

Data Policy Review - MEDIN Response

Aims:

- Summary of the relevant legal requirements (e.g. FOI, EIR) and what they mean in practice
- Snapshot of how these obligations were being met in practice by the MEDIN partners
- Summary of how various approaches affected access to data, including views from users
- Recommendations (to be included in Business Plan 2010 onwards)

Outcome:

- By and large review succeeded in its aims, made difficult due to fast moving and not often clear changing data landscape with Government
- Confirmed mixed bag of good, bad and insular practices but with Government now forcing change
- Confirms MEDIN's aims and should make life easier as long as MEDIN responds appropriately - or is MEDIN still required?

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Recommendations split into four areas:

- Access policies
- Operational approaches
- Best practice initiatives
- Licensing and pricing

Each recommendation was cross referenced to MEDIN's current work plan and the emerging business plan which was then amended as required

Each area addressed in turn

Access Policies (priority only)

1. Pan Government Marine Data Plan	Asked to consider need for a marine data strategy and if required implement (later)
2. MEDIN partners to produce data asset list, identifying which are Public Task	HMG requirement. Promote, provide tools and guidance and ensure interoperability
3. Coordination with other data publication initiatives	MEDIN involved in UKLP but could it be better positioned? Single operation essential
4. Clarify correct DAC contacts within metadata	Encouraging creation and publication of metadata (includes contact information)
5. Provision of no charge, freely available, quality assured national datasets	Plan is to be more proactive. WS5 refers. Consistent with INSPIRE / 'Core Geographies'
6. Clear definition of data policy within data organizations and consistent application	Exists within Government. MEDIN to encourage, provide tools and guidance
7. Need a process to raise issues on access to public data	Plan identifies the need for departments to cooperate and help deliver MEDIN aims

Operational Approaches (priority only)

<p>1. Tools and support to ensure compliancy with INSPIRE requirements</p>	<p>Plan aim to identify the applications and resources that are commonly required</p>
<p>2. Clear overview of different portals and links between them</p>	<p>Plan calls for rationalising portal development, commits sharing metadata (and data) between MEDIN and the UKLP</p>
<p>3. Make it a contractual requirement for contractors to lodge data within MEDIN DACs</p>	<p>Data clause for Government contracts. Supports extending it to commercial contracts, esp. where data is supporting a lease or licence application (TCE / MMO)</p>
<p>4. Hold standardized versions of frequently requested datasets</p>	<p>Plan improves access to raw data as well as coordinating and supporting the production of value added reference data sets.</p>
<p>5. Data enquiry pages to request user information</p>	<p>Plan requires MEDIN to assess its performance against objectives and solicit feed back from users. Considering this.</p>

Best Practice (priority only)

1. Single INSPIRE compliant common metadata standard probably is used across the sector

Metadata is a key MEDIN achievement

2. Coordination with other relevant standards and provision of translation tools

WS4 of the MEDIN Business Plan addresses this issue.

Pricing & Licensing (priority only)

<p>1. Pan-government terms to avoid ongoing unrealistic charges for licensing their data to other government organisations.</p>	<p>Encourage partners to adopt Government Open Licence or sign up to Defra data sharing initiative</p>
<p>2. Ensure consistency / transparency for recouping marginal costs for data provision</p>	<p>Work with data holders to work with emerging Government data policies e.g. Open Government Licence while improving data management practices</p>
<p>3. Data Charging and competition law</p>	<p>Differentiate and document raw data and value added products and services. Complex area with a fine line between climate for competition and achieving a consistent set of unique reference data free at the point of use. We are not alone in this e.g. addressing Also reference to marine gazetteer</p>

MSCC Question to MEDIN – Do we need a Marine Data and Information Strategy? (TCE call for a Marine Data Plan)

Arguments

- Everyone else has one - why? To communicate and cement their intentions
- MEDIN needs one to demonstrate its place in the strategy hierarchy?
- MEDIN business plan has aims and actions – a strategy is not needed?
- But people still don't get it – the data process and sharing model is far from where we want it to be - a strategy would give MEDIN a much higher profile and help implementation or would it? If not, that then what? Leave it up to data.gov.uk?

Defra Evidence Strategy

Marine Science Strategy

Location Strategy

Defra Information
Strategy Consultation

Marine Data and
Information Strategy

LWEC paper: an emerging
environmental data strategy?

UKMMAS – not really a
strategy? – a National Marine
Programme would be better?