisation Code of Practice[37] in 2012 and guidance on how to prepare Privacy Impact Assessments[38]. All of these documents are easily accessible and available on the ICO's website. The Ministry of Justice's protocol on Data Sharing, published in 2009, also remains current. More broadly, organisations should be encouraged to encompass data protection guidance into their internal guidelines specifying what can and can't be disclosed and encouraged to strengthen their own competence utilising the expertise of the ICO in more complex situations. The ICO sponsored UK Anonymisation Network[39] is also a ready source of assistance on effective anonymisation when releasing data. The Government works closely with the ICO to ensure guidance is kept constantly under review and we will continue to do this. **BIS will work with MoJ and ICO through the ongoing activity following the Information Economy Strategy to make re-users of data more fully aware of their obligations.**

71. The Government agrees with Stephan's view that anyone who believes that their data has been mishandled should be able to easily access information on the process by which they can complain and seek redress. The ICO's complaints section on their website sets out clearly the types of complaints they deal with, and provides guidance to individuals on the process for making a complaint. This includes an improved helpline that organisations can call to obtain advice and information over the telephone[40].

72. Stephan recommends that the Government should institute increased penalties for the misuse of personal data, including custodial penalties in cases of deliberate and harmful use of data. The Government believes that misuse of personal data should be taken very seriously, however, it is important to note that there are already a range of existing offences that cover the misuse of personal data. These include fraud by false representation in breach of the Fraud Act 2006 and bribing another or being bribed contrary to the Bribery Act 2010. The offence of unlawful interception of communications under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and unauthorised access to computer material under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, both carry a maximum two year prison sentence. Under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose personal data or the information contained in personal data, or to procure the disclosure to another person of the information contained in such data without the data controller's consent. The offence is currently punishable by a fine of up to £5000 in the Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine in the Crown Court.

73. The Leveson Inquiry on the Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press included in its terms of reference[41] consideration of data protection issues, including the penalties relating to the misuse of personal data. The report made a number of recommendations in relation to data protection, including introducing custodial sentences under section 77 of the Criminal Justice

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[36] ICO (2011) Data sharing code of practice
[37] ICO (2012) Anonymisation Guide of Practice
[38] Privacy Impact Assessment Handbook
[39] UK Anonymisation Network
[40] ICO helpline
[41] The Leveson Inquiry on the Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press terms of reference

and Immigration Act 2008[42] (CJIA). It is the Government's intention to conduct a public consultation on the full range of Lord Justice Leveson's data protection proposals, including on section 77 of the CJIA, which will seek views on their impact and how they might be approached.

74. In relation to the proposed new EU framework on data protection mentioned above, the European Commission published two legislative proposals in the field of data protection in January 2012. The proposals are composed of a general data protection Regulation (applying to the private and public sectors) and a Directive for processing in the field of police and judicial cooperation. If adopted, the proposed Regulation would be directly applicable in the UK and would require the Government to repeal and likely replace the Data Protection Act 1998. The proposed Regulation is highly relevant to data sharing because it proposes a revised definition of personal data, the introduction of explicit consent, a right to have your personal data deleted and an extensive sanctions regime. There will also be a range of other issues that will arise during the course of the negotiations that will be relevant to the issue of data sharing. Negotiations on this dossier are ongoing between the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. The European Commission is aiming for the conclusion of negotiations by May 2014.

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[42] Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

Annex A - Table of commitments in response to Shakespeare Review recommendations

No.	Commitment	Departmental Lead	Deadline	Paragraph no.
	Chapter One – Data strategy and National Core Reference Data			
1	The National Data Strategy will be taken forward through the Information Economy Strategy, published today, and we will set out our implementation plans through the UK OGP National Action Plan, which will be published in October	CO / BIS	October 2013	12
2	The Cabinet Office Transparency Team will set out a collaborative process for identifying those datasets which should be part of the 'National Information Infrastructure'.	CO	August 2013	22
3	As of today we will be publishing the criteria which determine the National Information Infrastructure for comment on Data.gov.uk and inviting comment on them.	CO	June 2013	24
4	We will set out the data we already have by department and invite comment from business users about what data they would like released. We will also be working with departments to complete this process so that we have a full set outlined for UK OGP National Action Plan in October. At this point we will highlight those which are of the highest priority.	CO	October 2013	24
5	The Cabinet Office will work with those departments who have already undertaken a dataset inventory to develop guidance for other departments on how to develop their inventory.	CO	September 2013	24
6	The Government Chief Scientific Adviser and the National Statistician, who are interested in identifying those datasets of critical importance, whether for national security, responding to emergencies or more widely informing public debate, will conduct a review to set out this sub-set of data.	GO Science / ONS	October 2013	25.c
7	As part of a refreshed Departmental Open Data Strategy approach the Cabinet Office Transparency Team will work with departments to define an inventory of all data that they hold, including that already released on Data.gov.uk. Using the criteria above departments will be asked to score their data inventories to identify their most important datasets. We will also develop functionality so that these inventories can be published so that citizens, businesses and other users can also contribute to the identification of National Information Infrastructure. These full inventories will be published by departments as part of their Open Data Strategies in October, alongside the refreshed OGP National Action Plan.	CO	October 2013	27

