

Ask not what the PDC can do for GI – ask what GI can do for the PDC

EEO/AGI Seminar Edinburgh
28th September 2011

Professor Robert Barr OBE
Manchester Geomatics and University of Liverpool

Overview

- What is the (a) Public Data Corporation?
- Why may it be important?

- Principles
 - Operation
 - Regulation

- Conclusion

Cabinet Office Business Plan – November 2010

ACTIONS

2.6 Drive release of high value datasets

- i. Work with BIS and HMT to create a Public Data Corporation (Started, to be completed by Apr 2011)
- ii. Work with the Shareholder Executive to drive the release of core reference data for free re-use from the Public Data Corporation (Start Nov 2010 End April 2011)

MILESTONES

D. Public Data Corporation created April 2011

[About the Cabinet Office](#)[National Security](#)[Constitutional Reform](#)[Government Efficiency](#)[Transparency](#)[Big Society](#)[Government: How it works](#)

Public Data Corporation to free up public data and drive innovation

12 January 2011

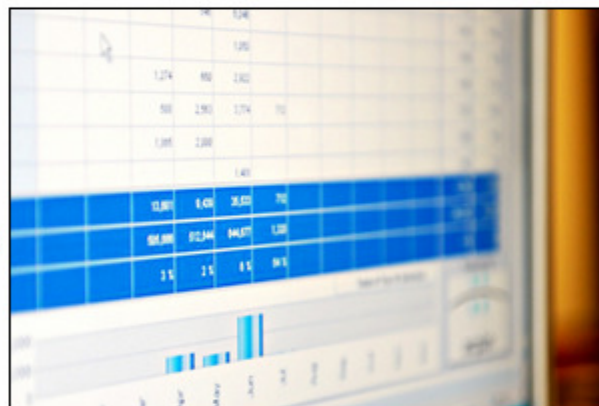
Minister for the Cabinet Office [Francis Maude](#) and Business Minister [Edward Davey](#) have outlined plans for a new Public Data Corporation.

The Corporation will, for the first time, bring together Government bodies and data into one organisation and provide an unprecedented level of easily accessible public information and drive further efficiency in the delivery of public services.

Supporting the Government's growth agenda, it will open up opportunities for innovative developers, businesses and members of the public to generate social and economic growth through the use of data.

The Corporation will also have the potential to attract investment, reinforcing and accelerating the development of these world class assets and their contribution to the knowledge economy.

By bringing valuable Government data together, governed by a consistent set of principles around data collection, maintenance, production and charging, the Government can share best practice, drive efficiencies and create innovative public services for citizens and businesses. The Public Data Corporation will also provide real value for the taxpayer.



Related News and Media

[Government removes barrier to public data use](#)

[Tell us which datasets you want released](#)

["Send us your comments" says new Transparency Board](#)

[Transparency and Privacy Review announced](#)

[Crime on your street revealed](#)

[View all news](#)

Related links

[More information about the Transparency Board and the Public Data Principles](#)

[Growth Review](#)

Most recent resources

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Transparency Board

The PDC will:

- 1) Provide a more consistent approach towards access to and accessibility of public sector information,
making more data free at the point of use where this is appropriate and consistent with ensuring value for taxpayer's money;

Transparency Board

The PDC will:

2) Create a centre of excellence driving further efficiencies in the public sector; and

Transparency Board

The PDC will:

3) Facilitate or create a vehicle that can attract private investment.

Minutes Transparency Board 2nd March 2004

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Francis Maude said:

“Public sector information underpins a growing part of the economy. The technology that is around today allows people to use and re-use this information in new and different ways. The role of Government is to help maximise the benefits of these developments. At present many state agencies face a conflict between maximising revenues from the sale of data and making the data freely available to be exploited for social and economic gain. Creating the PDC will enable the conflicts at the least to be managed consistently with a view to opening up access, and at best to be eliminated.”

PDC Mission ???:

AGI Mission:

'The Mission of the AGI is to maximise the use of geographic information (GI) for the benefit of the citizen, good governance and commerce.'

