Open Government Data in the UK

Andrew Stott

UK Transparency Board
formerly Director, *data.gov.uk*
& UK Deputy GCIO

BCS APSG
12 Jan 2012

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andrew.stott@dirdigeng.com

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Presentation Contents

- A World of Open Data
- Why is the UK Government doing this
  - Emerging Business Models
- How data.gov.uk was developed
- Lessons Learned
- Wider Implications
- Discussion

A World of Open Data

TED Ideas worth spreading

Talks | Speakers | Themes | Translations

TED Conferences | TEDx Events | TED Prize | TED Fellows

TED Conversations NEW | TED Community

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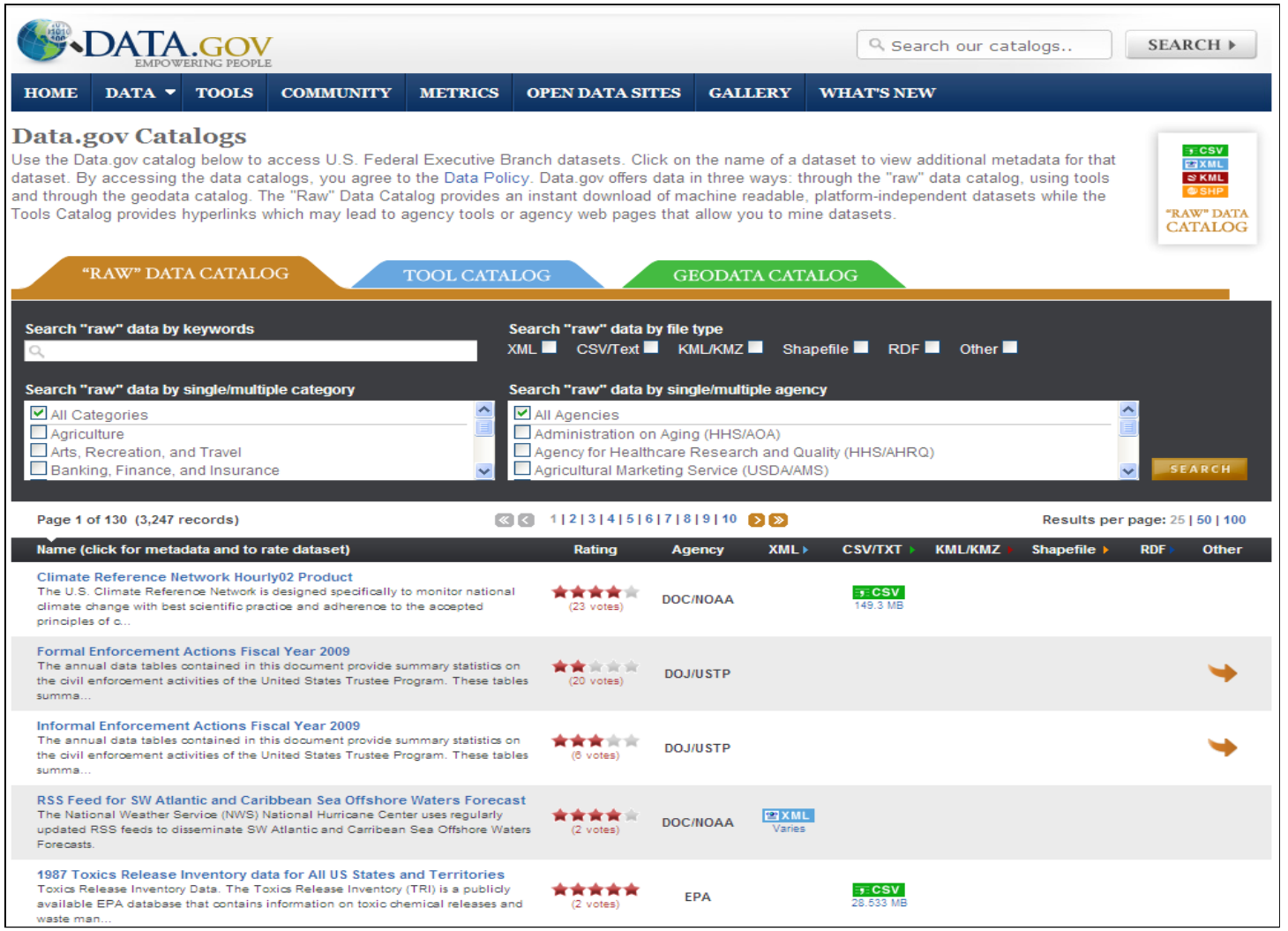
Search

Tim Berners-Lee on the next Web

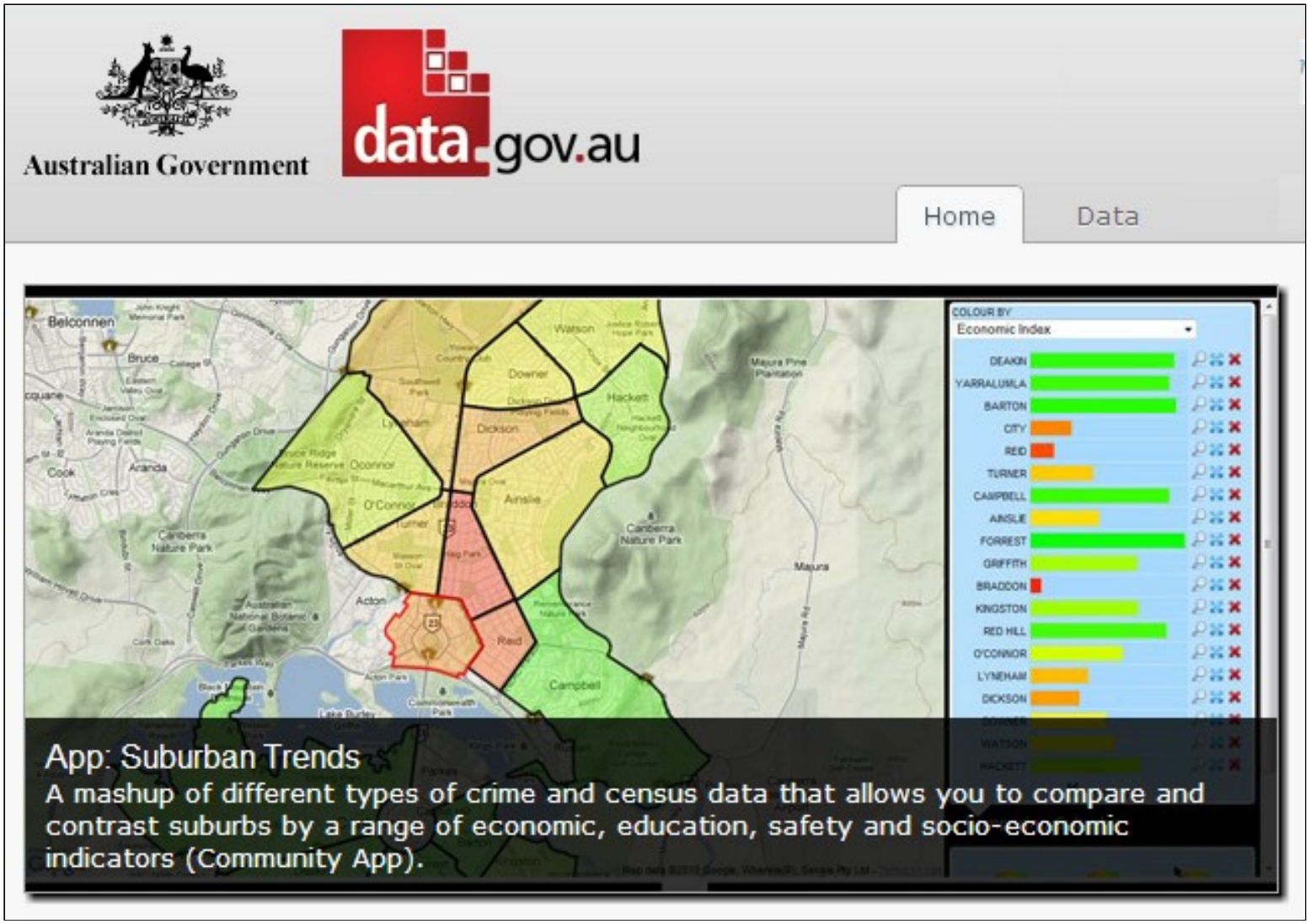
TED2009, Filmed Feb 2009; Posted Mar 2009

Federal Government, USA

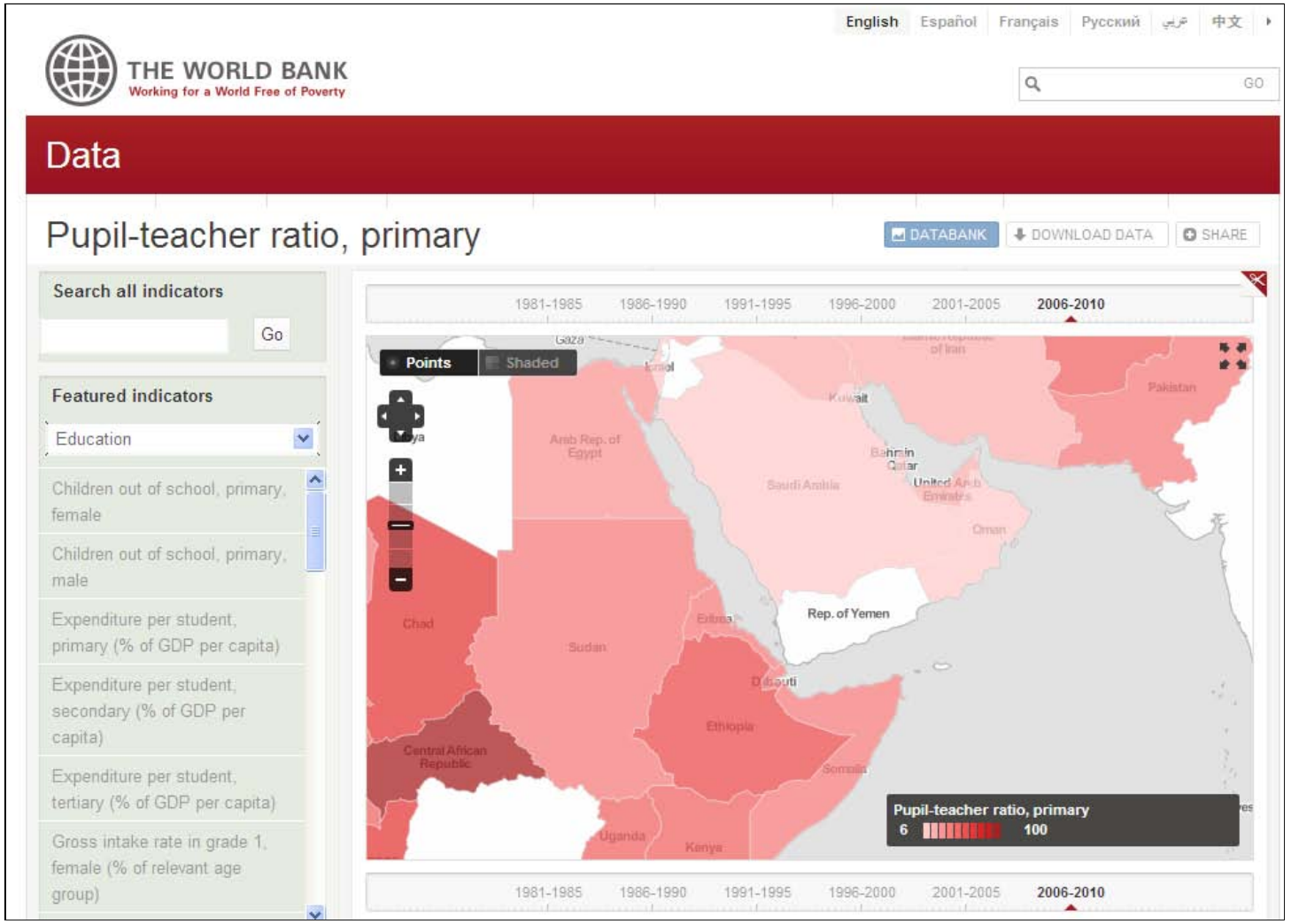


United Kingdom Government

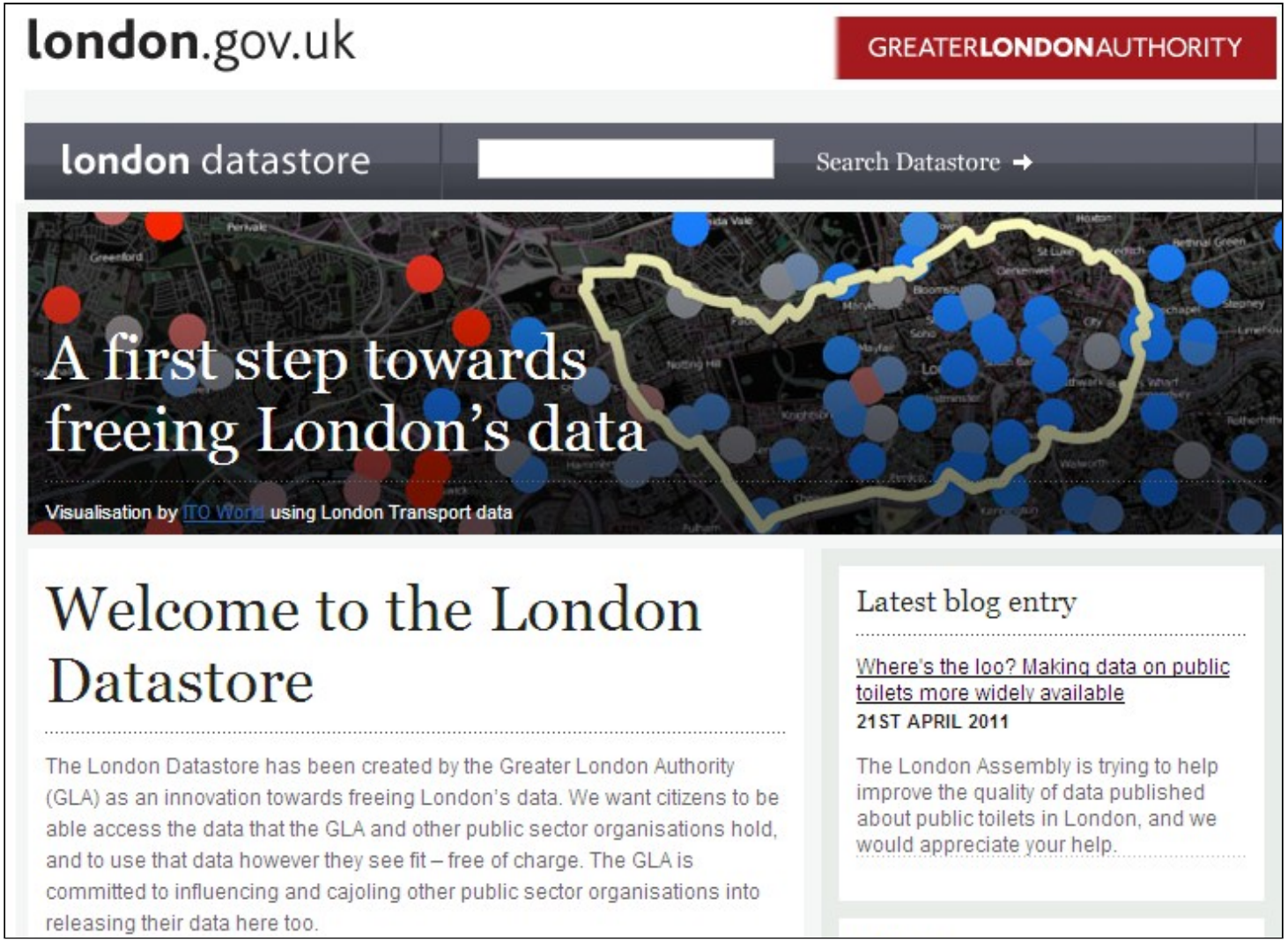
Australia


Australian Government
data.gov.au
Home
Data
COLOUR BY
Economic Index
DEAKIN
YARRALUMLA
BARTON
CITY
REID
TURNER
CAMPBELL
AINSLIE
FORREST
GRIFFITH
BRADDON
KINGSTON
RED HILL
O'CONNOR
LYNEHAM
DICKSON
App: Suburban Trends
A mashup of different types of crime and census data that allows you to compare and contrast suburbs by a range of economic, education, safety and socio-economic indicators (Community App).