8	The refreshed departmental profiles on Data.gov.uk will set out current commitments to release data which departments have made in line with the two letters from the Prime Minister, the 2011 Growth Review, the Open Data White Paper and existing Open Data Strategies as well as the Transparency sections of Departmental Business plans in a more user friendly way. These improved profiles will set out the deadlines for these commitments and act as a real-time assessment of the delivery of each department and, once launched, will replace the existing Quarterly Written Ministerial Statement on open data made by the Minister for Cabinet Office. Highlights will be incorporated into the UK's refreshed OGP National Action Plan in October. All of these assessments will also be made available as open data so they can be more easily re-used by others.	CO	October 2013	28
9	Before Summer Recess we will commence amendments to the FOI Act which will give a 'right to data' wherever release of a data set is required by that Act. Where reasonably practicable, any public authority will be required to release such a data set in a machine readable format.	MoJ	July 2013	29
10	The EU Directive on the re-use of PSI will be adopted in Summer 2013. The Government aims to transpose the terms of the revised Directive into UK legislation during 2014-15.	MoJ	April 2015	30
11	This summer, the Local Government Association will launch its LG Inform tool - allowing authorities to compare their performance on key areas. LG Inform will go-live for Local Authorities during September with public access by late Autumn. To integrate Local Authorities more fully into the UK's open data structures and provide one accessible website location, we will develop a local section of Data.gov.uk providing a forum to help local authorities share data more widely and work with developers and citizens to build best practice.	DCLG / CO / LGA	September 2013	33
	Chapter Two - Driving the next phase of delivery			
12	We agree with the Shakespeare Review that the governance surrounding PSI has become overly complex, and we will initiate a review that aims to radically simplify the landscape. To begin with, and in recognition of Stephan's analysis that this agenda needs a high-level focus, our first step is to create a board from the Data Strategy Board and Public Sector Transparency Board to lead delivery on opening up PSI.	CO	July 2013	42
13	The Transparency Team will start to blog on a monthly basis from June about the delivery of the domestic transparency agenda	CO	June 2013	43
14	We will consider how best to draw upon experts from within and out with government and will feed this recommendation into our fuller governance review.	CO	July 2013	44
	Chapter Three – Trading Funds and support for open data			
15	The Met Office is working with the Open Data User Group, small businesses and other users to expand their already substantial portfolio of open data, by increasing access to historic weather observations....Over the summer 2013, a working group will collect and define the user requirements and parameters for the historic data, followed by user testing of access to the additional years of historic data in Autumn 2013. The aim is to complete this phase by spring 2014	BIS	April 2014	46
16	Land Registry and Companies House have reviewed or are currently reviewing their business strategies. The Shareholder Executive will report on progress in the Autumn. Furthermore, the Government continues to keep all of the PDG Trading Funds under review and ensure that the organisational structures continue to deliver open data whilst ensuring best value for money for the tax-payer.	BIS	October 2013	50

17	The Government will review the scope for further supporting smaller enterprises and not-for-profit organisations under the existing framework in place under the Information Fair Trader Scheme run by the National Archives	BIS / TNA	April 2014	52
18	The Government agrees that there are further positive steps that can be taken in response to Stephan's recommendations, building on existing work. In particular, through increased promotion of what data and support is available to raise greater awareness. The PDG communications group will commit to taking this action forward. They will ensure wider promotion of data availability going forward via co-ordinated publicity, and will support wider government efforts to give clarity to existing and future data releases.	BIS	October 2013	53
19	The Government will also work with the Public Data Group and other interested stakeholders to provide more support for third-party users including 'hack days' and data-user competitions, such as the successful GeoVation programme run by Ordnance Survey.	BIS	October 2013	54
	Chapter four – Building data analysis capacity in the UK			
20	The Government will continue to emphasise the importance of data analytics skills across all disciplines of the civil service and through the new Civil Service Professions Council, which will be the co-ordinating body, bringing the professions together to work as a coherent force and maximise their overall contribution to capability building	BIS	TBC	65.a
21	Through the Information Economy Strategy, the Government will support an industry-led exercise to develop a digital skills strategy.	BIS	October 2013	65.b
	Chapter five - Maximising the benefit from personal data			
22	The Law Commission is conducting a scoping project on data sharing between public bodies looking specifically at the barriers public bodies might be encountering to data sharing that is preventing them fulfilling their duties to citizens. The report will consider whether any such barriers are legal, rather than cultural or based on a misunderstanding of the law. The review is due to report in the Spring of 2014.	MoJ / Law Commission	April 2014	69
23	BIS will work with MoJ and ICO through the ongoing activity following the Information Economy Strategy to make re-users of data more fully aware of their obligations.	BIS / MoJ / ICO	October 2013	70

