

# **IMPLEMENTING THE EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE ON THE RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION – THE UK PERSPECTIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION**

1. The UK implemented the European Directive on 1 July 2005.  
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051515.htm>

2. Since then the Office of Public Sector Information has been involved in spreading awareness and best practice to ensure that the public sector meet their PSI responsibilities.

## **What was the reaction from the public sector?**

3. The reaction of the public sector has been varied but certain key issues have emerged. Some of the main ones are:

- Confusion about the difference between access and re-use.
- How will this affect our own commercial activities?
- Disbelief that anybody could possibly be interested in re-using the information?
- We do not have the resources to manage this.
- What are the benefits for us?

4. Considerable progress has been made at central government level. This is largely because the management of copyright for central government information is handled centrally through OPSI.

5. We found however that there was a lack of awareness of copyright and licensing at local government level. Much of OPSI's activity has been spent trying to redress this issue.

## **Introduction of Initiatives**

6. A number of initiatives have been launched. These include:

- Click-Use Licence – This is an on-line licence that has recently been extended beyond central government to cover the wider public sector  
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/system/licenceterms/CCWPS03-00.pdf>
- The Information Fair Trader Scheme verification process  
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ifts/index.htm>
- The issue of best practice guidance <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/advice-and-guidance/psi-guidance-notes/index.htm>

## **The Future**

7. The process of providing guidance and assistance on how the responsibilities under the PSI regulations can be met. In many cases meeting the obligations prove to be rather more straightforward than some public sector fear. One of the themes we are

exploring is how to establish a working relationship between public sector organisations and potential re-users. For example we are looking to form a working group so that the private sector can indicate the sort of information that they are most interested in. This avoids the public sector going to the trouble of listing and identifying information that the private sector has little interest in re-using.