World Bank


English
Español
Français
Русский
中文
THE WORLD BANK
Working for a World Free of Poverty
GO
Data
Pupil-teacher ratio, primary
DATABANK
DOWNLOAD DATA
SHARE
Search all indicators
Go
Featured indicators
Education
Children out of school, primary, female
Children out of school, primary, male
Expenditure per student, primary (% of GDP per capita)
Expenditure per student, secondary (% of GDP per capita)
Expenditure per student, tertiary (% of GDP per capita)
Gross intake rate in grade 1, female (% of relevant age group)
1981-1985
1986-1990
1991-1995
1996-2000
2001-2005
2006-2010
Points
Shaded
Gaza
Israel
Kuwait
Pakistan
Arab Rep. of Egypt
Bahrain
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates
Oman
Rep. of Yemen
Chad
Eritrea
Sudan
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Central African Republic
Somalia
Uganda
Kenya
Pupil-teacher ratio, primary
6
100

London, United Kingdom



City of Vancouver, Canada

CITY OF VANCOUVER

Open Data Catalogue Beta v2

City of Vancouver ■
Search ■
Help ■

Residents | Business | Visitors | Jobs with the City | Services | Departments | City Projects | Pay & Purchase Online

Open data home

Get the data
Data catalogue
City web feeds

About the data
Data formats
Data updates
Terms of use

Feedback

Collaborative Cities

The Cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, Ottawa and Toronto have recently joined forces to collaborate on an "**Open Data Framework**". The project aims to enhance current open data initiatives in the areas of data standards and terms of use agreements. Please contact us for further information.

Updates

City of Vancouver - Most Innovative Organization in B.C.

April 12, 2011

City of Vancouver has won the 2011 BC Business Innovator first place award for its open data program. More information

Business Licence data improved

March 10, 2011

The City has just improved the Business Licence data on the Open Data website to include latitude and longitude attributes. In addition, XML Document Type Definition (DTD) information is also made available and embedded inside the XML file.

Please feel free to provide us with feedback on this or any other aspect of the Open Data website on our feedback page. As always, your use of the data available from this site is governed by the City's Terms of Use and by downloading the data, you are agreeing to be bound by these Terms of Use

Give us your feedback

Which data items would you still like to see added to the City's Open Data site? Fill out the survey.

See the feedback form

Open Data updates

Receive updates on developments related to this site:

Subscribe to the RSS feed
Subscribe to the mailing list
Open Data update history

Connect with the Community

Community developers have created a wiki and discussion group to share application ideas and discuss datasets.

Vancouver Open Data Wiki
Discussion Group

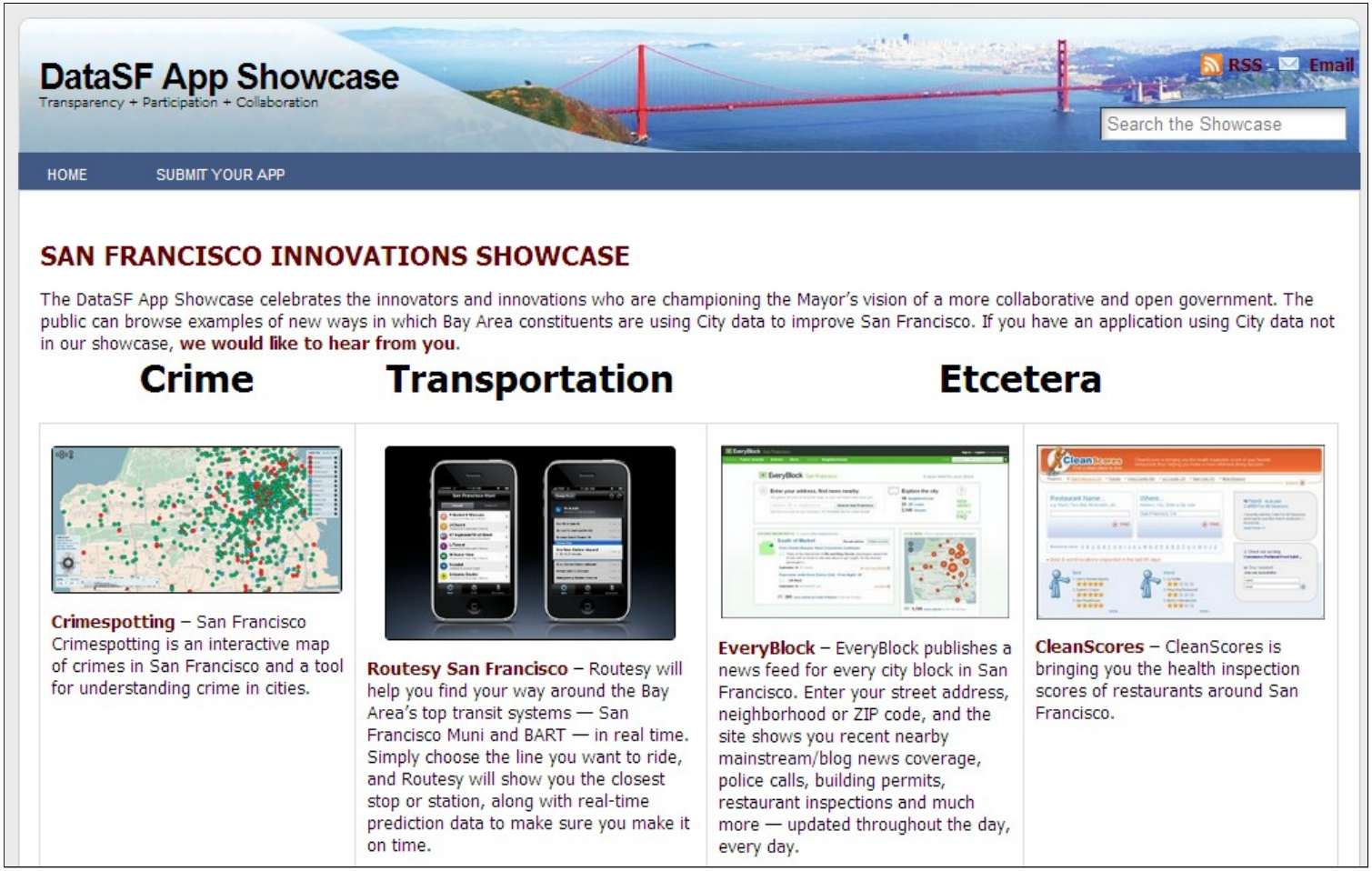
Please note: These community sites are not affiliated with the City of Vancouver.

Background

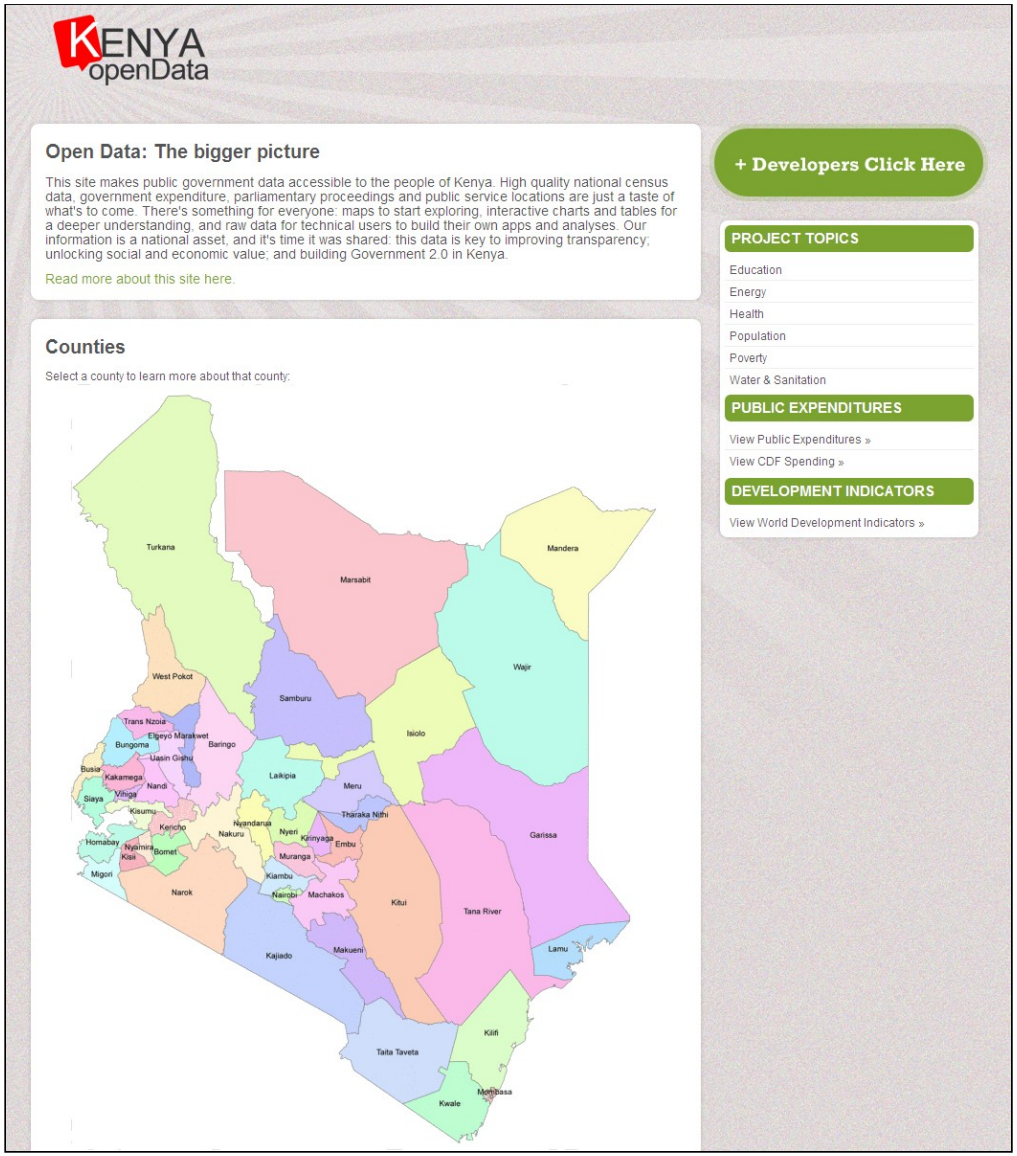
City Council Motion: Open Data, Open Standards and Open Source (PDF) 22 KB

City of Rennes, France

City of San Francisco, USA



Kenya – first in Africa

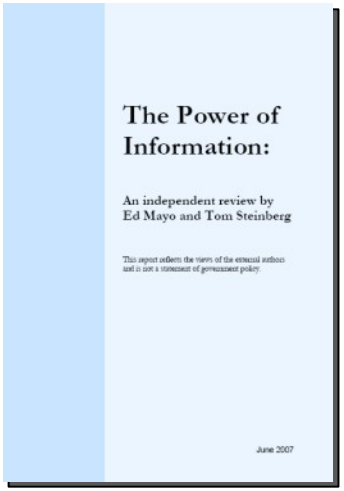


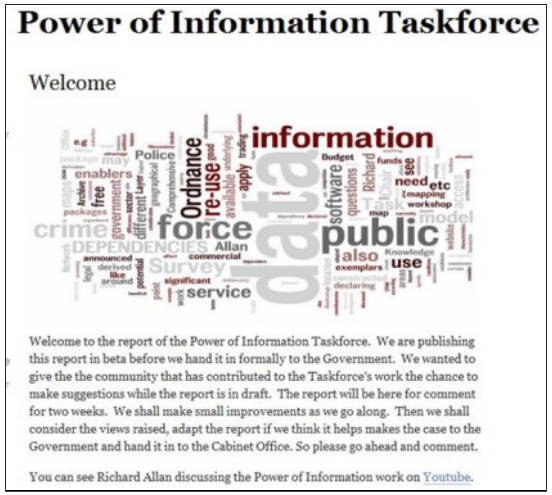
A World of Open Data

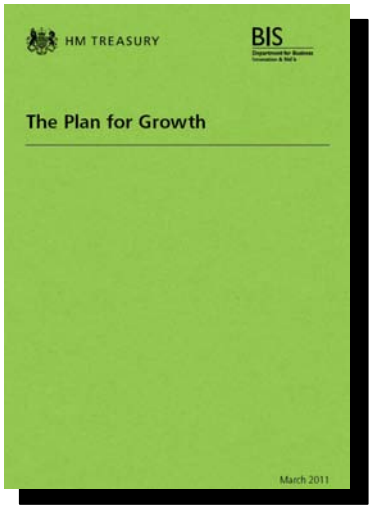
Now over 200 governmental Open Data sites

Why is the UK Government doing this?

