



HM TREASURY

OPEN DATA: UK UPDATE

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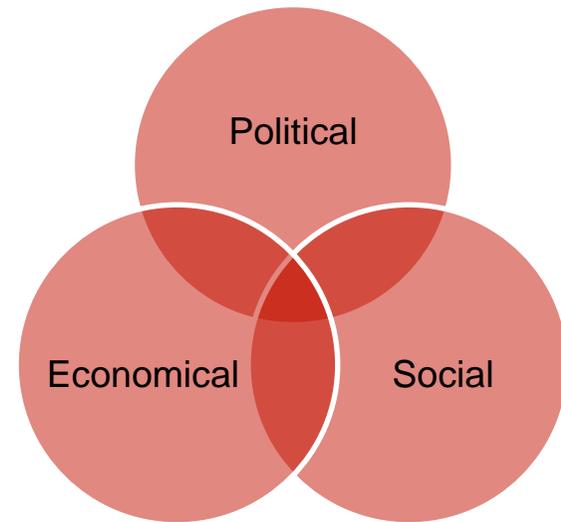
Introduction

- In May 2010 when the Prime Minister came into office, he announced the largest transparency agenda of any UK Government.
- Transparency was seen as a ‘powerful tool’ to reform public services, foster innovation and empower citizens.
- In addition, it was hoped that transparency would create economic growth by enabling the creation of valuable new services and applications.
- The government is now one of the world leaders in Transparency and currently chairs the Open Government Partnership organisation until September 2013.

Scope

Transparency was designed to answer questions such as:

- Who does what in Whitehall?
- How is your money spent?
- Who are ministers meeting?
- What are the current government contracts?



Scope

To achieve this they committed to releasing data regarding:

- **Pay and Job Roles**

Such as salaries for all senior civil servants and Organograms for each organisation

- **Expenditure**

All transactions that exceed £25k to published by each department every month

- **Contracts and Tenders**

New central government contracts and new central government tender documents for contracts over £10,000.

- **Underlying data to Government publications**

Release of historic COINS raw data (2005-6 to 2009-10) and any releases from COINS/OSCAR database on a quarterly basis.

- **Information on Local Government**

Including pay, contracts, expenditure.

Commitments – public services data

They also committed to releasing public services data. The most successful of these include:

- **Police Crime Maps**
- **School Performance**
- **Health Care outcomes**
- **Met Office data**
- **Real-time transport information**

- **And they committed to releasing any other datasets that government held....**



Original Focus

1) Get the data out in the public sphere at the earliest possible opportunity to allow people access to the data.

2) The government wanted the data to be released to be raw data not pre-packaged by departments.

3) The data should be accessible from a single source.
(e.g. www.data.gov.uk)

4) The data should be free to access and re-use through the creation of the Open Government Licence

5) Improve the data over time.

Usability

- After the introduction of the Transparency agenda in May 2010, it soon became apparent that for government to create the benefits from open data they needed to increase the usability of the data.
- In July 2011, the Prime Minister again wrote a letter to announce further transparency commitments with specific references to usability.

Dataset file	Download	Format	Columns	Data	Valid	Transactions	Oldest	Latest	Total (£)
Spend over £25,000 in the Crown Prosecution Service									
December 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	141	03/12/2012	31/12/2012	13,799,543
November 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	73	01/11/2012	30/11/2012	5,556,066
October 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	143	01/10/2012	31/10/2012	12,731,416
September 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	114	03/09/2012	28/09/2012	11,578,464
August 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	101	01/08/2012	31/08/2012	5,638,787
July 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	175	02/07/2012	31/07/2012	11,415,061
June 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	109	01/06/2012	29/06/2012	12,282,580
May 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	131	01/05/2012	31/05/2012	7,234,105
April 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	121	02/04/2012	30/04/2012	15,281,085
March 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	182	01/03/2012	29/03/2012	20,960,411
February 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	134	01/02/2012	29/02/2012	5,070,025
January 2012 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	102	04/01/2012	31/01/2012	12,889,423
December 2011 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	111	02/12/2011	30/12/2011	10,684,404
November 2011 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	121	02/11/2011	30/11/2011	8,452,622
October 2011 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	119	03/10/2011	31/10/2011	14,379,259
September 2011 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	126	01/09/2011	30/09/2011	15,202,041
August 2011 return	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	122	01/08/2011	31/08/2011	5,852,715

