



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

Minister of State for Justice, Michael Wills, today announced the appointment of eight new members to the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information.

**The Minister of State for Justice, Ministry of Justice (Michael Wills) said:**

"The new members of APPSI bring with them a wealth of experience and real passion for the subject and I am confident they will be able to play a major role in informing our information policy approach.

I would also like to thank the outgoing members who have played an active role particularly in the successful UK implementation of the EU Directive on Re-use of Public Sector Information."

Professor Richard Susskind, Chair of APPSI, said:

"I am delighted to welcome our new members to APPSI. They are a remarkably expert and experienced group and they will help us greatly in fulfilling our role as the main advisers to Ministers on the re-use of public sector information. Now is an especially challenging and important time for the UK's information industries and for PSI managers, and I intend that our strengthened team at APPSI will continue to encourage the public and private sectors to realise the value of PSI".

The eight new members, who are appointed initially for three years, are:

### **Neil Ackroyd**

Neil Ackroyd is the Executive Director responsible for Data Collection and Management at the Ordnance Survey. Prior to joining the public sector he was employed by the GPS & Location Based Services company Trimble. He is the author of many papers. He is appointed as a Representative Member for trading funds.

### **Christopher Corbin**

Christopher Corbin has 47 years experience working in the private, public and self employed sectors. He has an Information, Communication and Technology background. He is currently completing an assignment as an Analyst within the European Commission ePSIplus Thematic Network that supports the implementation of the European Directive on Public Sector

Information Re-use. He is appointed as an expert member on Geospatial Information

### **J Eric Davies MA PhD FCILIP MCMi FRSA**

Dr Eric Davies is currently Consulting Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Information Science at Loughborough University. His experience of professional library practice includes over 25 years in academic library management. His main interests lie in statistics and performance assessment. He is appointed as a Representative Member for the Library and University community.

### **John Gray**

John Gray has enjoyed lengthy periods of employment in both the Public and Private sectors of the UK economy. He currently divides his interests between a mix of executive and non-executive Board appointments with business concerns and trade associations that enjoy an active interface in the re-use of public sector information. He is appointed as an Expert Member to cover Digital Content

### **Hilary Newiss**

Hilary Newiss was a partner and Head of Intellectual Property at a city firm of solicitors. Since leaving the city she has concentrated on public service and policy in the Intellectual Property, health/science and technology fields. She has served on the Human Genetics Commissions for 6 years and the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee. She is appointed as an Expert Member to cover Intellectual Property issues.

### **Michael Nicholson**

Michael Nicholson is Managing Director of Intelligent Addressing Ltd, which initially helped develop a local authority-led dataset called the National Land & Property Gazetteer. He is currently Chair of the Locus Association, a body of private sector companies concerned by the re-use of PSI. He is appointed as an Expert Member to cover Geospatial Information

### **Shane O'Neill**

Shane O'Neill is Commercial Director of the BMJ Group, a worldwide leader in healthcare information, and founder of a leading Public Sector Information strategic consultancy business (Shane O'Neill Associates). His career has focussed on information publishing. Shane has also been consulted by and worked on behalf of several Government organisations to help them implement their PSI policies and procedures. He is appointed as an Expert Member to cover Digital Content

## **Phillip Webb**

Phillip Webb was Chief Executive of the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) from 2001 until his retirement in March 2007. During a life long career in ICT he has acquired a wealth of high-level experience in information management within academia and government research organisations. He is appointed as an expert Member to cover Information Communications Technology

## **Notes to Editors**

1. APPSI is an independent non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice, set up in 2003. It has responsibility for advising Ministers about opportunities for greater re-use of public sector information. It also advises the Director of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) about changes and opportunities in the information industry. Under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, APPSI has a role in reviewing complaints. More information on the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information is available from its web site, [www.appsi.gov.uk](http://www.appsi.gov.uk).
2. The appointments were made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
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 at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk).

## **Ministry of Justice Press Office**

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