



By email

Our ref: 12/06/lh/94

4 July 2014

Dear

Re: Publishing data under the INSPIRE Directive

Thank you for your email dated 12 June 2014 regarding datasets Public Health England (PHE) holds that are required to be published under the INSPIRE Directive.

Your email has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). I can confirm that PHE does hold the information you have requested.

You asked:

Please can you inform me of what datasets PHE holds that you are required to have published, by law, under the INSPIRE Directive (<http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>). I am particularly interested in those datasets that fall under Annex III Human Health and Safety.

PHE is committed to publish datasets on health as part of the Open Data agenda. PHE is also committed to implementing the INSPIRE regulations which provide a legislative tool mandating the use of information standards to support wide use of high quality geographic data.

The human health and safety elements of annex III of the INSPIRE directive states that member states are required to publish “Geographical distribution of dominance of pathologies (allergies, cancers, respiratory diseases, etc.), information indicating the effect on health (biomarkers, decline of fertility, epidemics) or well-being of humans (fatigue, stress, etc.) linked directly (air pollution, chemicals, depletion of the ozone layer, noise, etc.) or indirectly (food, genetically modified organisms, etc.) to the quality of the environment.”

PHE collects, sources and generates information on:

- The registration of primary cancer diagnoses
- Infectious disease incidence and prevalence
- Chemical, radiation and environmental hazards

The systems, and resultant datasets, are specific and many include personal identifiable data (permissible primarily through the health service (control of patient information) regulations 2002) to support longitudinal surveillance and monitoring and data linkage. For this reason it is impossible to release these datasets as is into the public domain, to do so would put PHE in breach of the Data Protection Act. As a result, processing will need to be performed on each dataset to ensure it can be released. Once this is completed PHE will begin to release anonymised datasets into the public domain according to INSPIRE guidance.

PHE has started work on rendering the National Radon Database INSPIRE-compliant. We will use our experiences here to inform progress on other datasets.

Please see data.gov.uk for a full list of datasets PHE does not currently publish pending anonymisation activities.

<http://data.gov.uk/data/search?q=public+health+england&publisher=public-health-england>.

Please see PHE's Knowledge Strategy which illustrates our commitments in this area. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-knowledge-strategy-published>.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. Under Regulation 11 of the EIR you have the right to make representations to PHE in respect of this response. Requests for internal reviews should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the above address, alternatively contact us by email at: Internalreview@phe.gov.uk

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer