

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

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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

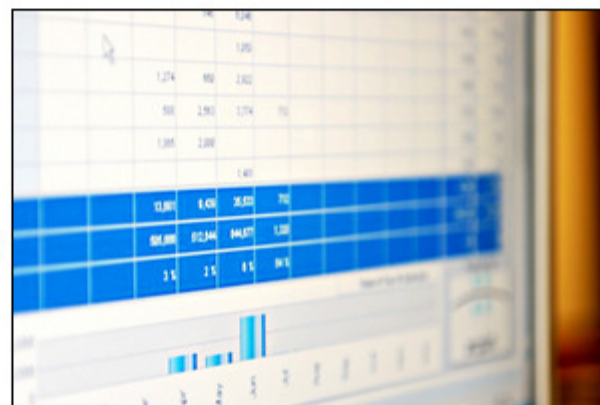
Minister for the Cabinet Office [Francis Maude](#) and Business Minister [Edward Davey](#) have outlined plans for a new Public Data Corporation.

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

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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.

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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.”

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 ???:

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

Principle 1

Government should only collect and maintain data which is required to deliver a specific policy objective. These usually fall into one of three areas:

- Definitive registers required for tax, regulatory or democratic purposes e.g

- i. Land
 - ii. Property
 - iii. Residence
 - iv. Electors
 - v. Vehicles
 - vi. Companies
 - vii. Charitable organisations
 - viii. Electoral administrative and statistical boundaries
- Etc.

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- Data required for security including:

- i. Environmental
- ii. Civil contingency
- iii. Anti-terrorist
- iv. Military

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- Definitive registers required for tax, regulatory or democratic purposes e.g
- Data required for security including:
- Data required to monitor and maximise national economic efficiency e.g

- a) Data to enable timely efficient and competitive property transactions
 - i. such as house price data
 - ii. Property parcel data

- b) Data on the transport network
 - i. A definitive street map
 - ii. Bus and Train routes

Principle 2

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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:

1. Land Registry
2. Valuation Office Agency
3. Local government
 - NLPG / LLPG
 - Electoral register
4. Royal Mail PAF
5. Ordnance Survey
 - AddressPoint
 - Address Layer 2
 - GeoPlace

Principle 5

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 6

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.