PDC Mission ???:

Should it be:

'The Mission of the PDC is to maximise the use of government information for the benefit of the citizen, good governance and commerce.'

Cross Cutting Review of the Knowledge Economy

Review of government information

Final Report - Introduction

A Review of Government Information was carried out during the Government's Spending Review 2000 as part of the Cross-Cutting Review of the Knowledge Economy, co-chaired by Andrew Smith, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Patricia Hewitt, DTI Minister for Small Businesses and e-Commerce. It was concerned particularly with the availability of information subject to Crown copyright for reproduction and reuse by the information industry.



Copying maps costs AA £20m

'Fingerprints' in Ordnance Survey sources used as proof

Andrew Clark

The Guardian, Tuesday 6 March 2001 19.32 GMT

[Article history](#)



Tuesday 17 November 2009

Ordnance Survey to open up data - PM

The Prime Minister has announced that the public will have more access to Ordnance Survey maps from next year, as part of a government drive to open up data to improve transparency.

- [Communities and Local Government website](#)
- [Read more about the Make Public Data Public project](#)

Gordon Brown said the government and Ordnance Survey, Great Britain's national mapping agency, will open up the data relating to electoral and local authority boundaries, postcode areas and mapping information.



What needs to be recognised

Core Reference Geographies:

- 1. Are definitive*
- 2. Should be collected and maintained once and used many times*
- 3. Are Natural monopolies*
- 4. Have variable value in different applications*
- 5. Have highly elastic demand*

The candidates

- Geodetic Framework
- Topographic Mapping (including height)
- Geographic Names
- Addresses
- Streets
- Land and Property Ownership
- Hydrology / Hydrography
- Statistical Boundaries
- Administrative Boundaries

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Funding

- ONS
 - Click Use
- Ordnance Survey
 - Full cost recovery through trading
- HMLR
 - Mixed dissemination cost and ‘market’ price

Consequences

Association of Census Distributors

OPSI complaint against

Ordnance Survey

Consequences

Association of Census Distributors

OPSI complaint against

Ordnance Survey

Result

Consequences

Association of Census Distributors

OPSI complaint against

Ordnance Survey

Result

Ordnance Survey business model, and admission of cross subsidy, accepted

PDC – Learning from the data wars

- If we don't learn from history we are doomed to repeat it
- Geographic Information has been subject to continued and acrimonious data wars
- So what Principles can we extract from this history?

Principle 1

Government should only collect and maintain data which is required to deliver a specific policy objective.

Principle 2

Government data should normally be definitive, that is collected once, maintained in a single place with only one correct version.

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Definitive government data creates a 'natural monopoly.

There is no market mechanism for setting a price for the resale of such data

Any price restricts re-use, both due to the cost and often largely due to the overheads of licence administration; thereby creating measurable inefficiencies

Principle 3

Wherever possible data should be used for multiple purposes across government rather than allowing departments to generate separate data sets for similar purposes. In the US OMB A130 stipulates that no government department may invest in a data set until it has demonstrated that no other government data set can be re-used . By contrast, in the UK there are at least 4 mutually inconsistent property registers:

Principle 4

By default, unless there is a privacy consideration confirmed independently by the Information Commissioner, all government data sets should be made freely available in a raw form through data.gov in as timely a manner as possible. Wherever possible in real-time rather than according to a publishing schedule. Data distributed through this channel would be “as is”, without quality assurance or kite mark. If publishers want quality-assured data with authenticated provenance, it should be licensed from the Public Data Corporation.

Principle 5

A not-for profit Public Data Corporation, may be encouraged as a value-adding intermediary between government and data publishers wishing to re-use government data.