Annex B - Stephan Shakespeare's strategic approach for Government

A. **Recognise in all we do that PSI, and the raw data that creates it, was derived from citizens, by their own authority, was paid for by them, and is therefore owned by them.** It is not owned by employees of the government. All questions of what to do with it should be dealt with by the principle of getting the greatest value back to citizens, with input not just from experts but also citizens and markets. This should be obvious, but the fact that it needs to be constantly reaffirmed is illustrated by the way that even today, access to academic research that has been paid for by the public is deliberately denied to the public, and to many researchers, by commercial publishers, aided by university lethargy, and government reluctance to apply penalties; thereby obstructing scientific progress.

B. **Have a clear, visible, auditable plan for publishing data as quickly as possible, defined both by bottom-up market demand and by top-down strategic thinking, overcoming institutional and technical obstacles with a twin-track process which combines speed to market with improvement of quality**: 1) a 'early even if imperfect' track that is very broad and very aggressively driven, and 2) a 'National Core Reference Data' high-quality track which begins immediately but narrowly; and then moving things from Track 1 to Track 2 as quickly as we can do reliably and to a high standard. 'Quickly' should be set out by government through publicly committed target dates.

C. **Drive the implementation of the plan through a single channel more clearly-defined than the current multiplicity of boards, committees and organisations that are distributed both within and beyond departments and wider public sector bodies.** It should be highly visible and accessible to influence from the data-community through open feedback mechanisms. 'Implementation' includes not only publishing but also processes to ensure that government transparently uses its own structured data to improve policy development and to measure progress.

D. **Invest in building capability for this new infrastructure. It is not enough to gather and publish data; it must be made useful.** We lack data-scientists both within and outside of government, and not enough is being done in our education system at school and undergraduate level to foster statistical competence; we will feel these gaps more and more as the potential grows. Government is already committing resources to this; we should consider increasing this further, as the economic and social benefits quickly and demonstrably outstrip costs. Our research councils should seek to play a more strategic role, targeting investment on basic data-science and on inter-disciplinary academic/business projects and partnerships.

E. **Ensure public trust in the confidentiality of individual case data without slowing the pace of maximising its economic and social value.** Privacy is of the utmost importance, and so is citizen benefit. People must be able to feel confident about two things simultaneously: that the data they have supplied or that has been collected about them is made as useful as possible to themselves and the community; and that it will not be misused to their detriment. We lay out ways in which we think we can get as close as possible to this ideal.

pp. 9-10 Shakespeare Review. An independent review of Public Sector Information. May 2013

Annex C - Timeline of high level activity since May 2010

Note: Data releases in **bold**

2010

Month	Activity
May	Coalition Agreement Chapter on Transparency 1st Prime Ministers Letter to Cabinet Colleagues (PM1)
June	1st meeting of Public Sector Transparency Board **Highest Paid Civil Servants salaries published** **Combined Online Information System for 2008-09 and 2009-10 published by HMT** **Special Advisors Information published**
July	Public encouraged to log on to data.gov.uk to vote for datasets **Central Government ICT contracts over £10,000 published** **Cabinet Office publish everyone working for a Non Departmental Public Bodies(NDPB) over £150,000**
August	**Government Departments publish Head quarter buildings real time energy use**
September	Launch Open Government Licence **SCS and NDPB officials with salaries higher than Pay Band 1 published** **Government Tender Documents published Online** **New items of Combined Online Information System for April-June 2010**
October	**Civil Service organograms published for central government along with names of Directors and salaries**
November	Update on progress of PM 1 commitments Business Plans published Data.gov.uk upgraded **New items of central Government spending over £25,000 published**
December	**Government ICT Contracts over £1 Million** **Exceptions to Government Moratoria** **New items of central Government spending over £25,000 published covering October-November 2010** **Operational Excellence Benchmarking**

2011

Month	Activity
January	Ministers announce plans for a Public Data Corporation (PDC) **New local government contracts and tenders for expenditure over £500** **New items of local government spending over £500 to be published on a council by council basis** **New items of central Government spending over £25,000 published covering December 2010**
February	Crime maps website launched by Home Office **UK Aid Spending published over £500** **Government opens up contracts to small business**
March	Budget commits to Machinery of Government changes to support a PDC **Updated Business Plans published**
April	**UK Location 1st Release**