UK Policy Drivers







June 07 **Feb 09** **Mar 11**

New economic and social value

Evidence for EU PSI review

- EU27 direct gains from completely open access to PSI could be ~ €40 Bn
- Aggregate economic impacts could be even larger: ~€140 Bn
- Direct market associated with PSI use less important than spillovers and new uses.
- Future innovations due to easier access add further economic and social benefits
- Costs and revenue foregone? ~ € 1 bn

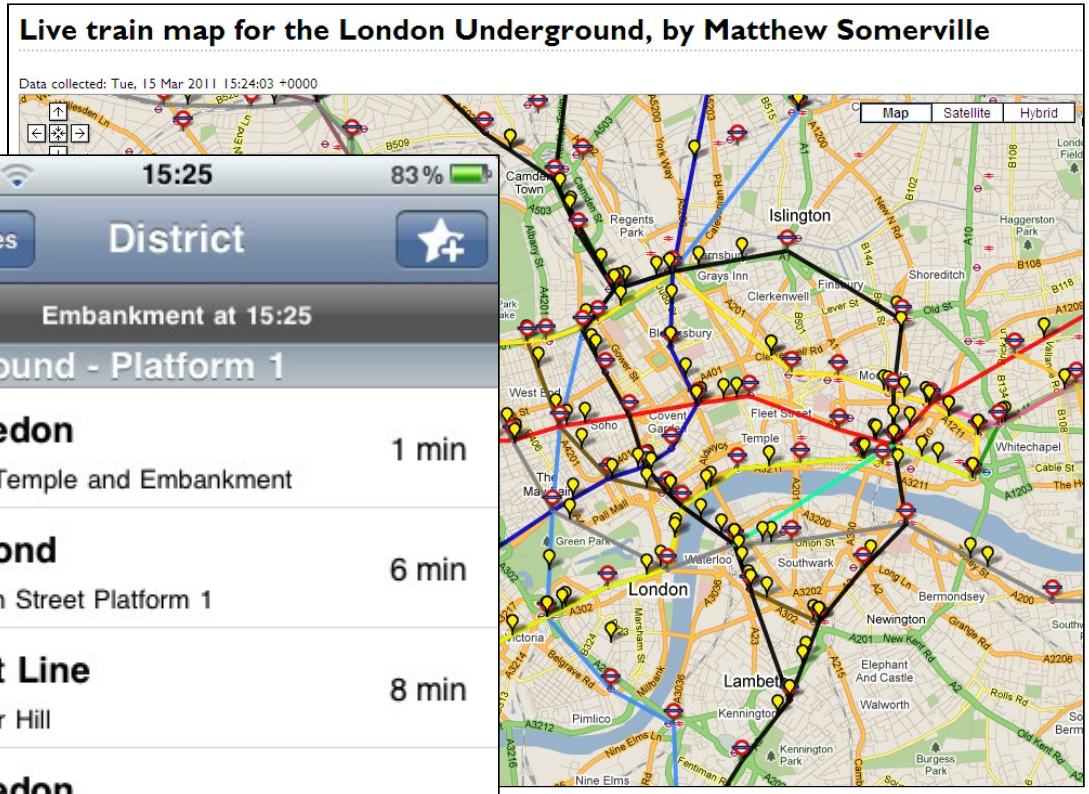
Source: Graham Vickery, Information Economics at EU Digital Agenda Assembly

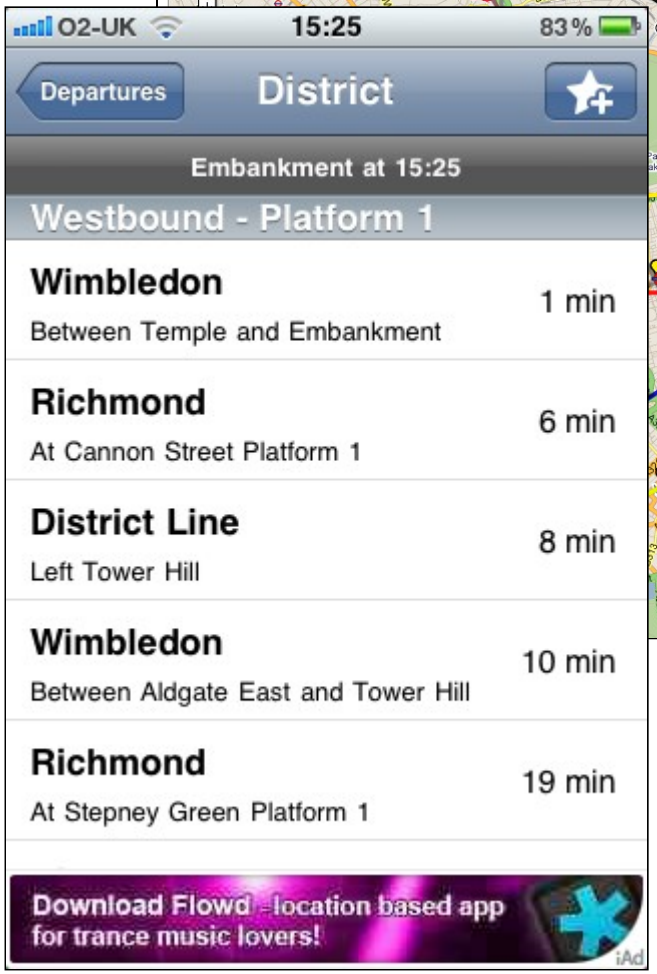
Emerging Business Models

Cleansing and organising data

Business Intelligence from item-level purchasing data

Information services to the public





Weather, transport and public facilities among most downloaded Smartphone Apps

Data Mining

PharmaTimes ONLINE

News Magazine JobSearch Competitions Events/Meetings Gallery

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Where am I? > Article

Govt open data policy "set to boost UK life sciences growth"

UK NEWS / WORLD NEWS | DECEMBER 01, 2011 SHARE +1 1

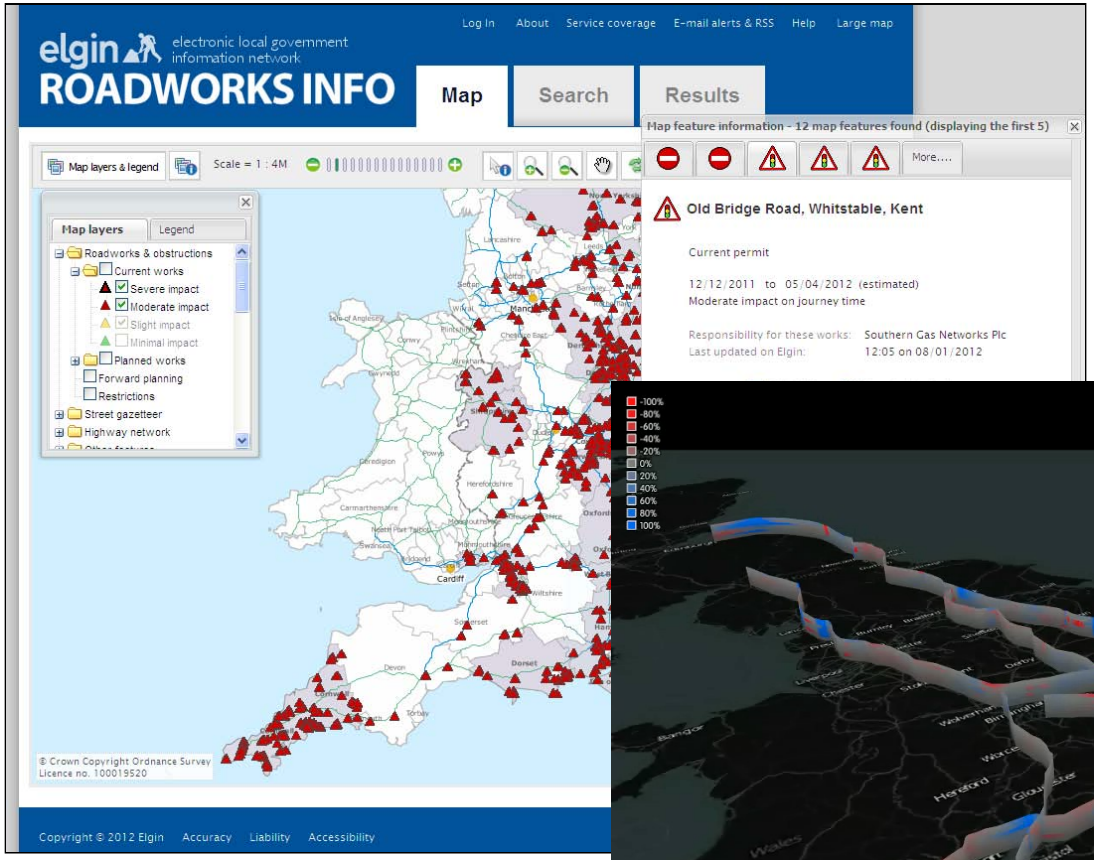
LYNNE TAYLOR Tweet 11

The UK government's Autumn Statement includes "world-leading commitments" to boost growth in the nation's life sciences sector by transforming access to public-sector health and care data.

From next September, services provided by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care will link datasets from primary and secondary care, which will enable professionals in the NHS, pharmaceutical industry, academia and elsewhere to access unprecedented and unequalled levels of information about the journeys of patients through the care system and the outcomes of different treatments, it says.

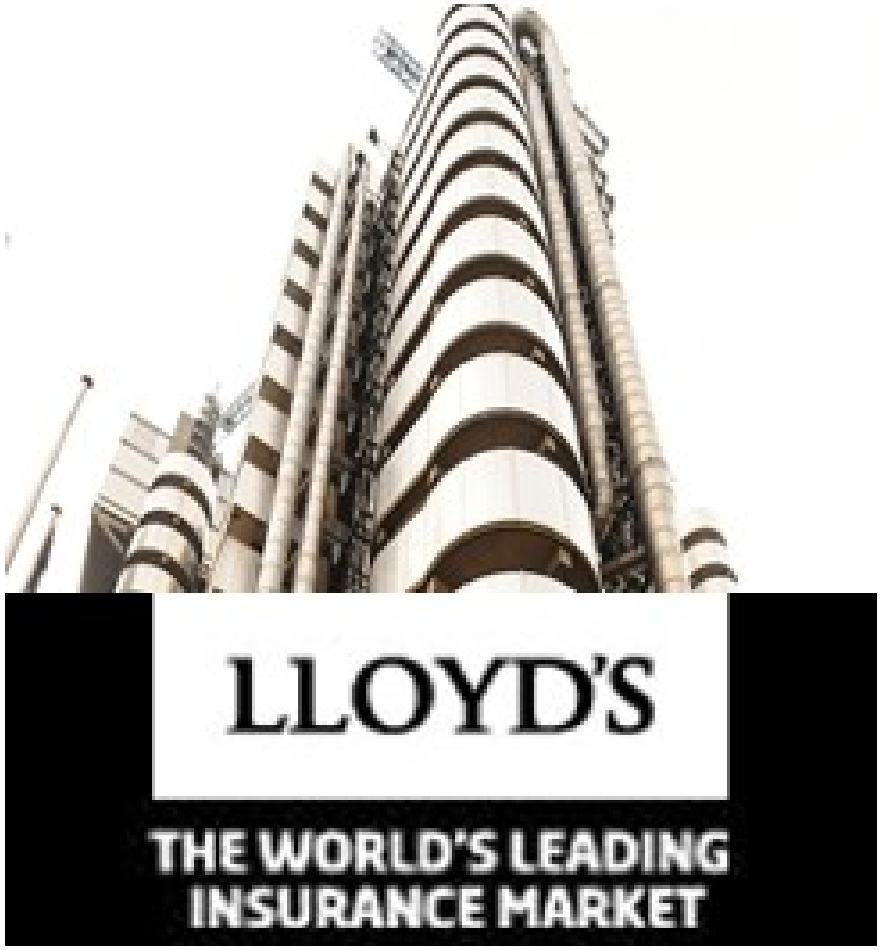
- Prescription data
- Patient outcome data
- Longitudinal health records
- Pupil-level education records

Operational efficiency/optimisation



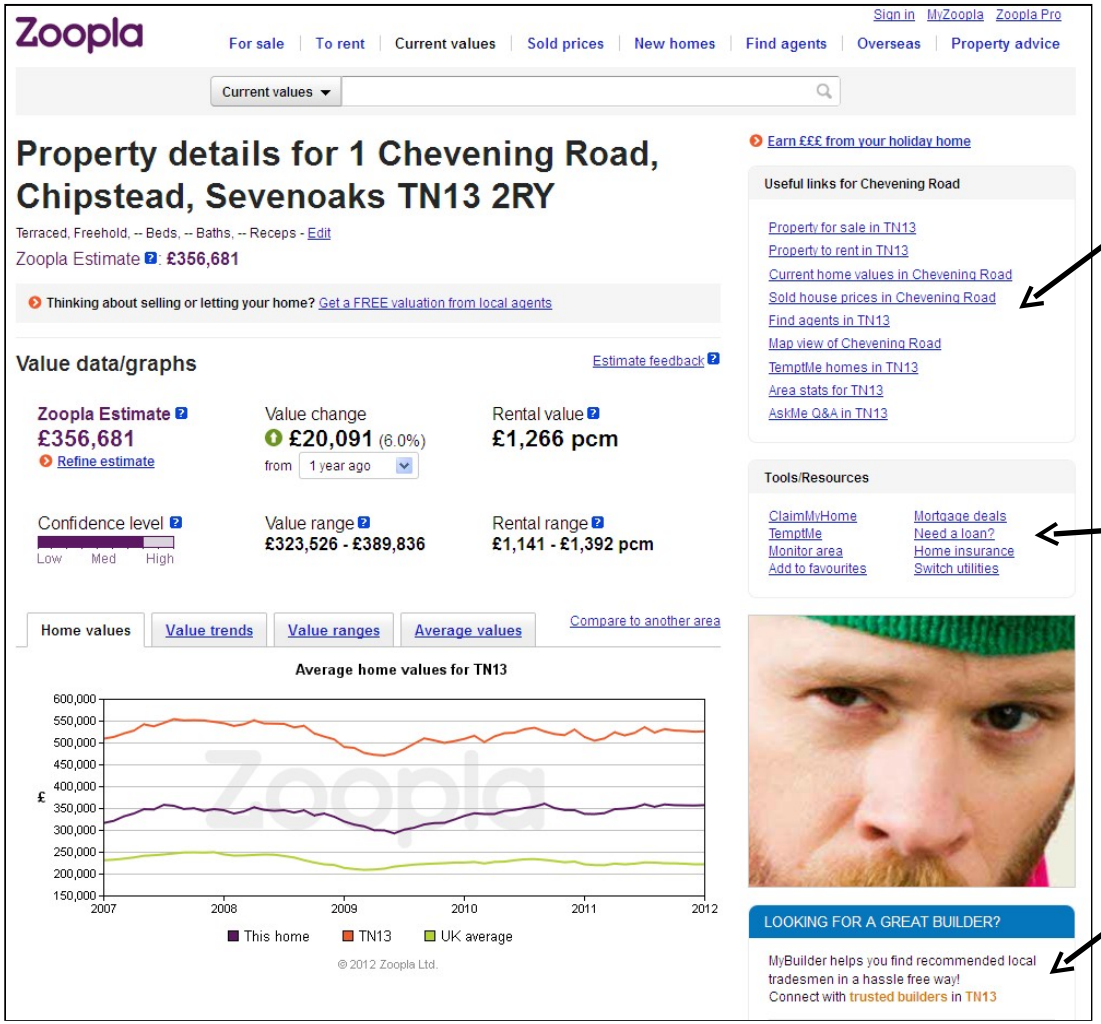
Real time info on road delays and roadworks allows logistics efficiency

Financial Products



- Weather Risk Management (US: $4bn annual contracts value)
- Flood insurance on detailed topography and river records

