PSI: State Control or Public Freedom?

5th COMMUNIA Workshop

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Wide disparity of results from current re-use policies

- Examples of strong growth in the legal or business and statistical sector re-using of PSI
- Low level of growth of re-use in the EU Geospatial sector
- Contrast sector economic growth too
Policy proposals (1)

- State should first **define** what information it requires for good government and it should then **procure** it.

- The definition of PSI should be decided by independent committee focusing on *Statutory responsibility and market shortcomings*.

- The State should **own** PSI.

- PSI should be **available for re-use at the marginal cost of distribution**.
If State believes it must exploit PSI then alternatively.....

- Complete separation of upstream (raw/basic data) production activities from downstream (value-added) commercial activities
- Re-users must have access to upstream data on same terms as State resellers
- Must still define PSI and set boundaries to activity
- Must ensure accounting regime is based on true product cost
- Must ensure advice and decisions are not conflicted
- Must create a substantial Regulatory regime that works

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Little protection for the re-user currently....
The PSI Directive is inadequate

- It only covers PSI activities that are part of Public Task
- It does not properly define Public Task
- It defines PSI as “documents”
- It allows for charging at more than Marginal Cost
- By implication, it permits product cross-subsidization
The National Land & Property Gazetteer

Content and Origination

- Local Authority Addresses and some map co-ordinates
- Posttown & postcode
- Royal Mail
- Ordnance Survey

Burden of Licensing
Cost & terms
The EURADIN research

- 94% of respondents stated addresses were important (26%) or business critical (68%)
- 80% believed their business prospects were sensitive to improvement of degradation of quality
- Over half felt a better source of addresses would open new business opportunities
- 72% felt that poor addressing cost their business money
- Half of these reckoned the cost was more than 1% of turnover
Suppose the research is right …..

• And better addressing in the UK could benefit production in about a third of organisations by over 1% of turnover

• Equates to about £5,000,000,000pa of GDP

• Contrast this with the current revenue as shared between Ordnance Survey, Royal Mail and Local Government…..

• …..Of less than £25,000,000pa

• And yet Government policy encourages commercial exploitation of PSI holders and thus holders must be robust gate-keepers and ration use through restrictive licensing

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To summarise ..... 

- Lack of recognition in most of the EU of the scale of the problem or its true cost
- Solutions not straightforward or quick
- Lack of political will to fix problems
- Opportunities are being lost