

Official Statistics & Open Data

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THIS IS FOR EVERYONE!



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Open Data vs Official Statistics

- Tim Berners-Lee
 - Inventor of the world wide web
 - But also creator of open data ratings (5* model)
- Scottish Government Open Data Strategy
 - Covers whole public sector and asks organisations to implement Open Data plan for 3* by 2017

Our Approach – ‘why’

Developing an open data platform to support the release of data behind Scotland’s official statistics

- We’re doing in consultation with both SG statisticians and non-SG producers to promote understanding of requirements and buy-in
- Doing ‘open data’ already, but need to improve accessibility and reuse more generally
- increase web publishing of data **AND** reduce spreadsheet publishing
- thousands of CSV and Excel files on topic pages, potentially locking away millions of individual pieces of data

Open Data Publishing Platform – ‘what’

- Make the data behind our official statistics easy to access, use and understand
- Using new data technologies by disguise
 - Users don't need to know they are consuming 5* LOD RDF Triples
 - They care about accessibility, visibility and usability
- Unlocks data points in spreadsheets into resource-rich webpages
- Allows us (and users) to build flexible tables with different combinations of data
- Use common, agreed and authoritative definitions, such as geographies for council areas, electoral wards, and health boards
- Available to all producers of official statistics in Scotland

Public Access

- One place for official statistics about Scotland – regardless of ‘owner’
- Users can navigate datasets by text search, themes and organisation lists (as well as a list of all datasets we hold)
- Data isn’t stored by its publication name – unless that is an intuitive way to find the data you need
- Benefit of agreed concept like geographies means that we can pull together area profiles with maps and other visualisations
- Moving to <http://statistics.gov.scot> for launch (February 2015)
- Seeking feedback to help inform the launch product, and future priorities (acceptance testing, real user testing, blog, email ...)

Considerations

- Needs to be maintained and kept up to date (or users will avoid it)
- Datasets need to be well modelled, have good metadata and be well populated
 - Data can be rendered useless without good metadata
 - Using GSS/EU/International metadata schemes
- Early and regular involvement with data owners to help us achieve these aims

Benefits for adopting ODPP

- Improve transparency and decision making
- One place for Scotland's official statistics
- Providing additional functionality as the site and platform develops (based on feedback)
- 5* data as standard