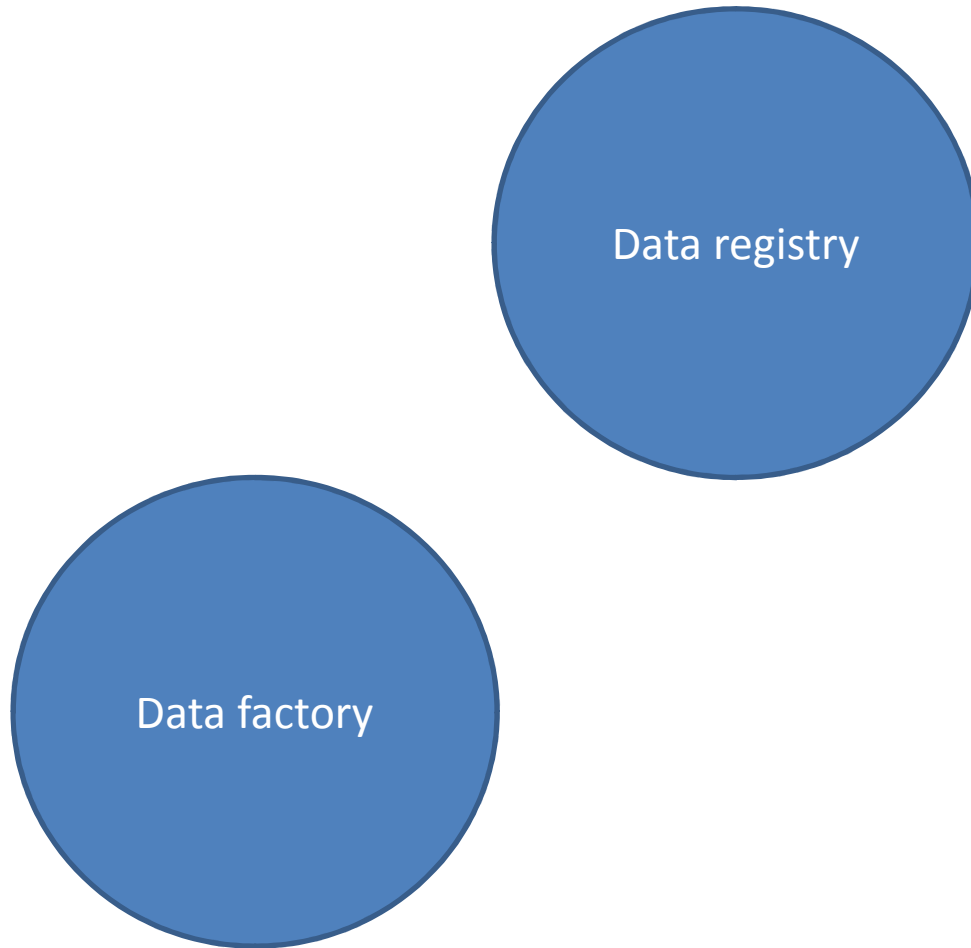
Principle 7

A small regulatory Office of Government Information, possibly a function for the Information Commissioner, should independently ensure that these principles are complied with.

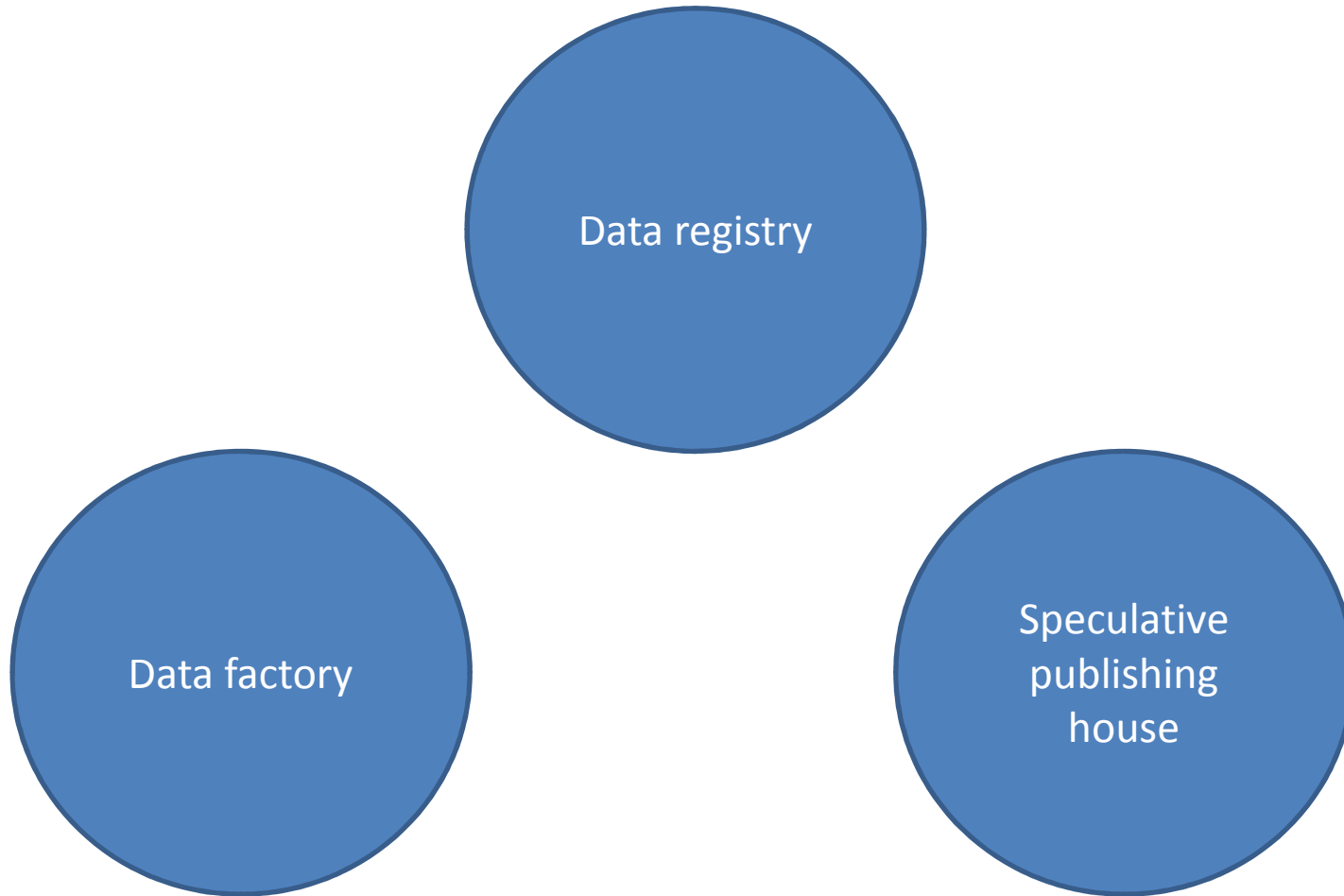
Operation



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

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

That's it

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THEORY INTO PRACTICE



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