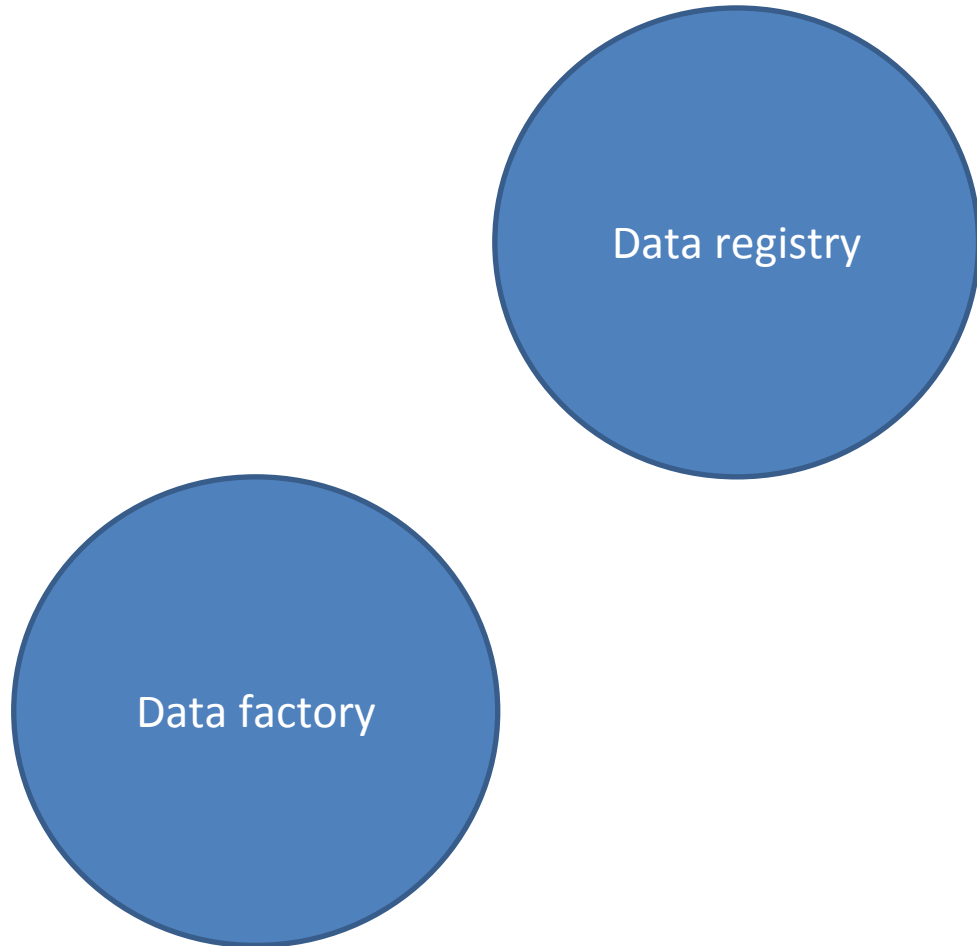
Principle 6

A regulatory Office of Government Information, possibly including the function of the Information Commissioner OPSI and some functions of the OGC, should independently ensure that these principles are complied with.