May	
June	**Updated Civil Service Organograms published**
July	2nd Prime Minister's Letter to Cabinet Colleagues (PM2) Publication of 'Open Public Services White Paper' **Apprenticeships Data Published**
August	'Making Open Data Real' and 'Public Data Corporation' consultations
September	Publication of O'Hara privacy review Publication of 1st UK Open Government Partnership Action Plan Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency published **Government Procurement Card Spend Published over £500**
October	**Probation Service and Prisons Data Published** **Strategic Road Network roadworks Published** **Complaints Data by NHS published** **Further Transport Direct Data published including Cycle routes**
November	1st Release of Tools Autumn Statement and Growth Review commitments to further release of open data to support economic growth **Met Office releases forecasts for 5,000 sites in the UK and real-time observations at 300 sites on Data.gov.uk** **Sentencing Data Released**
December	Pilot website to Centralise standards and Transparency **Prescribing data** **Rail timetable information** **Real time Strategic Road Networks** **Outcomes of GPs** **URIs for Business** **NHS Staff Satisfaction published**
2012	
January	World Bank Speech **School Parent Friendly Portal published** **Effectiveness of Schools** **Attainment of Students eligible for pupil premium**
February	Open Government Partnership European Regional Event (OGP) Event
March	MCO speaks at Digital Birmingham Terms of Reference Published for the Data Strategy Board and Public Data Group **Land Registry publish monthly Price Paid Information showing residential property sales in England and Wales at address level** **OpenDataCommunities proof-of-concept website launched – with the demonstration Local Authority dashboard (http://opendatacommunities.org/dashboard).** **Local Authority Streetworks via the Elgin API**
April	UK becomes OGP co-chair ODI Grant funding approved Quality of post grad medical education **Clinical Audit Data**

Month		
May	ODI Implementation Plan Published Heather Savory appointed the first Chair of the Open Data User Group Royal Assent for Datasets Clause in the Protection of Freedoms Bill	**Crime follow up** **Office of Rail Regulation data** **Real Time Bus information API**
June	Open Data White Paper' published along with Departmental Open Data Strategies Launch of refreshed Data.gov.uk	**Access to National Pupil Database** **Department for Education: Pupil Attainment** **Rail real-time information**
July	First meeting of the Data Strategy Board	**Indicators of Water Courses** **Sensitive Area Maps** **OpenDataCommunities Local Authority Dashboard extended to incorporate new statistics on neighbourhood-level wellbeing, with a supporting mapping application**
August	DEFRA Open Data Strategy DEFRA Sector Board ODI announces Appointments	**DEFRA Sensitive Area Maps**
September	Public Sector Information Review Statement Research Transparency Sector Board 1st Meeting S45 Online Consultation UNGA New York	
October	Government announce Stephan Shakespeare as lead for Public Sector Information Review Data Strategy Board 2nd Meeting The 'Future is Open' Event OGP Co-Chair Strategy Publication HMRC 1st Transparency Board Meeting Consultation on updating the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency launched (closed 20th December 2012)	
November	Open Data User Group make their first recommendations to the Data Strategy Board ODI Opens for Business	
December	Launch of new open data initiatives, including DSB Breakthrough Fund, Innovation Vouchers for open data and an Immersion Programme Ministerial Launch of the Open Data Institute	
2013		
January		**Rail Fares information**
February		
March		**Fully maintained height product, OS Terrain 50, new OS VectorMap District data set, and upgrades to Strategi and Meridian 2.**
April	Open Government Partnership conference in London DCMS Open Data Strategy Publication BIS Open Data Strategy Publication	
May	Publication of the Shakespeare Review of Public Sector Information	**Release of Housing Benefit data down to census output area** **National Coach Services Database**