Customer attraction and retention



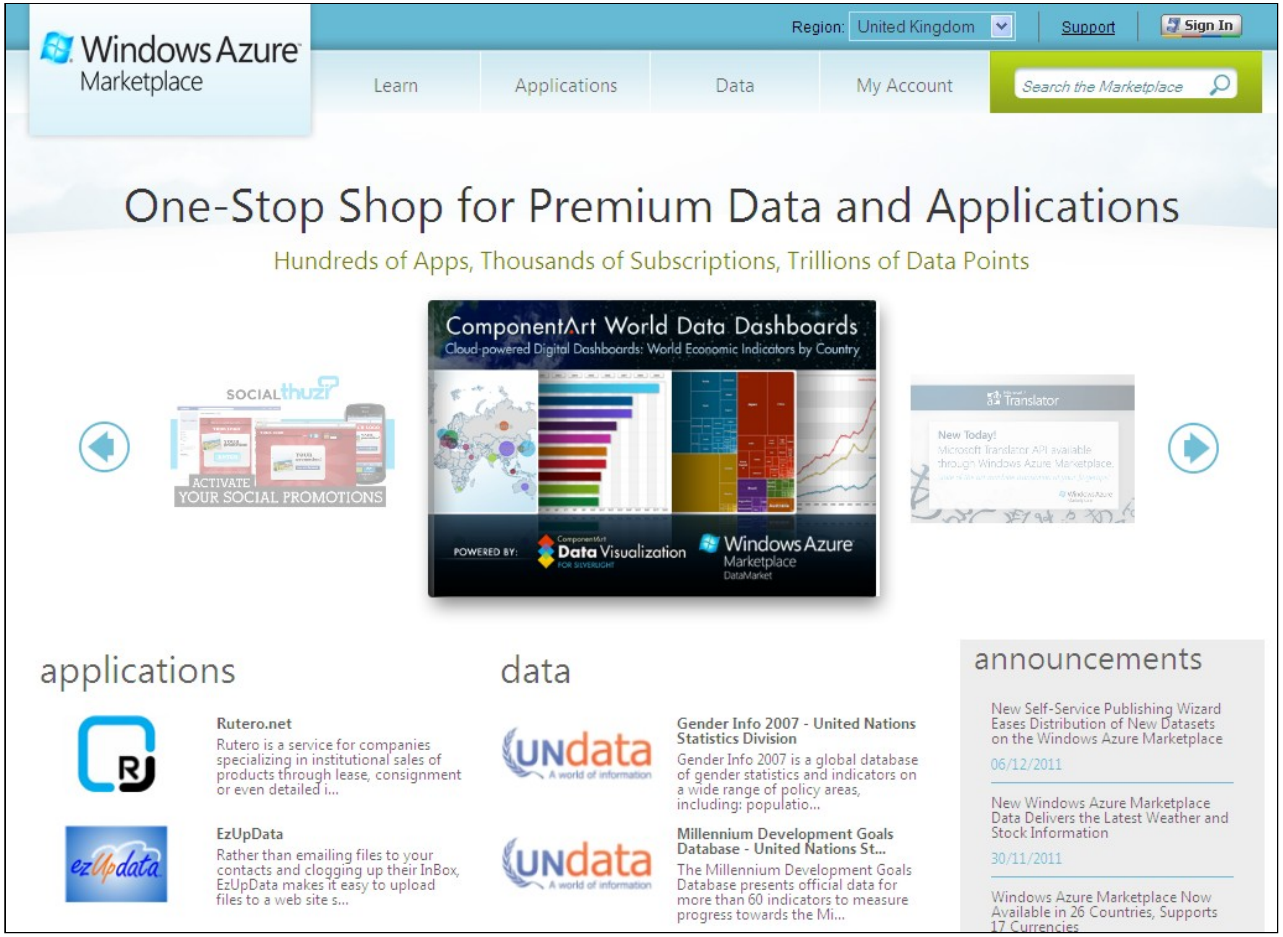
estate agents/ realtors

Financial services

builders and other local services

Local house prices attract potential customers

Data Broking



Customer-focused reliable high-volume serving of data and APIs

More Innovation

Ordnance Survey

OS OpenSpace® BETA

register now

home | pro | web-map builder | developer area

Welcome to the OS OpenSpace API

The OS OpenSpace API is free to access and lets developers create amazing web applications and online projects with Ordnance Survey maps.

But OS OpenSpace API is not just for developers.

Although the API uses JavaScript to make web pages more interactive, anyone can create an application by following our sample code and tutorials.

Get Ordnance Survey maps on your website to enhance the service and customer experience.

Example of OS OpenSpace API displaying Ordnance Survey data

News and information

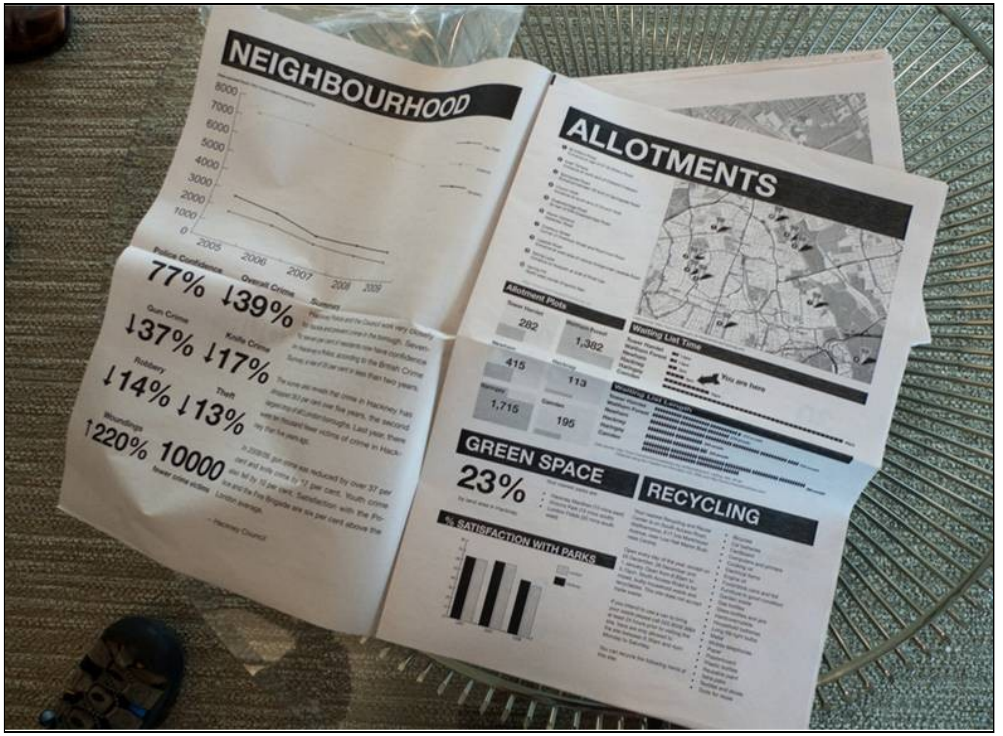
Web-Map Builder – the login got lazy NEW

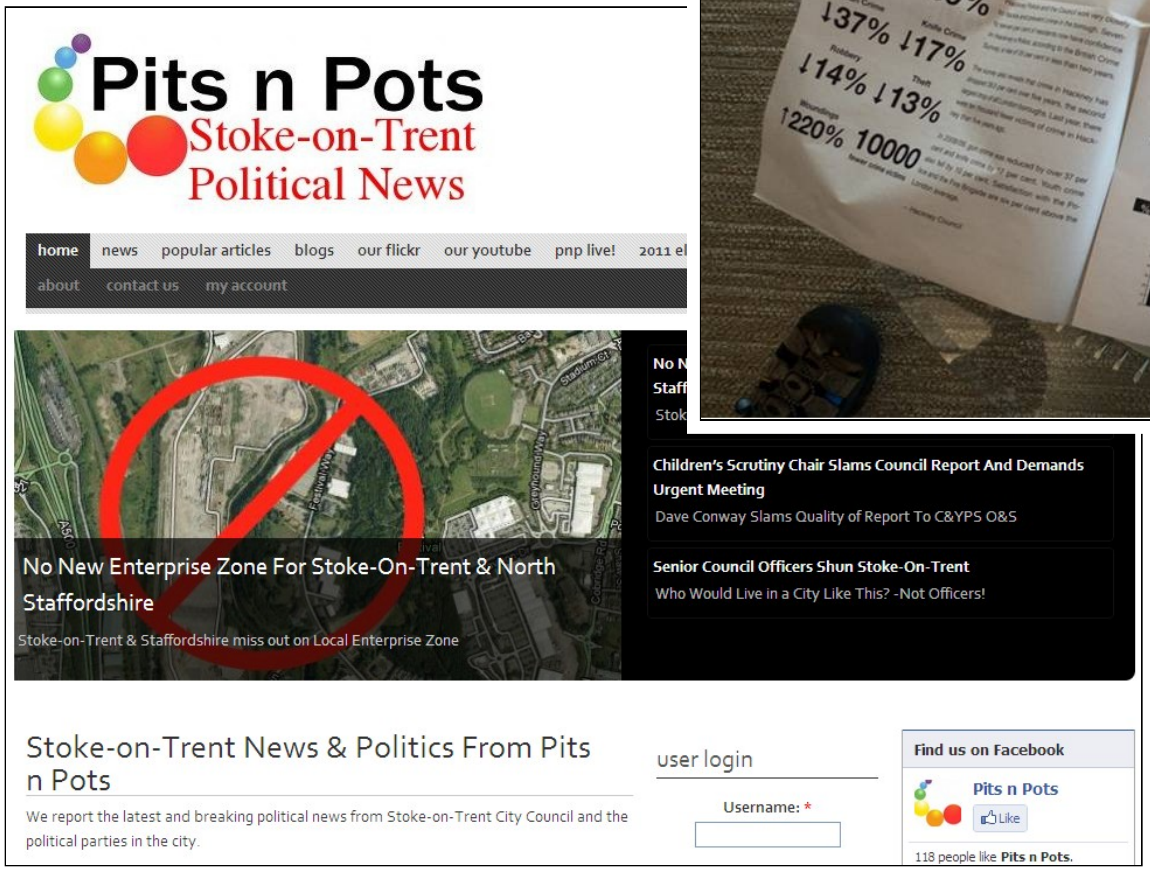
Enter the GeoVation Challenge.

Visit the OS OpenData website.

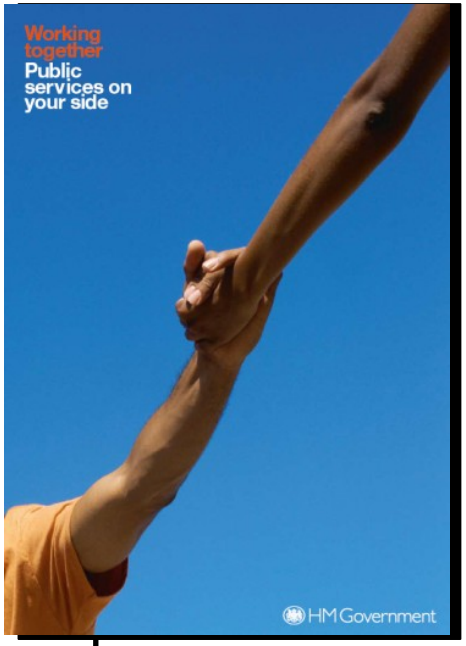
OS OPENSPACE is a registered trade mark of Ordnance Survey.