Usability

Policy updates included:

- All government spending data to include plain English descriptions explaining the scope and purpose of every transaction from September 2011
- Every department to work with Cabinet Office transparency team to produce an action plan in November 2011 for improving the the quality and comparabilty of data. **As a result the 5 star Open Data framework emerged:**



Advantages of Transparency

Increased scrutiny of Government spending... Potential for innovation?

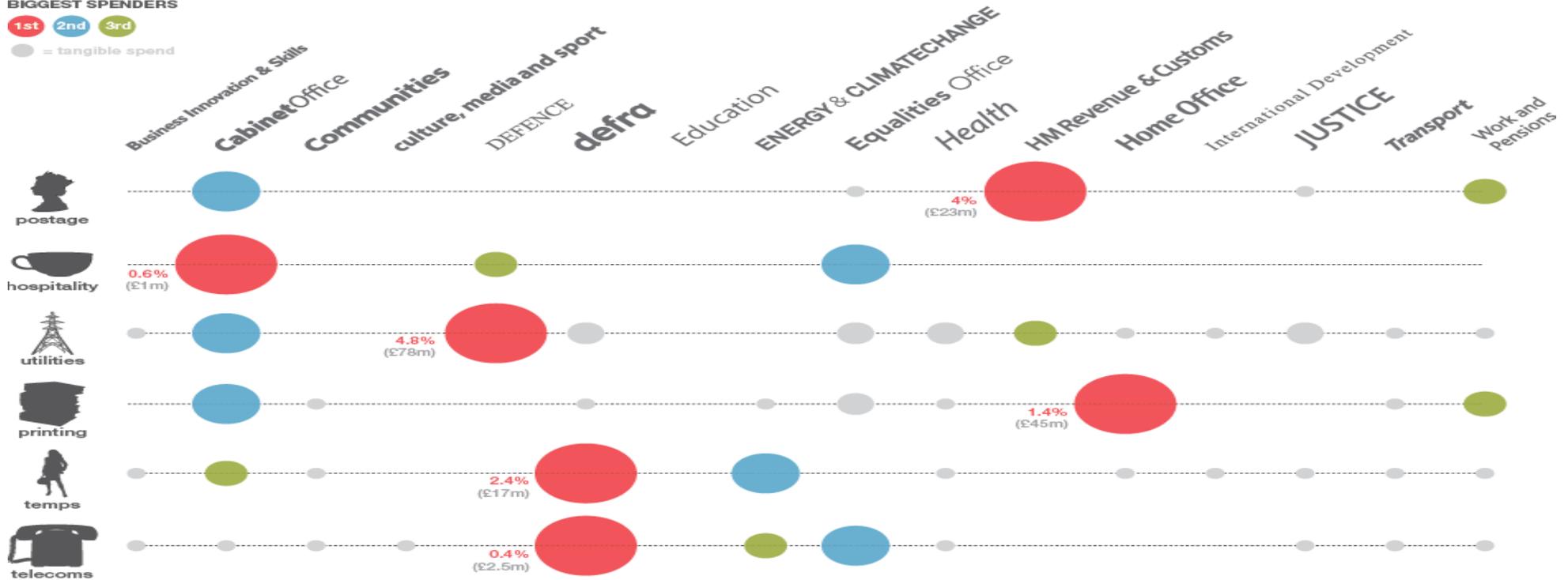
Bean Counters

Office expenses. Which department spends the most?