Annex D – Government's response to Stephan Shakespeare's recommendations

	Recommendation	Government Response	Chapter
1	The government should produce and take forward a clear, predictable, accountable 'National Data Strategy' which encompasses PSI in its entirety. A significant part of the strategy should include the actions outlined in the Open Data White Paper, but it should also bring together other policy developments including the Finch Report, the Administrative Data Taskforce, the forthcoming Information Economy Strategy, and the Midata initiative, as well as the whole spectrum of PSI. The strategy should explicitly embrace the idea that all PSI is derived from and paid for by the citizen and should therefore be considered as being owned by the citizen. It is the therefore the duty of government to make PSI as open as possible to create the maximum value to the nation. We already have strong beginnings of a PSI approach and enthusiastic committees for implementing it, but it is some way from being a true plan for building a governance and technology infrastructure sufficient to the scale of the opportunity. In our consultations, business has made clear that it is unwilling to invest in this field until there is more predictability in terms of supply of data. Therefore without greater clarity and commitment from government, we will fail to realise the growth opportunities from PSI. It is important to note for such a strategy that the biggest prize is freeing the value of health, education, economic and public administrative data. Detail: Government should work together with other parts of the public sector to produce a National Data Strategy that brings together existing policy and guidance. The national strategy should be defined top-down but build on engagement with data communities, implemented by a non-government departmental team, and audited externally.	Accept	1
2	A National Data Strategy for publishing PSI should include a twin-track policy for data-release, which recognises that the perfect should not be the enemy of the good: a simultaneous 'publish early even if imperfect' imperative AND a commitment to a 'high quality core'. This twin-track policy will maximise the benefit within practical constraints. It will reduce the excuses for poor or slow delivery; it says 'get it all out and then improve'. The intention is that as much as possible is published to a high quality standard, with departments and wider public sector bodies taking pride in moving	Accept	1

their data from track 1 to track 2.

The high-quality core should be enshrined as National Core Reference Data. It should be defined top-down, strategically, from both a transparency and economic value point of view (and not, as now, by the departments and wider public sector bodies themselves). Within such National Core Reference Data we would also expect to find the connective tissue of place and location, the administrative building blocks of registered legal entities, the details of land and property ownership.

Appropriate metadata should wherever possible be published alongside data, so users know what the quality limitations are and therefore how and for what purposes it is appropriate to use the data.

Detail:

i) We should define 'National Core Reference Data' as the most important data held by each government department and other publicly funded bodies; this should be identified by an external body; it should (a) identify and describe the key entities at the heart of a department's responsibilities and (b) form the foundation for a range of other datasets, both inside and outside government, by providing points of reference and interconnection.

ii) Every government department and other publicly funded bodies should make an immediate commitment to publish their Core Reference Data to an agreed timetable, to a high standard agreed to maximise linkability (as far as is possible within the constraints of not releasing personally identifiable data), ease of use and free access. They should also commit to maintaining that dataset and keeping it regularly updated. The scope should also be extended to include wider public sector funded bodies and agencies.

iii) Alongside this high-quality core data, departments and other public sector bodies should commit to publishing all their datasets (in anonymised form) as quickly as possible without using quality concerns as an obstacle - that is, if there is a clash between data quality and speed to publication, they should follow the 'publish early even if imperfect' principle because data scientists are well accustomed to getting value out of imperfect data. Currently many datasets are held back because it is felt they are not ready because they are not of sufficiently high quality, and that resources prevent their speedy improvement. But data users say that lower quality is not as much of a problem as is non-publishing.

iv) This will require measured and incremental improvement. Therefore, government should commit to reporting annually on the progress that has been made to meet this twin-track policy. There should be a co-ordinated programme of audit for each department and public sector funded body of their open data performance with recommendations for further release. The system of departmental information asset registers should be standardised to make searching and navigation easier and should be expanded to include routine consideration of the suitability for publication of both structured and unstructured information.

3	There should be clear leadership for driving the implementation of the National Data Strategy throughout the public sector. There are many committees, boards, overseers and champions of data; but no easily understood, easily accessed, influential mechanism for making things happen. There should be a single body with a single public interface for driving increased access to PSI.	Accept	1

Supporting the leadership should be a "data intelligence and innovation group" to provide external challenge and aid delivery. This group, which may be linked to the ODI, should perform a non-executive role.

Detail:

A review of current governance structures for PSI is needed to identify a primary channel to lead the implementation of the National Data Strategy, and the controls it can use to be most effective. This should be a simplification process, not an increase of governance complexity and it should increase the connectivity between boards/groups to limit duplication of effort and actions that are not aligned appropriately.

4	One would be hard-pressed to find any expert who, asked to create new structures for core reference data from scratch, would advocate the current Trading Fund model (for Companies House, Land Registry, the Met Office and Ordnance Survey) in today's world of open data. One would question the current quasi-commercial Trading Fund model, in favour of one which would be responsible for high quality and transparent data production (that is, collecting and publishing data that is required by parts of the public sector to execute the public task, in a way that can be seen to be reliable and authoritative), publishing this as open data and engaging in activities beyond this only where they are confident that they will not crowd out private and third sector activity and innovation.		

But we are not starting afresh, and we have, in the Trading Funds, organisations of high quality which one should hesitate to disrupt. The Met Office, for example, is a world-leading forecaster, a pioneering scientific institution that is already publishing vast amounts of data. It would be risky to stop it doing what it is good at and leaving it to others in the market to fill the gap - there would be clear risks to national resilience, including to lives and property.