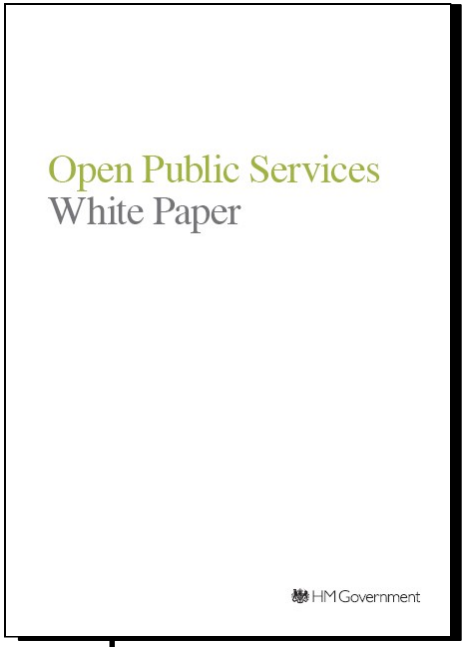
Social value and cohesion





UK Policy drivers





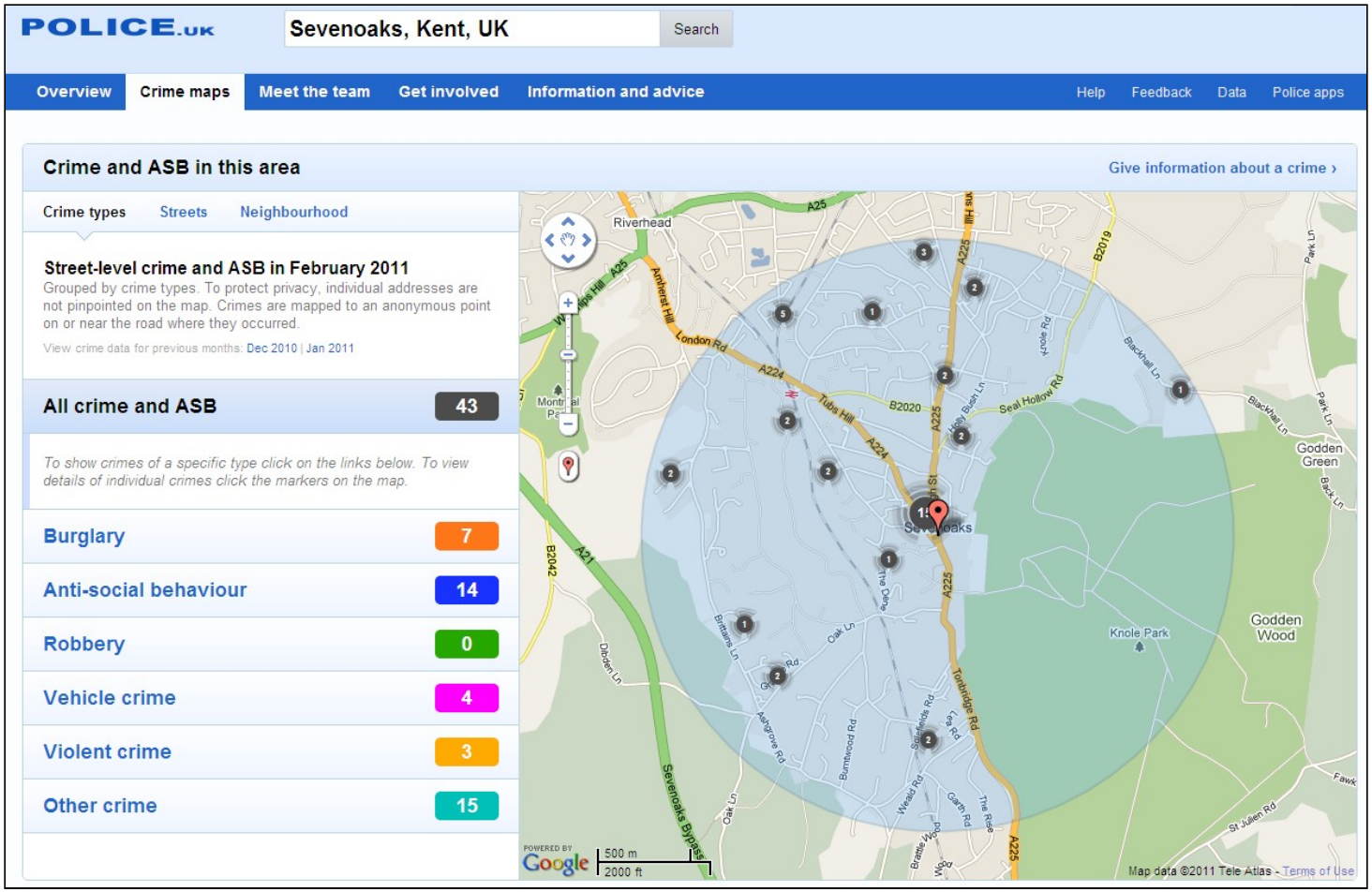
Mar 09

Jul 11

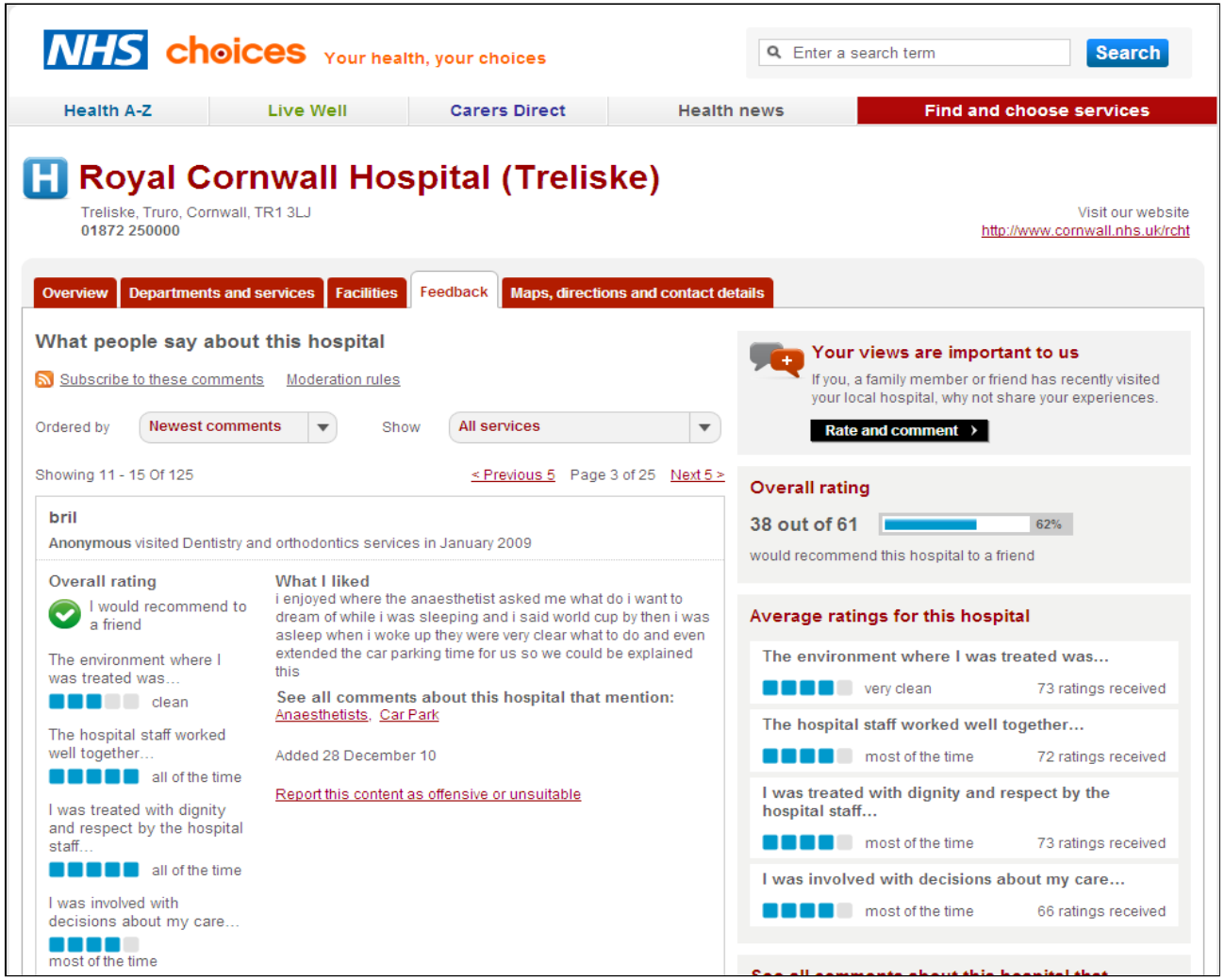
Improve public services

New economic and social value

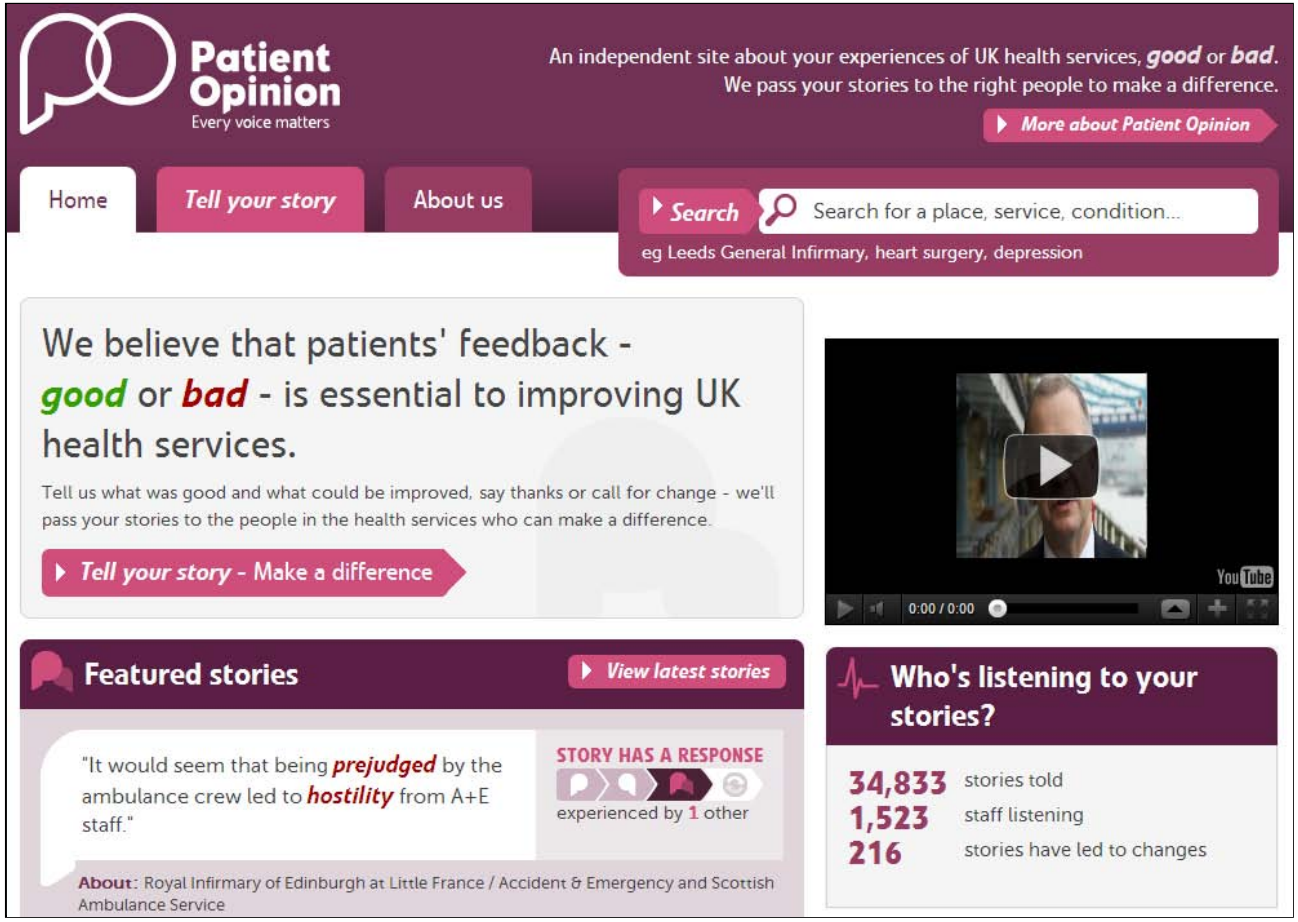
Improving Public Services



Improving Public Services



Improving Public Services



UK Policy drivers

Mail Online

Home | News | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Femail | Health | Science&Tech | Money | Debate

Tory MP Viggers admits he is 'ashamed and humiliated' over £1,600 duck island claim that 'the birds never liked anyway'

By MICHAEL LEA
Last updated at 2:01 PM on 23rd May 2009

Comments (0) | Add to My Stories

Tory MP Sir Peter Viggers said today he felt 'ashamed and humiliated' over his expenses claim for an island to house the ducks in his pond.

He described his decision to include the feature in his taxpayer-funded second home claims as a 'ridiculous and grave error of judgment'.

The ducks had never lived the feature and it was no longer being used, he added.

The veteran MP was forced to announce he was standing down at the next election after details of the claims were published this week.

Among them were £30,000 towards gardening at his home, including £550 for manure and £1,645 on a 'floating duck island for his pond.

However, it is not clear whether he was in fact reimbursed for the duck home, as a Commons official wrote 'not allowable' by the side of the claim.

In a statement today, he said: 'I have made a ridiculous and grave error of judgment. I am ashamed and humiliated and I apologise.

'As has been reported my claim for the duck house was rightly not allowed by the Fees Office.

© PA

Sir Peter Viggers evidently believed his duck pond was important for his parliamentary duties

The Coalition:
our programme
for government

HM Government

Band 1 of the Senior Civil Service pay scale, and organograms that include all positions in those bodies.

- We will require anyone paid more than the Prime Minister in the centrally funded public sector to have their salary signed off by the Treasury.
- We will regulate lobbying through introducing a statutory register of lobbyists and ensuring greater transparency.
- We will also pursue a detailed agreement on limiting donations and reforming party funding in order to remove big money from politics.
- We will strengthen the powers of Select Committees to scrutinise major public appointments.
- We will introduce new protections for whistleblowers in the public sector.
- We will take steps to open up government procurement and reduce costs, and we will publish government ICT contracts online.
- We will create a level playing field for open source software and will enable large ICT projects to be split into smaller components.
- We will require full, online disclosure of all central government spending and contracts over £25,000.
- We will create a new 'right to data' so that government-held datasets can be requested and used by the public, and then published on a regular basis.
- We will require all councils to publish meeting minutes and local service and performance data.
- We will require all councils to publish items of spending above £500, and to publish contracts and tender documents in full.
- We will ensure that all data published by public bodies is published in an open and standardised format, so that it can be used easily and with minimal cost by third parties.

Jun 09

May 10

Transparent & Accountable Government

Improve public services

New economic and social value

Transparent and Accountable Government

Daily Mail

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010 www.dailymail.co.uk 50p

GOOD HEALTH

Global backlash after Israeli ship raid leaves 19 dead

BLOODBATH ON THE HIGH SEAS

DRAMATIC REPORTS: PAGES 2 AND 6-9

The penpushers costing taxpayers millions

NAMED: 172 CIVIL SERVANTS PAID MORE THAN PM

OVER 170 civil servants who earn more than the Prime Minister were named yesterday.

In total, they cost taxpayers in excess of £2billion a year, according to details released as part of a new transparency drive by the Government.

John Fingleton, the chief executive of consumer watchdog the Office of Fair Trading, took home between £275,000 and £280,000 last year – nearly double David Cameron's £142,500 pay.

David Nicholson, the NHS Chief Executive, was second on the list with a total salary and benefits worth up to £260,000.

The salary and perks packages were revealed by the Cabinet Office as part of a pledge by the Government to give the public more access to official information.

The name, job title, grade and salary level of all 172 Whitehall officials with salaries of more than £150,000 was released – the first time some of this information has been made public. The details

By Tim Shipman, Deputy Political Editor

Turn to Page 4

Sarah in America, where she spoke to Oprah Winfrey

Fergie: I'd been drinking before £500,000 sting

SEE PAGE FIVE

EXPRESS.co.uk

Home of the Daily and Sunday Express

Tuesday 26th April 2011 Site Google SEARCH

HOME > NEWS / SHOWBIZ > UK NEWS > Civil servants waste public money on massages

UK NEWS

CIVIL SERVANTS WASTE PUBLIC MONEY ON MASSAGES

£1,673 was spent on massage

Friday August 13,2010

By Martyn Brown

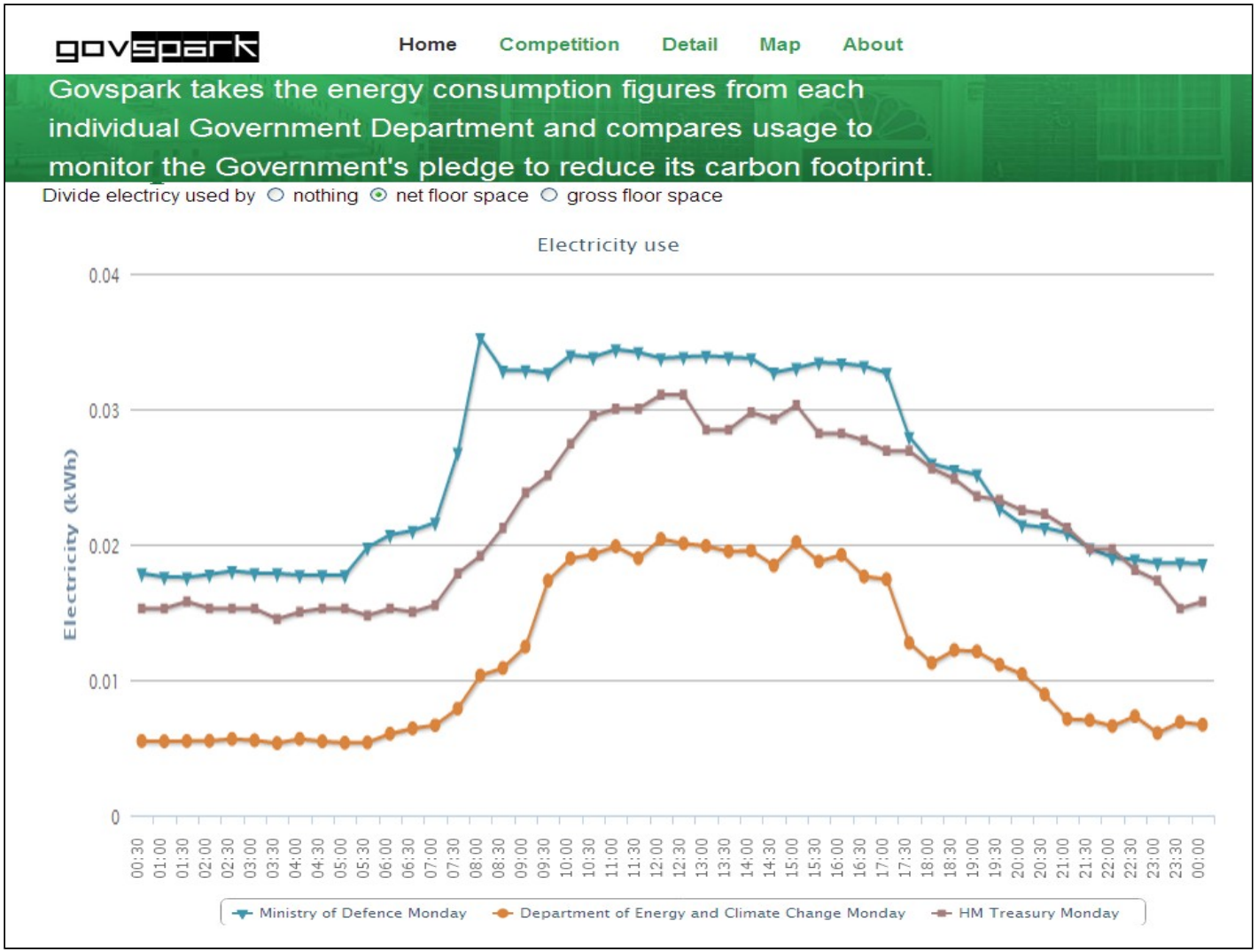
Have your say(4)

OUTRAGEOUS civil service spending under Labour was laid bare yesterday after new figures revealed public cash was lavished on massages, jazz workshops and even a trip to the seaside.

The shocking figures, including almost £20,000 spent at football clubs and racecourses, will dismay hard-pressed taxpayers.

