



Tuesday 31 March 2009

**Appointment of new members to Advisory Panel on Public Sector
Information**

Michael Wills MP, Minister of State for Justice, today announced the appointment of four new members to the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI).

Speaking about the appointments, Michael Wills said:

“The new members of APPSI are people of great expertise who share a desire to see the full potential for the re-use of public sector information realised. I am very pleased to have such a strong advisory body in place to support the Government’s drive to unlock the value of public sector information to improve public services, encourage innovation and better engage with communities and citizens.”

The Chair of APPSI, Professor David Rhind, said:

“I am delighted that the Minister has appointed our four new members who will enrich the experience and skills of APPSI. On behalf of all my APPSI colleagues I welcome them 'on board'.”

The four new members of APPSI are:

- Prabhat Vaze, a senior civil servant economist at the Department for Transport and former chief economist at the Office of National Statistics. He is appointed as an economics expert for a period of two years.
- Bill Oates, Head of Cartographics at the Welsh Assembly Government and former Associate Director, specialising in environmental and geospatial information at Atkins, a multinational design and engineering consultancy. He is appointed to represent Wales and Welsh interests for a period of three years.
- David Lammey, head of the Central Freedom of Information team at the Office of the First Minister and Deputy Minister in Northern Ireland and former head of records management and administration at the Public Record Office in Northern Ireland. He is appointed to represent Northern Ireland and Northern Irish interests for a period of three years.
- Michael Jennings, who has held several senior Director-level roles at Surrey Council since 1984 and also represents local government interests at national level. He is appointed to represent Local Government interests for a period of three years.

Notes to Editors

1. APPSI is a non-departmental public body which advises Ministers about opportunities for greater re-use of public sector information. APPSI advises the Director of the Office of Public Sector Information (part of The National Archives) about changes and opportunities in the information industry. APPSI reviews and

considers complaints arising under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and advises on the impact of the complaints procedures under those Regulations. More information on the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information is available at: www.appsi.gov.uk.

2. The appointments were made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. More information about the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments website at: <http://www.publicappointmentscommissioner.org/>

3. The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) is at the heart of information policy, setting standards, delivering access and encouraging re-use of public sector information. More information about OPSI is available at: www.opsi.gov.uk

4. For more information members of the media should contact the Ministry of Justice News Desk on 020 33 34 35 36. Members of the public should call the Public Enquiry Line on 020 33 34 35 55.