That does not mean we should not press hard for significant adaptation of the model to the new potential for open data.

Each of the Trading Funds has an essential role in the collection, processing and maintenance of high quality core-reference data to enable the public sector to do its job and for maximum economic benefit. However, the current Trading Fund model is now out of step with the government's open data aspirations.

Accept in part   3

Some good progress has been made in opening up data for public sector sharing and re-use. But restrictive licensing, applied to key PSI, limits the opportunity for businesses, especially SMEs, to make effective use of PSI as an underpinning business resource.

Detail:

i) The overarching aim of the Trading Funds should be to deliver maximum economic value from public data assets they provide and support, by working to open up the markets their data serves. This means they should work towards opening up all raw data components, under the Open Government Licence (OGL) for use and re-use.

ii) They should reconsider their product and service development activities in the light of a new era where they can potentially deliver greater economic benefit through improved joint-working with third parties.

iii) They should better communicate what data is available for use/re-use and how it can be used/re-used under the simplified licensing terms; building on their existing efforts to raise greater awareness amongst the user community.

iv) They should deliver more support for third-party users including the greater use of 'hack days' and data-user competitions to demonstrate the value of particular PSI datasets.

v) They should enable greater provision of 'sandbox' or secure online environments to allow users to explore datasets without prohibitive costs of entry or participation.

To promote and support a more beneficial economic model for Trading Fund data government should review how the Trading Funds are recognised and rewarded for their activities to stimulate innovation and growth in the wider markets they serve

| 5 | We should have a clear pragmatic policy on privacy and confidentiality that increases protections for citizens while also increasing the availability of data to external users. We can do this by using the developing 'sandbox' technologies, or 'safe havens' as they are referred to by the Administrative Data Taskforce and the Data Sharing Review , that allow work on data without allowing it to be taken from a secure area. Along with appropriate anonymisation, putting in place guidelines for publication that more obviously pushes responsibility for (mis)use on the end (mis)user, and greatly strengthens application of punitive consequences, is critical. Especially sensitive datasets should be accessible only to those who can demonstrate sufficient expertise in the area and whose activity with the data is traceable. But that accreditation process should then be broad and simple, as the sandbox technology means we can trace activity and hold individuals responsible for misuse.

Data should never be (and currently is never) released with personal identifiers, and there are guidelines that should be followed to reduce the risk of deliberate attempts to identify data being successful. No method, including traditional non-digital information storage, is proof against determined wrong-doers. We do not require builders to only build houses that cannot be burgled. We do our best and impose consequences on the burglar not the builder. We currently have an unrealistic degree of expectation of any data controller to perfectly protect all our data - an attitude that inhibits innovation. Following 'best practice' guidelines should be enough, so long as we are willing to prosecute those who misuse personal data. Otherwise we will miss out on the enormous benefits of PSI. We should encourage continuing vigorous debate to achieve the right balance between the benefits and risks of open data (including whether citizens might in certain cases be enabled to opt out of open data). In considering further legislation we should institute increased penalties – not only loss of accreditation and much heavier fines, but also imprisonment in cases of deliberate and harmful misuses of data.

And we should be respectful of personal confidential data and follow the principles set out in the Information Governance review chaired by Dame Fiona Caldicott. | Accept | 5 |

Detail:

i) Government should provide clear guidelines to all involved, whether data controllers, data holders or data users, that set out the approved ways of making data open and that if these guidelines are followed, liability for mis-use falls on the mis-user; also defining what constitutes a misuse of data or breach of privacy.

ii) The current complaints procedure for instances of data misuse should be made more accessible and awareness of the procedure should be improved.

iii) There should first be an assessment of existing guidance tools. Organisations should be encouraged to make greater use of Information Commissioners Office Codes, as a framework to develop their own policies, as well as using Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) as a flexible way to assess risks. Data.gov.uk should be updated to include an online guide of procedures and processes that apply to all public sector organisations, to improve clarity and awareness of information of help available and ensure that all organisations are working to the same guidelines. The guide should complement the Government Digital Service Design Manual, which includes information on procurement of data-release friendly IT, licensing, technical advice and standards.

6	Building on existing activities around capability, there should be a focused programme of investment to build skill-sets in basic data science through our academic institutions, covering both genuinely unfettered 'basic research' and research of 'practical immediate value' to the national data strategy. We cannot rely only on markets and government departments and wider public sector bodies to maximise the potential of this relatively new and fast-developing field in which we are positioned to be a world leader.		