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Transparent and Accountable Government

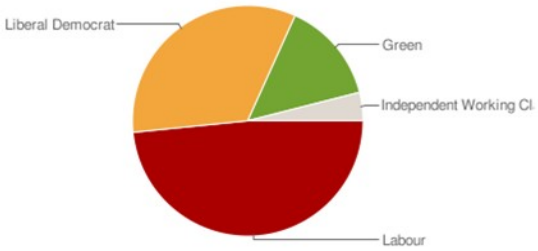


Transparent and Accountable Government

openlylocal making local government more transparent

Oxford City Council

Website	http://www.oxford.gov.uk/ Twitter feed
Authority Type	District
County Council	Oxfordshire County Council
Address	Town Hall, Blue Boar Street, Oxford OX1 4EY
Telephone	01865 249 811
Chief Executive	Peter Sloman
Population	153,900 (Source: ONS Crown Copyright)
Police Force	Thames Valley Police
Wikipedia Url	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_City_Council



Other info

External links

- WhatDoTheyKnow.com FoI requests (feed)
- Office for National Statistics page
- eGovernment Register page
- ONS SNAC ID: 38UC

Statistics

Happiness Survey 2008 — *more data»*
% who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live — **86.5**

Local Government Pension Funds 2006-07 — *more data»*
Market Value - at end of year £000 — **1048951**

Online services

Search

See full list

Current councillors

- **Mohammed Niaz Abbasi** (Labour)
- **Mohammed Altaf-Khan** (Liberal Democrat)
- **Alan Edmund Armitage** (Liberal Democrat)
- **Antonia Bance** (Labour)
- **Laurence Peter Baxter** (Labour)
- **Elise Benjamin** (Green)
- UPDATED **Stephen Thomas Brown** (Liberal Democrat)
- **Clark L Brundin** (Liberal Democrat)
- **James Robert Martin Campbell** (Liberal Democrat)

Council Committees

Showing only currently active committees. *Include inactive committees*

- **Audit and Governance Committee** (next meeting: NEW Jan 26 2010, 5.00PM)
- **Central South and West Area Committee** (next meeting: NEW Jan 12 2010, 5.30PM)
- **City Executive Board** (next meeting: Dec 15 2009, 5.00PM)
- **Communities & Partnership Scrutiny Committee** (next meeting: Feb 10 2010

Wards

- Barton And Sandhills
- Blackbird Leys
- Carfax
- Churchill
- Cowley
- Cowley Marsh
- Headington
- Headington Hill And Northway
- Hinksey Park
- Holywell
- Iffley Fields

The emergence of data journalism

guardian.co.uk

News | Sport | Comment | Culture | Business | Money | Life & style | Travel | Environment

News › Datablog

DATABLOG

Facts are sacred

COINS data release: The 10 things we found out

Last week the government released the massive Coins database. Find out what we know now

• Coins explorer

News › Politics › Coins data explorer

Coins Data Explorer

This is our first attempt at producing a way to navigate around the 3.2m data items released by the UK government as part of Coins. Scroll down the page to choose which chunk of data you'd like to explore - and let us know what you find.

Find out what the acronyms mean with our glossary.

Send story ideas to coinsdata@guardian.co.uk

Help fill in the joint Guardian and Where Does My Money Go? google spreadsheet

Posted by
Simon Rogers Monday
14 June 2010 09.00 BST
guardian.co.uk

How data.gov.uk was developed

data.gov.uk organising principles

- Small central team (4 people)
- Short stages, each with clear goals
- Respond quickly to feedback from users
- Draw in resources from Government's experts
- Each dataset always controlled by its owner
- data.gov.uk holds metadata not data!
- It is not an IT project! Keep the IT simple

data.gov.uk: the timeline

computing.co.uk

Sir Tim Berners-Lee to help open up government information

by Tom Young

10 Jun 2009

Berners-Lee will help government put information online

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the worldwide web, is to help the government publish and catalogue more information online over the next few months.

Prime minister Gordon Brown made the announcement today as part of a package of reforms aimed at improving the transparency of government in response to the expenses scandal.

Project Announced 10 June 2009

1st Build

data.gov.uk: the timeline

Developer Invite 30 Sep 2009

1st Build **Dev Preview**

data.gov.uk: the timeline

Key Trends ▾ Top Topics ▾ Channels ▾ Reports ▾ International ▾

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UK Launches Open Data Site; Puts Data.gov to Shame

By Marshall Kirkpatrick / January 20, 2010 11:57 AM / 23 Comments

Tweet 4 Share 11 4 Digg

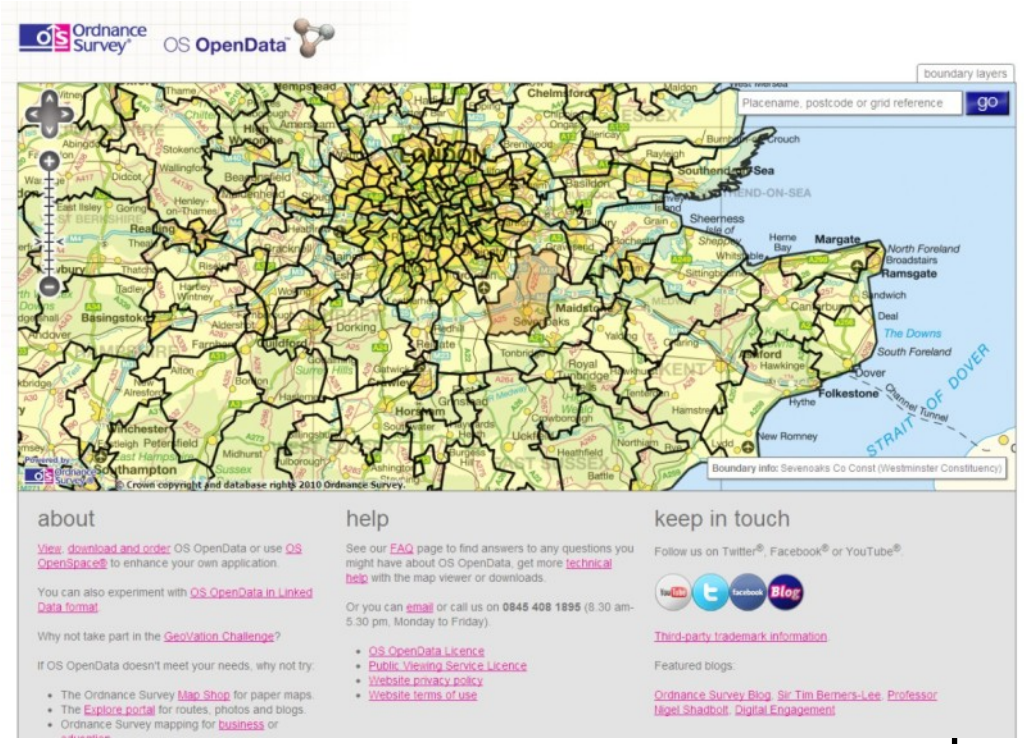
A new website dedicated to making non-personal data held by the U.K. government available for software developers has launched today with the help of Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web. Data.gov.uk is being slammed with traffic but six months after the U.S. government opened its Data.gov site the U.K. site already has more than three times as much data than the U.S. site offers today.

At launch, Data.gov.uk has nearly 3,000 data sets available for developers to build mashups with. The U.S. site, Data.gov, has less than 1,000 data sets today.

Public Launch 21 Jan 2010

1st Build → **Dev Preview** → **Beta**

data.gov.uk: the timeline



37 GB of map data made free 1 Apr 2010

1st Build → **Dev Preview** → **Beta** → **Map Data**

data.gov.uk: the timeline

Transparency Commitments 29 May 2010

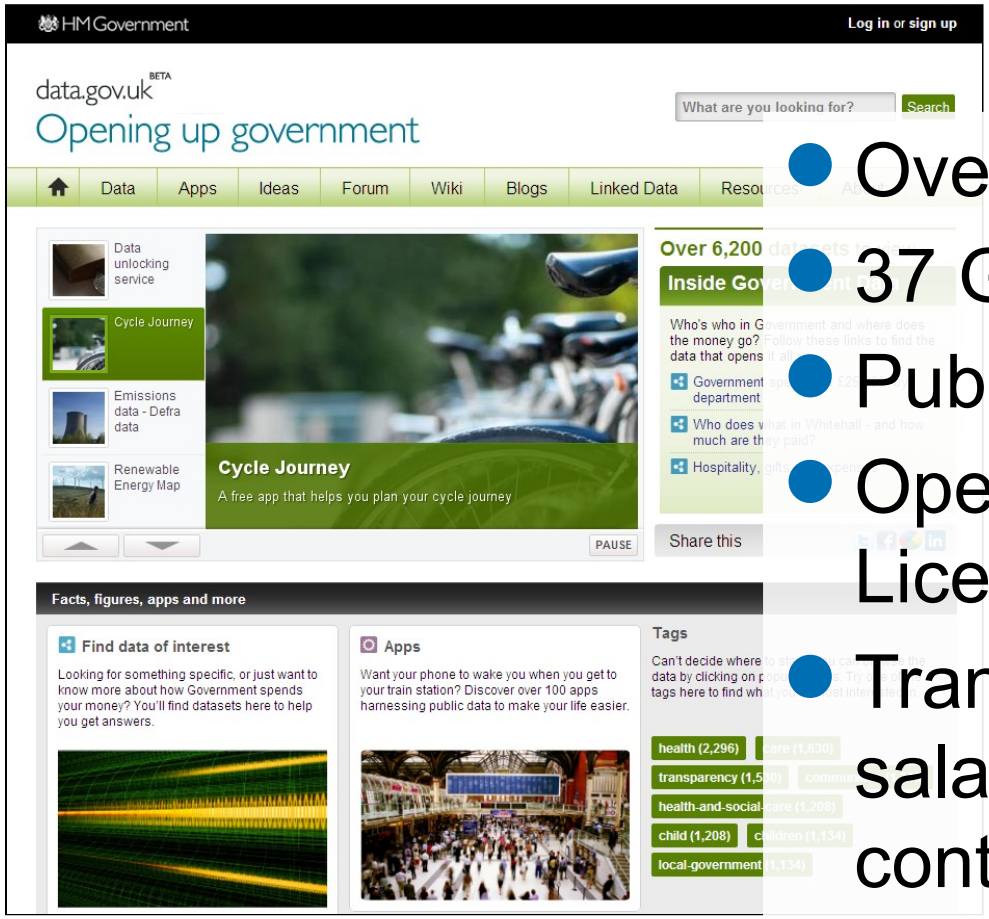
Policy → **1st Build** → **Dev Preview** → **Beta** → **Map Data** → **Transparency**

data.gov.uk: the timeline

Implementation 19 Nov 2010

Policy → **1st Build** → **Dev Preview** → **Beta** → **Map Data** → **Transparency**

The first two years of data.gov.uk



- Over 7500 datasets
- 37 GB of geo data
- Public Data Principles
- Open Government Licence
- Transparency of salaries, spending, contracts and tenders

Lessons learned

Important to have top-level political support

"Greater transparency across Government will enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account"

"Public information does not belong to Government, it belongs to the public on whose behalf government is conducted."

Important to have strong “demand-side”

mysociety.org

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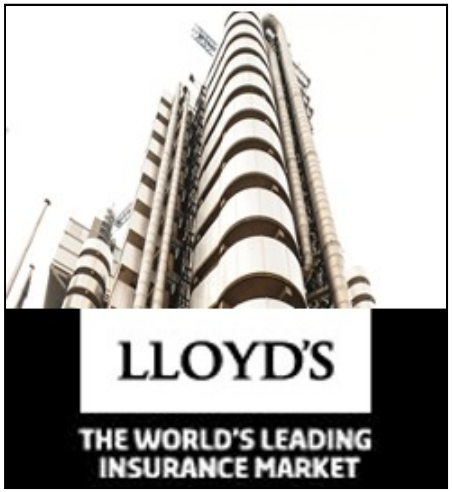
Give us back our crown jewels

Our taxes fund the collection of public data - yet we pay again to access it. Make the data freely available to stimulate innovation, argue Charles Arthur and Michael Cross



Open Knowledge Foundation

Promoting Open Knowledge in a Digital Age

Projects Community Events Donate About Us Blog

Our Vision

We seek a world in which open knowledge is ubiquitous and routine. We promote open knowledge because of its potential to deliver far-reaching societal benefits.

Also important to have passionate team!

Refine policy principles based on experience

data.gov.uk BETA

Opening up government

Data | Apps | Ideas | Forum | Wiki | Blogs

Public Data Transparency Principles

Posted on 25/06/2010 | 27 comments

Working definition of "Public Data"

"Public Data" is the objective, factual, non-personal data on which public services run and are assessed, and on which policy decisions are based, or which is collected or generated in the course of public service delivery.

Draft Public Data Principles

- **Public data policy and practice will be clearly driven by the public and businesses who want and use the data, including what data is released when and in what form** – and in addition to the legal Right To Data itself this overriding principle should apply to the implementation of all the other principles.

http://data.gov.uk/blog/new-public-sector-transparency-board-and-public-data-transparency-principles

Clear, common, licensing approach

Open Government Licence
for public sector information

delivered by
The National Archives

Back to The National Archives

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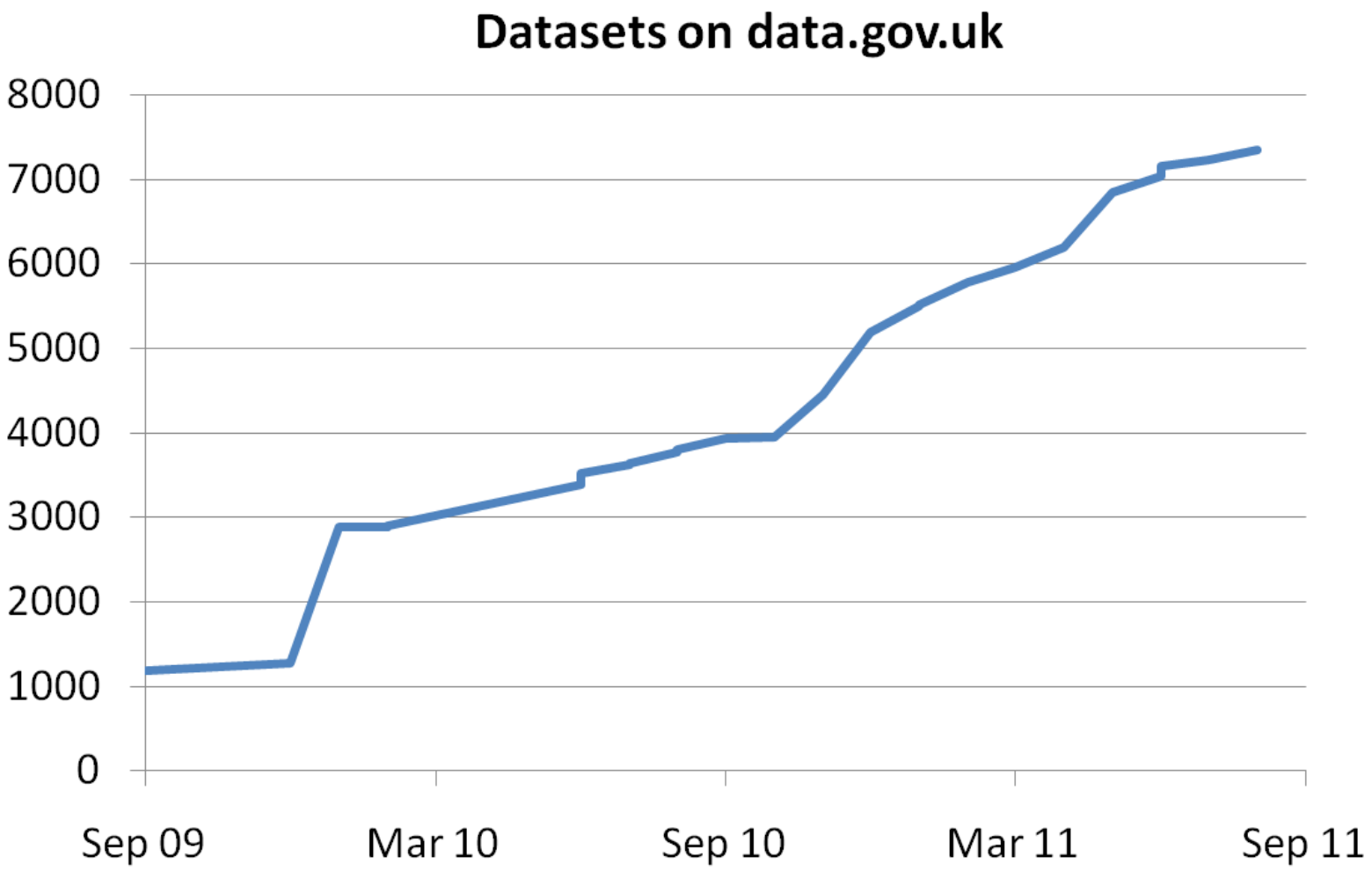
Incremental delivery



It's not just about new data

Scope for "Open Data" also includes data previously "published" but …

- in non-reusable format
- with restricted licence
- only aimed at specialist groups
- only for payment
- only in response to requests
- difficult to find

data.gov.uk contains a lot of data which nobody knew was already published

Handling the concerns of data owners

"People hug their database, they don't want to let it go. You have no idea the number of excuses people come up with to hang onto their data and not give it to you, even though you've paid for it as a taxpayer."

