Public Sector Transparency Board: Public Data Principles

The principles, drawn up by the Public Sector Transparency Board and revised as the result of consultation, are as follows:

(1)   Public data policy and practice will be clearly driven by the public and businesses that want and use the data, including what data is released when and in what form

(2)   Public data will be published in re-usable, machine-readable form

(3)   Public data will be released under the same open licence which enables free re-use, including commercial re-use

(4)   Public data will be available and easy to find through a single, easy-to-use, online access point (www.data.gov.uk)

(5)   Public data will be published using open standards, and following relevant recommendations of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

(6)   Public data from different departments about the same subject will be published in the same, standard formats and with the same definitions

(7)   Public data underlying the Government's own websites will be published in re-usable form

(8)   Public data will be timely and fine-grained

(9)   Release data quickly, and then work to make sure that it is available in open standard formats, including linked data forms

(10)   Public data will be freely available to use in any lawful way

(11)   Public data will be available without application or registration, and without requiring details of the user

(12)   Public bodies should actively encourage the re-use of their public data

(13)   Public bodies should maintain and publish inventories of their data holdings

(14)   Public bodies should publish relevant metadata about their datasets and this should be available through a single online access point; and they should publish supporting descriptions of the format provenance and meaning of the data

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