At the moment, the USA invests massively more than us and continuously reaps the benefits in world-leading business applications of science and technology; yet Britain is capable of being first in this field, given our expertise in data science and the fact we have large, coherent datasets. For example, nowhere in the world has such good health data, due to the scale of the NHS as a single provider. There is huge potential here for building social and economic value if we are willing to invest smartly.

<div align="right">Accept   4</div>

Detail:

i) Traditional training will of course continue to play an important role, as well as interactive and workshop sessions - such as mash-up days - especially those involving external developers. These are useful for sharing knowledge and expertise and creating an environment which is conducive to experimentation and innovative thinking.

ii) Public sector organisations should consider how they meet their current and future skills needs to deal with the increasing availability and use of data from across the public sector.

	iii) Government should explore solutions that can be implemented quickly to improve the skills base to be able to effectively manipulate and extract value from PSI.		
	iv) In addition, government should promote and support building capability amongst graduates. Government should task the research councils to be strategic in their funding of graduate training to encourage the growth of basic data science and inter-disciplinary projects, and consider further increasing funding available for teaching of data discipline.		
7	We should look at new ways to gather evidence of the economic and social value of opening up PSI and government data, and how it can be further developed taking into account the latest innovations in technology. This evidence should be used to underpin a bold strategy of investment in an infrastructure of data in order to make the UK the world leader in this field, thereby gaining the greatest advantage in this new wave of the digital revolution. Currently we can measure the costs of producing and publishing data, but we have no model for evaluating the economic or social benefits 'downstream', and so we may be undervaluing these activities, leading to under-investment of resources. Detail We should create a "data intelligence and innovation group" that includes experts from within and outside government that as part of its wider role supports, challenges and takes forward thinking on how to improve the collection, processing and use of PSI. One of the initial tasks for the group should be to provide independent advice on the methodological challenges and evidence gaps identified by this review, and develop proposals to address them. A further task of the group should be to fully embed an analytics approach within policy making.	Accept	1
8	We should expect systematic and transparent use of administrative data and other types of PSI in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and adaptation of government policy and service delivery, and formally embed this in the democratic process. PSI should be as much a part of the evidence base as evaluations and survey data. This should include information derived by third parties in the delivery of services funded by the public sector. Although Government does use and publish some PSI as part of programme evaluations and in impact assessments, practice varies, and the wider consultation process is not generally considered to be effective. We should deepen and broaden the role of PSI in policy making. Detail: Each government department and wider public sector body should review whether the PSI that they currently hold is being used to maximum effect in developing, evaluating and adapting policy. It should explain what data it used to support any new policy and above all what data will be collected (and published) for continuous measure of its effectiveness.	Accept	1
9	We should develop a model of a 'mixed economy' of public data so that everyone can benefit from some forms of two-way sharing between the public and the commercial sectors.	Accept	1

Where there is a clear public interest in wide access to privately generated data, then there is a strong argument for transparency (for example in publishing all trials of new medicines). As the Royal Society's Science as an Open Enterprise report sets out this warrants careful consideration in each case so that legitimate boundaries of openness are respected. For example, data could be made public after intellectual property has been secured or after a particular product has been launched. Where the data relates to a particularly and immediate public safety issue, it should be published openly as soon as possible.

A company working with government should be willing to share information about activity in public-private partnerships, as information about activity in public-private partnerships held by private companies is not currently subject to the Freedom of Information Act. This could be greatly enhanced without the need for legislation by creating a field in procurement forms asking for the company's open data policy regarding the sought contract.

Data that is derived from the activity of citizens must be seen as being at least co-owned by them and returning value to them, though the investment of business in collecting and processing the data should also be respected. There are government initiatives such as Midata, a government led project that works with businesses to give consumers better access to the electronic personal data that companies hold about them. The project recognises that data about citizens belongs to them and that they should have a way of claiming and using their ownership. Midata is currently about empowering consumers – government itself should explicitly embrace the Midata initiative to empower citizens by returning key data it holds on citizens back to them.

Detail:

Each government department should develop opportunities and regularly review the potential for two-way sharing between the public and commercial sector in the policy areas for which they are responsible.

Annex E – Public Data Group members open data output

Trading Fund	Name of open data product	URL and description
Met Office	DataPoint	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/datapoint DataPoint is a way of accessing freely available Met Office data feeds in a format that is suitable for application developers. It is aimed at professionals, the scientific community and student or amateur developers looking to re-use Met Office data in innovative applications.
Met Office	Historic Station Data	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate-historic/ Historic Data for 37 stations. The data consists of mean daily max temperature, mean daily min temperature, days of air frost, total rainfall and total sunshine duration.
Met Office	Historic Regional Data	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/datasets Regional historic data for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, 6 regions in England and 3 regions in Scotland. The data consists of Max Temp, Min Temp, Mean Temp, Sunshine, Rainfall, Raindays>=1.0mm and Days of Air Frost.
Met Office	Climate Averages	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/?tab=climateTables 30 year averages (1981-2010) for 300 individual stations. 30 year averages for districts, regions and UK (1961-90, 1971-00, 1981-10)
Met Office	WOW	http://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/ WOW contains data from Met Office Automated Weather Stations, Climate Stations and Amateur Observer sites. Data can be downloaded once logged in.
Met Office	Surface Marine Data	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/marine-observations/#?tab=last24hoursMarine Offshore observation data from ships and buoys.