– *Tim Berners-Lee*

http://www.ted.com/talks/tim_berners_lee_on_the_next_web.html

A sample of “data hugging” excuses

- It’s held separately by *n* different organisations, and we can’t join it up
- It will make people angry and scared without helping them
- It is technically impossible
- We do not own the data
- The data is just too large to be published and used
- Our website cannot hold files this large
- We know the data is wrong
- We know the data is wrong, and people will tell us where it is wrong
- We know the data is wrong, and we will waste valuable resources inputting the corrections people send us
- People will draw superficial conclusions from the data without understanding the wider picture
- People will construct league tables from it
- It will generate more Freedom of Information requests
- It will cost too much to put it into a standard format
- Our IT suppliers will charge us a fortune to do an ad hoc extract

Dealing with “data hugging”

- It’s held separately by *n* different organisations, and we can’t join it up
- It will make people angry and scared without helping them
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- People will draw superficial conclusions from the data without understanding the wider picture
- People will construct league tables from it
- It will generate more Freedom of Information requests
- It might be combined with other data to identify individuals/sensitive information
- It will cost too much to put it into a standard format
- Our IT suppliers will charge us a fortune to do an ad hoc extract

Data owners need to be helped through

- **Releasing data is a new idea**
- **Look for ways to manage perceived risks**
- **Look for examples and precedents**
- **For first phase, be prepared to compromise on data content – but not on licence terms**
- **“Hackdays” can show potential benefits**
- **Ensure data owners get credit for what they do release**

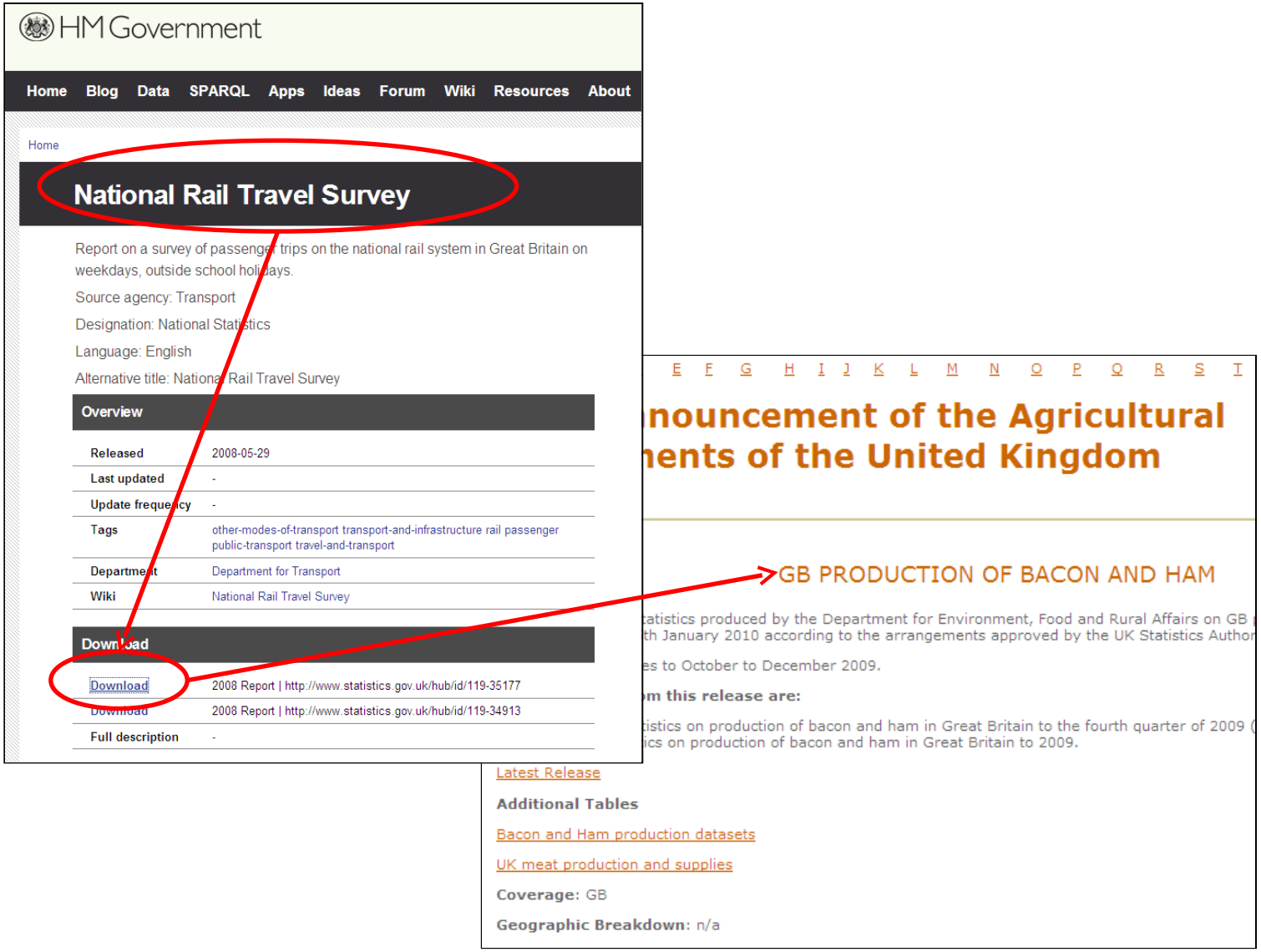
Manage expectations, prepare for mistakes

"We're making a small start next week. But eventually, it's going to make a big difference."

"The information we're publishing next week won't be perfect, it won't always be in the most convenient format, and I'm sure there'll be some mistakes. But I want to get on with it.".

UK Prime Minister 29 May 2010

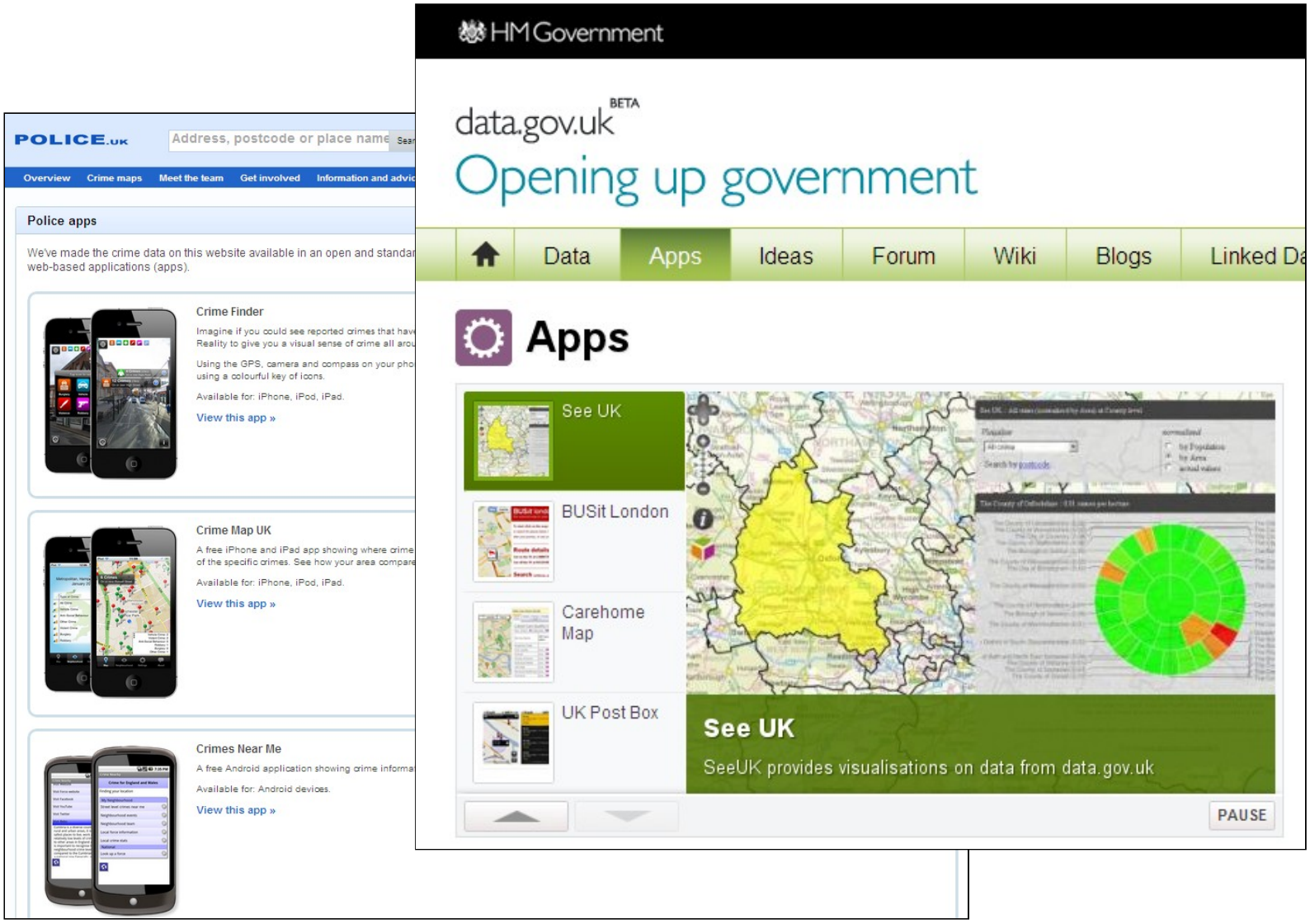
Don’t be afraid of mistakes - learn from them



Continuously engage with developers

Photos: @memespring, @MadLabUK, @paul_clarke

.. and highlight applications, not data



It's not (just) an IT project!

CIOs can give leadership, but

- CIOs/IT Directors often do not "own" the data
- Key issues are business, policy and politics: don't let policy makers brand it as "just IT"
- Keep the IT simple
  - use Open Source (CKAN, Drupal, etc)
  - use existing contracts/infrastructure with niche firms
  - host data on existing websites or on public Cloud
- Use revealed legacy data quality issues as spur for improvement
  - not as an excuse for doing nothing

… and the biggest lesson of all

Overcome obstacles practically by doing, not debating

Wider Implications

Next steps for UK

Policy/organisation

- Right to Data - “FOI 2.0”?
- Codify policy – Open Data White Paper
- Public Data Group for paid-for data

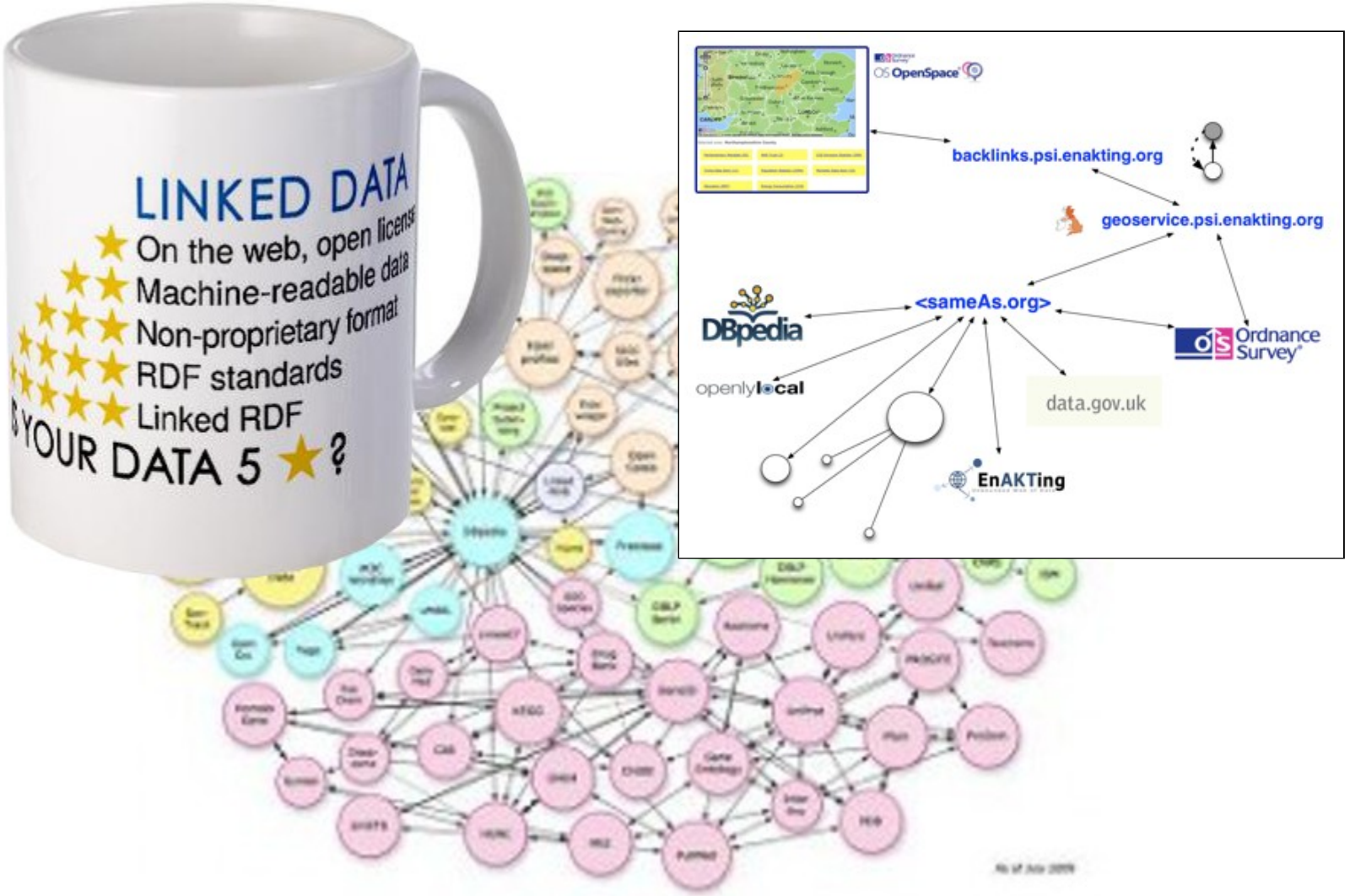
Delivery

- Improve data quality
- Industrialise release processes
- Data standards and support (“linked data”)