BIGGEST SPENDERS

1st 2nd 3rd

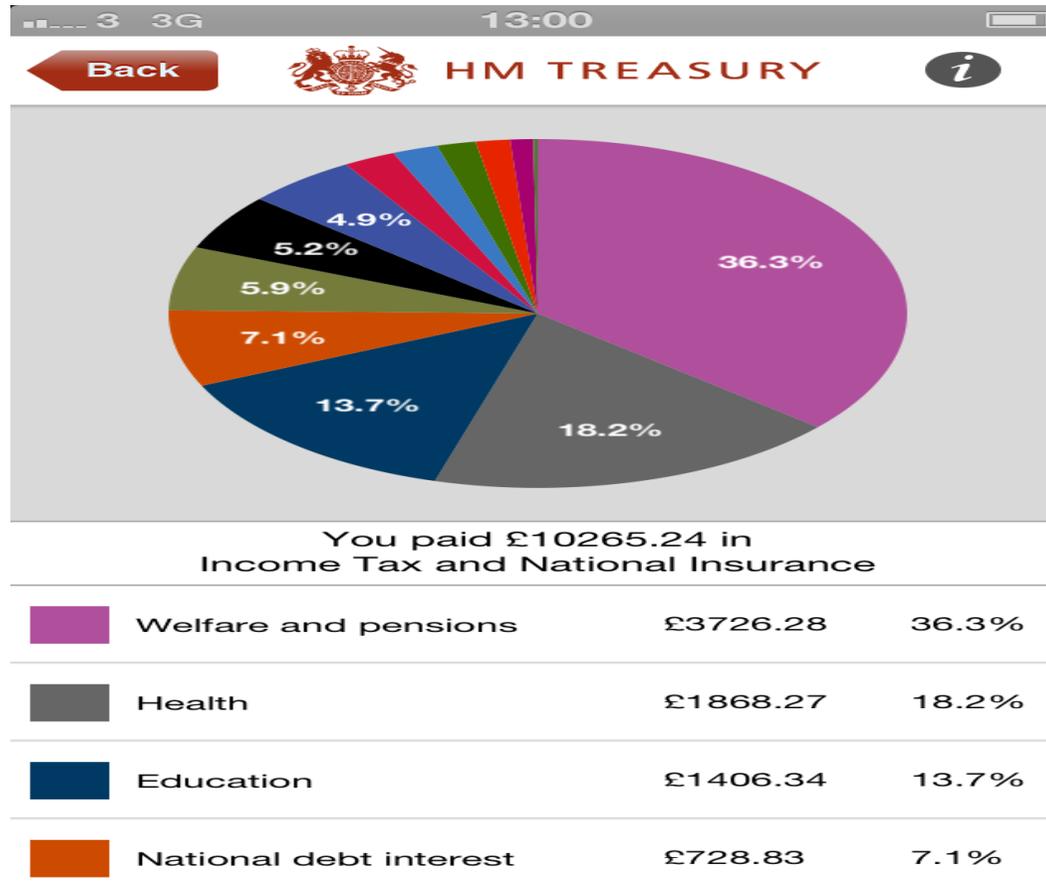
● = tangible spend



David McCandless // v1.0 // Nov 10 // InformationIsBeautiful.net // source: Guardian Datablog // figures: 3 month spending // data: bit.ly/beancounters

Advantages of Transparency

Economic growth driven by applications.



Advantages of Transparency

Productivity:

Research shows that transparency usually increases brings about a change in processes...

Example:

British Heart Surgeons began voluntarily publishing outcome data in 2005.

As a result, mortality rates on Aortic Valve Replacements decreased by one third after the introduction of Transparency Agenda.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that publishing Whitehall data is moderating behaviours and improves internal management systems.

Disadvantages

Time and cost?

Costs versus benefit gained from the releases?

Potential benefits not being fully realised?

Are there any simple improvements which would increase the use of the data already being released? Is it enough to just release the raw data in an unprocessed form?

Too much information for the public to digest?

Can the public easily find the information they need in the mass of available data?

How can the data be used?

- Identify wasteful spending, leading to more efficient spending and better value for money.
- Hold government to account over outcomes. Specifically, comparing expenditure on services to the outcomes the services produce.
- Benchmark government against other government bodies, either internationally or at a local level
- Businesses can use government contract information, to identify opportunities in government where they can provide a service.
- Provide innovative applications for Smart Phones and Internet tools to visualise the mass of government data

Questions

If you would like any further information on initiatives in the UK, please contact:

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