

PSI and Devolution

Scotland:

Hector MacQueen

N. Ireland:

David Lammey

PSI and Devolution

- Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – devolved Parliament/Assemblies, administrations
- The United Kingdom (Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- No devolution for England
- The **variability** and **fluidity** of devolution – a process, not an event – e.g. Govt of Wales Act 2006, Calman Commission (Scotland)

PSI and Devolution: Scotland

- Scotland – 1603 (two kingdoms), 1707 (union of Crown, parliaments and markets)
- Scots law; Scottish courts; since 1999 Scottish Parliament
- Structure of local government – devolved but antedates devolution
- Registers of Scotland - devolved

PSI and Devolution: Scotland

- National Archives of Scotland - devolved
- Freedom of Information (S) Act 2002 – devolved institutions only (Fol and data protection = UK)
- Scottish Information Commissioner, Queen's Printer for Scotland – Crown copyright reserved
- But PSI Re-use NOT devolved – why not?

PSI and Devolution: Scotland

- Structure of Scottish Government:
- First Minister
- Health and Wellbeing
- Finance and Sustainable Growth
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Justice
- Rural Affairs and the Environment
- Where does PSI fit?

Promoting PSI in Scotland

- Scottish Executive seminar in 2006
- APPSI visit 2006 – Finance Minister, Scottish Information Commissioner
- Active engagement of Registers of Scotland
- Increasing awareness of National Archives of Scotland
- Use of Representative Member?

PSI in Northern Ireland – the context

- **PSI re-use is not devolved – PSI re-use regulations apply to NI**
- **Large public sector – small private sector**
- **No clear PSI ‘lead’ Department or business area**
- **Land & Property Services – flagship of a very small PSI fleet:**

NIMA – key agreement

PSI in Northern Ireland – the context

- **Overall lack of knowledge, understanding and interest about PSI in Departments and wider public sector**
- **Fitful and fragmented approach to information access**
- **Promotion of PSI – sporadic and lacking in momentum**

Developments in Northern Ireland

- **'NIDirect' – on-line government services**
- **'Opendatani' – limited response to Pol Taskforce report report**
- **Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service**
- **GeoHub NI – continuous improvement**
- **Geographic Information Strategy 2009-2019**
- **Data Sharing Protocol between LPS and Belfast City Council**

How can we foster PSI in Northern Ireland?

- **Communicate our goals to:**
 - **NI Executive (Ministers)**
 - **Permanent Secretaries Group**
 - **NI Local Government Association (NILGA) & Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)**
- **Raise awareness – hold a PSI promotional event**

How can we foster PSI in Northern Ireland?

- **Remove barriers**
 - **Legislative**
 - amend Data Protection Act to encourage data sharing within and between bodies
 - Implementation of INSPIRE
 - **Funding/Investment**
 - demonstrate savings in terms of cost and time to stimulate Ministerial and senior management interest
 - publish case studies around problems or issues to assist buy-in

(ii) How can we foster PSI in Northern Ireland?

- Cultural: openness and transparency**
 - full and effective implementation of FOI Act – making information and datasets available via model publication schemes and disclosure logs**
- Fragmentation and duplication**
 - sound governance and leadership**
 - encourage a collaborative and cross-cutting approach to projects and data collection**