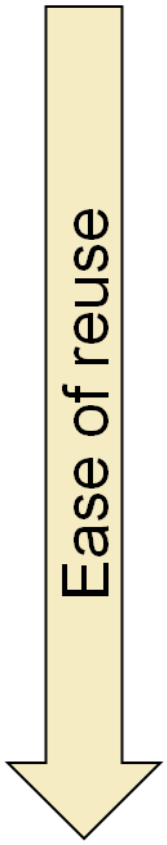
Government is a data user too

The importance of location

Government: key provider of reference data



Data Publishing – Star Quality



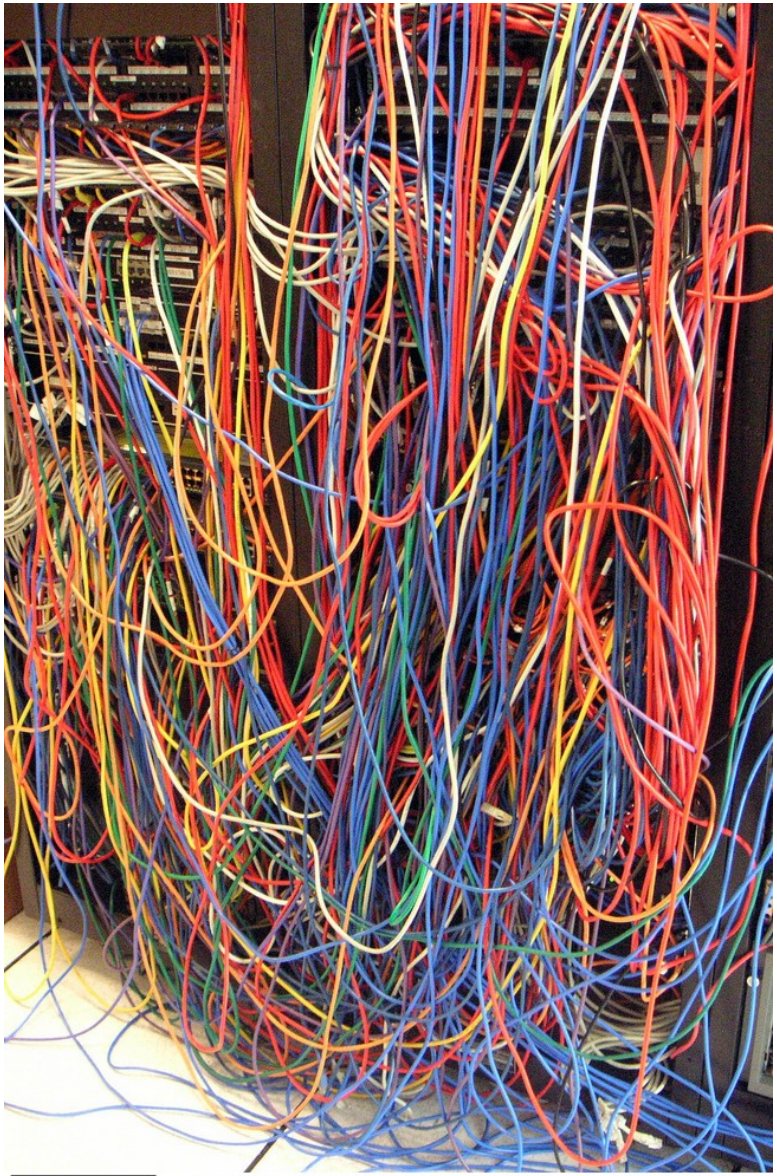
★	Put your data on the Web (any format)
★★	Make it available as structured data (e.g. Excel, CSV, instead of PDF)
★★★	Use open, standard formats (e.g. XML, RDF)
★★★★	Use URLs to identify things (so people and machines can point at your data)
★★★★★	Link your data to other people's data

Benefits of linked data <u>within</u> Government also

Open Data Institute: its mission

- Develop capability of UK businesses to exploit value of Open Data
- Engage developers/small businesses to build Open Data supply chains and commercial outlets
- Help public sector use its own data more effectively
- Ensure academic research in Open Data technologies

Data Quality

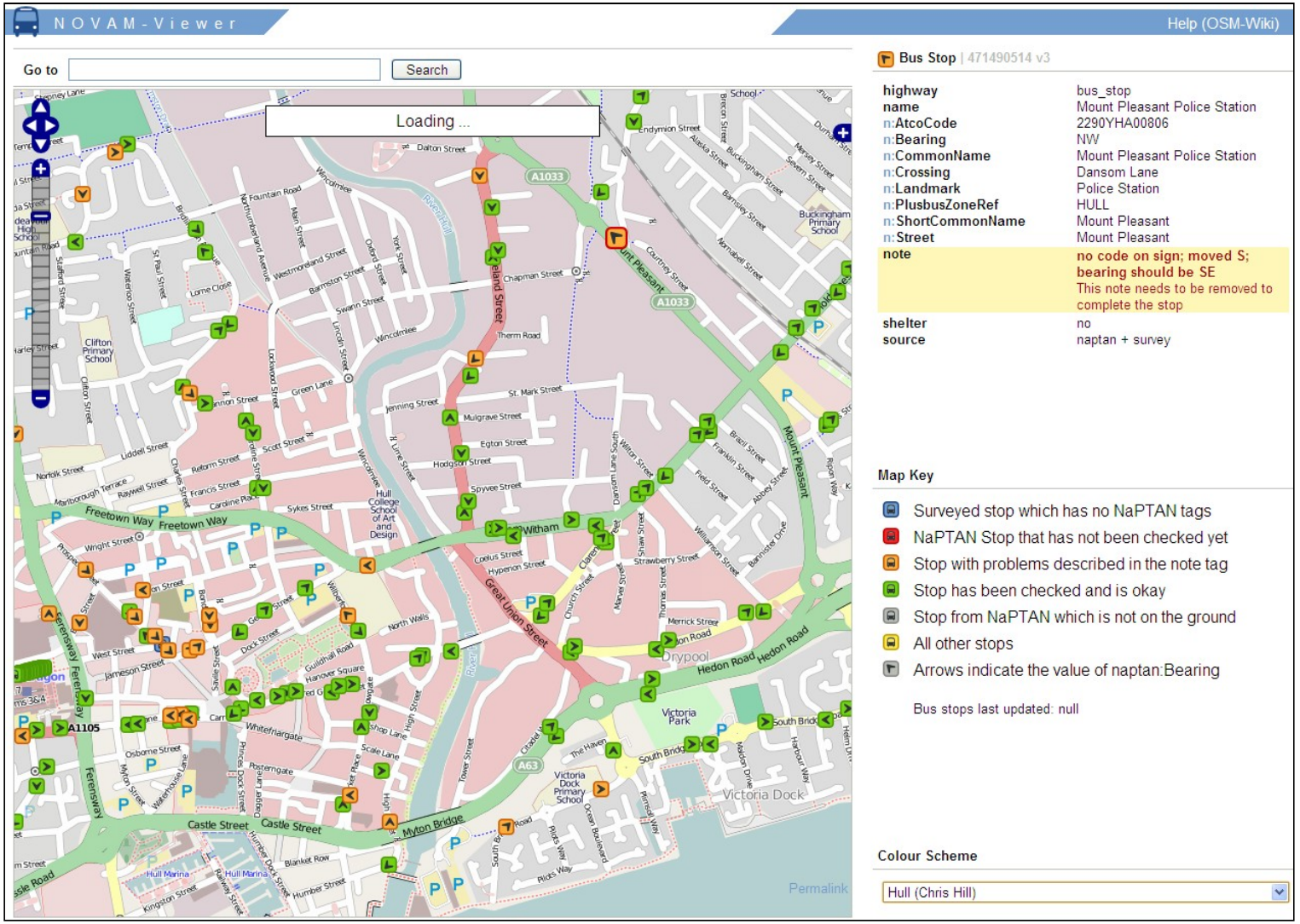


(cc) BY

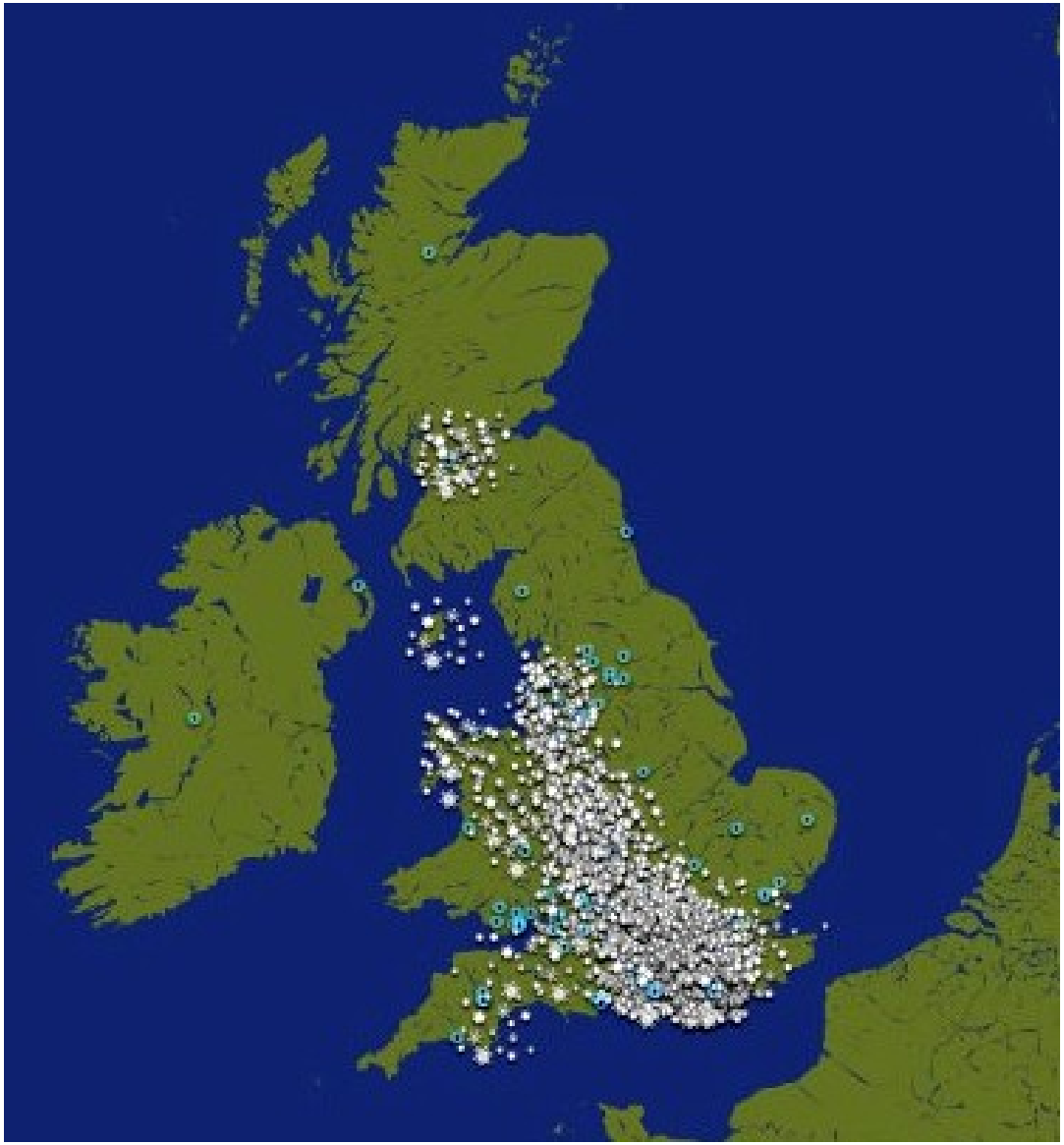
http://www.flickr.com/photos/macsurak/5020598359

- Release of data will reveal issues of data quality
- Celebrate greater checking of data!
- Remind business of Garbage In, Garbage Out
- Ensure legal waiver
- Use as stimulus to
  - Measure
  - Prioritise
  - Improve

Using crowd-sourcing to improve data



Citizen sourced data



“#uksnow TN13 2RY 4/10”

Other routes to public services

FixMyStreet

Report a problem | All reports | Local alerts

mysociety.org

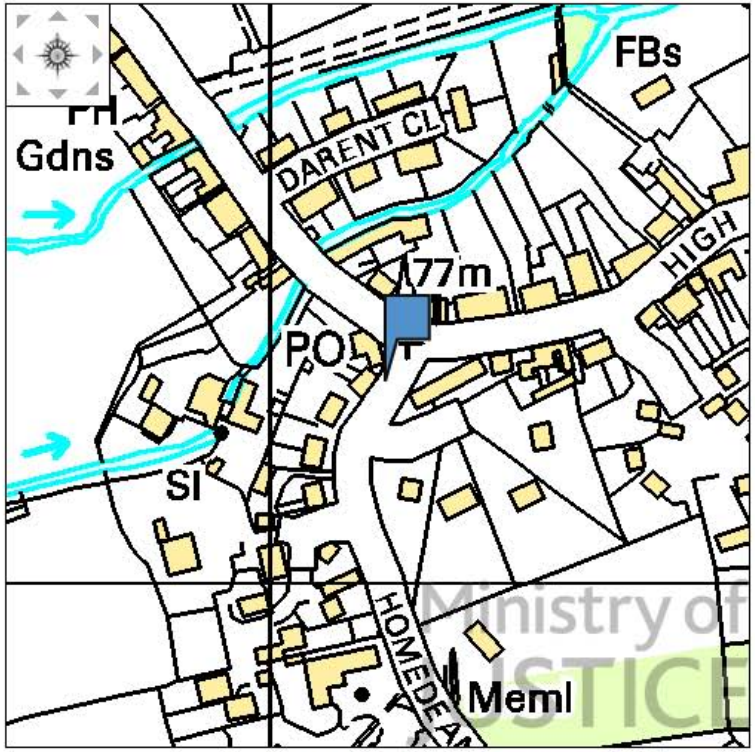
This problem has been fixed.

Pothole reappearing in High Street

Reported in the Potholes category by Andrew Stott at 15:19, Saturday 15 January 2011
Sent to Kent County Council 1 minute later

A pothole has reappeared in the High Street, in a section of road used by traffic in both directions (due to parked cars on the other carriageway). A pothole in this location was reported and fixed last spring; the repair does not seem to have been effective. The pothole is adjacent to a utility access cover.

Offensive? Unsuitable? Tell us



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View on Google Maps

“Open” approach to personal data?

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MarketingWeek

OPINION: WALLY OLINS

“A brand's real value is nothing, except in the eye of the beholder”

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Could mydata be the answer to personal information problems?

21 April 2011 | By Ruth Mortimer

A government initiative to make available to the public all the customer data held by companies sounds good in theory.

This week, the NHS contacted me by email to offer me help quitting smoking, even though I've never started. And not so long ago, a clothing catalogue dropped through my door offering me more great skirts for my wardrobe, although I have never bought anything from that particular yummy-mummy clothing brand.

So who is the linen-wearing, smoking consumer being targeted by these companies? It certainly isn't me. While both companies claim to hold data on my behaviour, they don't know the right things. And neither marketing communication benefited me, nor them, in any way.

Discussion

End