Ordnance Survey	**OS OpenData**	http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/os-opendata.html 12 Ordnance Survey products including detailed digital maps and data sets for use in both personal and commercial applications. • MiniScale • 1:250,000 Scale Raster • OS StreetView • OS Locator • 1:50,000 Scale Gazeteer • BoundaryLine • Land-From PANORAMA • Code-Point Open • Strategi • Meridian 2 • OS VectorMap District • OS Terrain 50 OS OpenData can be used with other open datasets available on data.gov.uk to enhance data or to create new innovative applications.
Land Registry	**Transaction Data**	http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/market-trend-data/public-data/transaction-data The data published provides information about the number and types of applications Land Registry has completed since 30 January 2012
Land Registry	**Price Paid Data**[43]	http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/market-trend-data/public-data/price-paid-data Monthly residential property price data tracks all residential property sales in England and Wales that have been lodged with Land Registry for registration since 23 March 2012
Land Registry	**Dataset Inventory**	http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/market-trend-data/dataset-inventory The dataset inventory is a list of all the electronic data held by Land Registry. The data it contains has been obtained or recorded for the purpose of enabling Land Registry's to carry out its statutory functions.
Land Registry	**House Price Index (from 30 May)**	http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/public/house-prices-and-sales The Land Registry House Price Index (HPI) is the most accurate independent house price index available. Using the dataset of completed sales, it is the only index based on repeat sales. The HPI figure we publish each month compares the average house price today to what it was in January 1995, with the index set then at 100. It includes figures at national, regional, county and London borough level.
Land Registry	**1862 Register**	URL to be confirmed Land Registry are digitising the 1862 Register which is comprised of leather-bound ledgers of various sizes which each contain a mix of handwritten, typed and printed documents and maps on parchment, waxed linen, and paper. The content of these historic documents will be available as image data from March 2014.
Land Registry	**Property Alert Service**	URL to be confirmed A Property Alert service will be launched to members of the public in September 2013. This will be a free online service that will monitor properties and issue alerts when certain activity occurs on the title

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[43] **From 28 June**: First tranche of Historic Price Paid and Transaction Data available for download under OGL; **From November 2013**: Second Tranche of Historic Price Paid and Transaction Data available for download under OGL

Land Registry	Index Map view service	URL to be confirmed Land Registry's Index Map will be made available to view, free of charge to existing customers who are subscribers to our existing portal channel from September 2013.
Companies House	Free Public Data Product[44]	http://download.companieshouse.gov.uk/en_output.html The Free Public Data Product is a downloadable data snapshot containing basic company data of live companies on the register. This snapshot is provided as ZIP files containing data in CSV format and is split into multiple files for ease of downloading.
Companies House	Company URI	http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/miscellaneous/URI.shtml Companies House has developed a new service to supply basic company details, using a simple Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) for each company on our register. The URI is a unique web address that represents the company (using the 'business.data.gov.uk' domain); and will return basic company details for that company.
Companies House	Xml Gateway	http://xmlgw.companieshouse.gov.uk/ The Companies House XML Gateway offers electronic access to a core range of company information from Companies House Databases. The service is accessible online over the internet by authorised XML Gateway customers.
Companies House	WebCHeck service	http://wck2.companieshouse.gov.uk//wcframe?name=accessCompanyInfo The WebCHeck service is a web service accessible to all which offers a searchable Company Names and Address Index free of charge and enables customers to search for further information. Basic company details are free of charge and paid for information, such as copies of document images, may also be ordered. (Note that Companies House also operates a subscription based online service, CH Direct, which has a greater range of information)
Companies House	CH App	Information at http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/mobile-app/ , available to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play The CH App provides free access to details such as company address, status, company appointments and filing history and allows customers to check when accounts and return documents are due to be filed, or if they are overdue. There is a statistics feature showing company incorporations and dissolutions.

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[44] Accounts data product: Planned release in August of a bulk product containing the data for accounts filed digitally (as data). To be followed later in the year by a web product. Note that this product will be chargeable and that, whilst bulk data customers are aware of developments, no formal announcement has been made. The charge is set to reflect the cost of distribution.

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Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1A 1AS

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