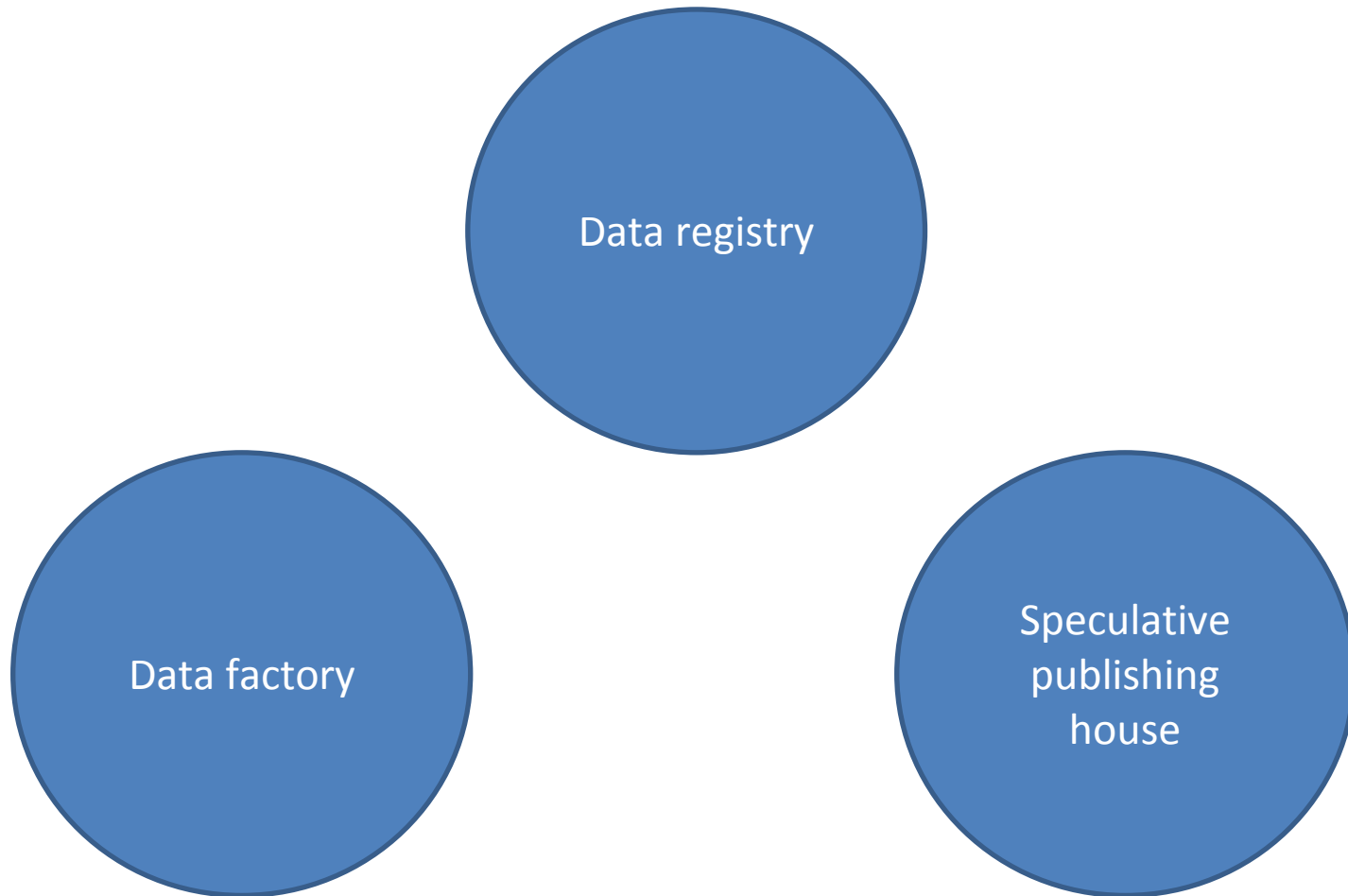
Operation



Operation



Operation



Conclusions

- Most of the issues raised by the PDC have already been encountered with Geographic Information initiatives
- We know why most of those have failed
- If we do the same it is naïve not to expect the same outcome
- The Open data , PDC and Growth initiatives offer an important opportunity to do things differently

Conclusions

- The PDC should
 - Concentrate on the public interest and minimal intervention
 - Handle only data that is essential for government
 - Concentrate on *definitive* collect once use many times data
 - Be funded sustainably by charges for change not charges for use
 - Be lightly regulated

Conclusions

- Alternatively one or more PDCs should:
 - Take on the trading activities of exiting Trading funds
 - Be regulated to have no privileged access to government data and benefit from no uncontrolled monopolies

Conclusions

- Alternatively one or more PDCs should:
 - Commercially provide data factory and publishing services on a ‘level playing field’
 - Be regulated by a Public Data Registrar responsible for open data regulation and monitoring government data production and procurement

That's it

Professor Robert Barr OBE
robert.barr@liverpool.ac.uk

manchester.geomatics

THEORY INTO PRACTICE



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL