



Unlocking the power of public information

William Perrin

Secretary, Power of Information Taskforce
UK Cabinet Office

Cisco Public Services Summit
Stockholm
10 December 2008

Origins

- Transformational Government and 2006 Policy Review identified generic issue
- Joint TG/SU commissioned review - independent experts Tom Steinberg (Director of mySociety) and Ed Mayo (CE of NCC) following Ministerial seminar January 2007
- Review explored:
 - **Government's role in supporting new developments in citizens use and generation of information**
 - **whether public sector information could be better used to improve outcomes**
- Report published 8th June 2007, making 15 recommendations
- Government response 24th June 2007, accepting the recommendations
- Interim progress report April 2007
- Tom Watson set up Taskforce to drive forward May 2007
- Richard Allan (Chair), Tom Loosemore, Tom Steinberg, Sally Russell, DJ Collins, Alex Allan, Natalie Ceeney, Andrew Stott
- Secretaries – William Perrin, Alex Butler (COI), John Sheridan (OPSI), Richard Stirling CO)

Power of information

Citizen side

- Millions of people engaged in online mutual support using simple yet powerful tools
- How can we enable more self help?

Supply side

- Innovative public services using new yet simple web techniques
- How can we enable more innovation?
- All at ultra low cost and risk



People helping each other to public service outcomes in online communities

mumsnet By parents for parents

By [desperatelyseekingsleep](#) on Wed 21-May-08 14:15:54

DS1 has turned into a nightmare child over the last week or so. He's permanently distracted, doesn't listen to anything I say and just won't do as he is told. I'm finding myself getting increasingly angry with him which is just making the situation worse. How do I deal with this and make him

By [buttercreamfrosting](#) on Wed 21-May-08 14:23:54

Desperately, are you me? I have EXACTLY the same problem at the moment with ds2 -you could be describing him. Ds1 was never like this so was thinking it was just him. So, no advice, but if you don't mind I'll wait here in case someone comes along with some!

By [savoycabbage](#) on Wed 21-May-08 14:29:36

Firstly, it happens to us all so don't feel bad. I had to manhandle my (then) 3 year old in bloody Centre parcs and a crowd formed to watch us. AND it was the week after Madeleine McCann went missing and three different people came over and asked her if she knew 'this lady'...so you are not alone. It could well be a phase or maybe he is testing you out. Obviously you have got to stick to your guns but it sounds like you are anyway. I find distraction the best. I deserve an oscar for my enthusiasm when delivering such lines as 'ohhhhhh I wonder if we will see a green bus on the way home!!!' or 'I bet thatcat is still in our garden COME ON LET'S GO AND SEE!! I can sound excited about pretty much anything. I also used to carry a scrap of fabric in my bag which I used as a portable naught mat...

By [Oliveoil](#) on Wed 21-May-08 14:52:16

can you make it fun instead of using a you against him scenario?

for eg. the car seat thing, say "let's see who can get to the car first? ooooh you won! Right, let's get you strapped in nicely, ooooh do you want your biscuit/book now or later (or whatever bribe)"

imo, a battle of wills does NOT work, if you use distraction and fake enthusiasm, it does

dd2 was dreadful (and still can be) but I find if I shout and get strict it does now work. If I play games, it does

pain in the arse when you are tired though, you feel like saying oh ffs just do it already

By [desperatelyseekingsleep](#) on Thu 22-May-08 14:17:39

Thanks guys, lots of really useful tips there that I will try and use. Feeling a lot more positive about it today (probably because ds1 is at nursery). I must just keep reminding myself that it's only a phase...

Mum asks question at 2.15 – How do I get my child to pay attention. Caught in destructive pattern

1st supportive answer in 8 minutes

2 posts within the hour giving practical advice and support

Original mum logs at same time following day. Case closed.

Discussion cropped for ease of display

Students helping each other with finance problems in online community

The Student Room

1 Week Ago: 12th May 2008 09:04 #1

jacy_babi ♀
Respected Member
Thread Starter

My Societies [icon] Join Date: Apr 2006
Location: London
Posts: 246

is it true...

that if you apply for a maintenance grant you can't apply for a maintenance loan?

1 Week Ago: 12th May 2008 09:05 #2

River85 ♂
Overlord in Training

Join Date: Mar 2008
Location: NE40/Durham uni
Reps: 2,125

Re: is it true...

I don't think so, otherwise what would be the point of giving low-income people a grant if they then can't get a loan?

1 Week Ago: 12th May 2008 12:32 #4

Lizj
Exalted and Worshipped Member

Join Date: Oct 2005
Location: Derbyshire
Posts: 1,236

Re: is it true...

No, this is a vicious rumour spread by jealous students from middle-income families who don't qualify for grants. You might have met at least one of them on these boards! They claim that those who do get grants don't have a loan, and therefore no debt when they graduate. It is not true. If you get maximum grant then your loan is reduced, but not by a huge amount. You need to apply for tuition fee loan, maintenance loan, maintenance grant and university bursary.

'Jacy' asks a question here rather than ring the student bursary

Helpful response pointing right direction

Comprehensive answer trustworthy as comes from a respected member

Discussion cropped for ease of display

People trust each other to sort out government's complexitiesrather than asking the government....

Martin Lewis' **MoneySavingExpert.com**
FREE TO USE FREE OF ADS UK CONSUMER REVENGE

This thread has been viewed 170 times. [Tools](#) [Search this Thread](#) [Display Modes](#)

20-09-2007, 12:13 PM #1

laddo47
MoneySaving Newbie

Join Date: Sep 2007
Post Count: 1
Thanked 0 Times in 0 Posts

VAT & Duty on imported goods (Help)

My girlfriend recently purchased some clothing from a US based clothing store , with a total cost of 439 DOLLARS (So around 220 Pounds). She has now received a Tax Invoice from FedEx with an amount due of 143 Pounds. I am bemused as to how the duty and tax can be over 50% of what the cost of the items were?!

The invoice is broken down as follows:

Duty:	£74.41
VAT:	£62.51
Admin Fee:	£6.80

20-09-2007, 1:04 PM

Jason.LVC
Serious MoneySaving Fan

Join Date: Jul 2005
Location: Midlands and Switzerland
Post Count: 1,974
Thanked 2,237 Times in 1,069 Posts

Well, duty on clothing is around 12% so you add that on top of the purchase price and then you add VAT on everything at 17.5%. So 12% plus 17.5% equals 29.5% additional cost on top, the near 50% charges suggests something else is happening.

America introduced an extra **import** duty for things coming into the US on certain European goods without consultation or approval and so the EU has slapped these 15% extra duties on top for US exports (UK imports). This kind of thing happens all the time and eventually are resolved but folks can get caught up in the war so to speak.

20-09-2007, 1:40 PM

Jason.LVC
Serious MoneySaving Fan

I've amended my first post as something didn't sit right and I've gone off and checked it out. I think the answer is the good the OP has ordered come under a trade dispute (the Byrd amendment) and the EU has imposed an additional 15% duty on top of the original duty and VAT for certain items, including clothing – hence the massive near 50% **import** costs.

Technical question on import taxes posted to 'lay' people rather than HMRC

Jason, resident in Midlands and Switzerland, gives initial thoughts and narrows down the issues

Jason then comes back and clarifies with added detail. Query resolved in 1 hour 30 mins

Discussion cropped for ease of display

Benefits advisors helping each other with DWP complexities....to help their clients who aren't online

rightsnet

the welfare rights website for advisers

Subject: "Pension Credit and Housing Costs - Backdating" First topic Last topic	
laura Debt Adviser, Fulham CAB Member since 21st Apr 2006	Pension Credit and Housing Costs - Backdating Thu 20-Mar-08 09:05 AM Can housing costs on pension credit be backdated. (Mortgage interest and service charges). We have a client who has had their pension credit backdated 52 weeks but their Mortgage interest and service charges have not been. Is this correct? IP Printer-friendly copy Reply To
Gareth Morgan Managing Director, Ferret Information Systems, Cardiff Member since 20th Feb 2004	RE: Pension Credit and Housing Costs - Backdating Thu 20-Mar-08 10:02 AM NO. The PC entitlement, including and housing costs during the period, should be backdated. IP Printer-friendly copy Reply To
laura Debt Adviser, Fulham CAB Member since 21st Apr 2006	RE: Pension Credit and Housing Costs - Backdating Thu 20-Mar-08 10:07 AM Thanks for your answer. Do you know what regulation backs this up? IP Printer-friendly copy Reply To
Gareth Morgan Managing Director, Ferret Information Systems, Cardiff Member since 20th Feb 2004	RE: Pension Credit and Housing Costs - Backdating Thu 20-Mar-08 11:41 AM It doesn't need a regulation. There are no provisions within backdating for PC for a partial amount only of entitlement to be used, unless there is some offsetting reason. IP Printer-friendly copy Reply To

Laura asks highly technical question asked about an aspect of pension credit

Laura not hanging on the phone while waiting - free to do help others until answer comes in

Laura alerted by email that there is a response asks a follow up question

Specialist knowledge now captured for posterity and findable through Google

Discussion cropped for ease of display



Cabinet Minister:

‘If 30,000 mothers came together in a park or a football stadium to discuss parenting the government would sit up and take notice. When this happens on line we shouldn’t ignore it’

What should government do?

- Steinberg and Mayo recommended Government should engage in existing forums with a light touch - go to where the customer is
- Not compete by trying to set up our own
- Public sector has hundreds of thousands of experts used to dealing with customers (often in contact centres)
- Mild re-skilling required (about 30 minutes)
- Obstacles
 - Lack of awareness
 - No reward for innovation
 - No skills
 - High profile
 - Trivial IT obstacles – firewalls block forums, etc
- Communicate and spread awareness



Supply side

- Information on public services reworked and represented in an easily understood form.
- 'Data mashing'
- Enables consumers to make informed choices
- Promotes accountability and transparency
- Most innovation currently in voluntary sector
- Most big IT companies have no proven capability

Baltimore USA Police Dept Crime data table

Original Query		
Neighborhood	Crime Type	Date
Bolton Hill	All Crimes	03/19/2008 to 04/2/2008

Query Results							
Row	CC #	Crime	Priority	Date	Location	Foot	District
1	08C09485	STOLEN AUTO	STREET	Wed, 19 Mar 2008	130x EUTAW PL	123	Central
2	08C10266	BURG. OTH. (FORCE)	RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION	Thu, 20 Mar 2008	140x MCCULLOH ST	132	Central
3	08C10467	LARCENY- OTHER	OFFICE BUILDING	Fri, 21 Mar 2008	100x PARK AV #STE 103	142	Central
4	08C10294	LARCENY- PURSE SNATCH	STREET	Fri, 21 Mar 2008	180x BOLTON ST	133	Central
5	08C10380	BURG. RES. (ATT.)	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Fri, 21 Mar 2008	140x PARK AV	133	Central
6	08C10913	AGG. ASSLT. - OTH	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Sat, 22 Mar 2008	200x MADISON AV	151	Central
7	08C11356	LARCENY- SHOPLIFTING	GROCERY/CONFECTION	Sun, 23 Mar 2008	230x MCMECHEN ST	133	Central
8	08C11724	BURG. RES. (FORCE)	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Mon, 24 Mar 2008	140x JOHN ST	133	Central
9	08C12701	STOLEN AUTO	STREET	Tue, 25 Mar 2008	180x MADISON AV	151	Central
10	08000322	LARCENY- OTHER	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Tue, 25 Mar 2008	210x MOSHER ST	133	Central
11	08C12713	STOLEN AUTO	STREET	Tue, 25 Mar 2008	410x LAURENS ST	131	Central
12	08C12441	STOLEN AUTO		Tue, 25 Mar 2008	120x W MT RDYAL AVE	731	Central
13	08C11986	ROBB RES. (UA)	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Tue, 25 Mar 2008	720x W NORTH AV	134	Central
14	08C12500	AGG. ASSLT. - GUN	APT/CONDO - OCCUPIED	Wed, 26 Mar 2008	410x LAURENS ST	131	Central
15	08C14616	STOLEN AUTO	STREET	Fri, 28 Mar 2008	130x MASON ST	133	Central
16	08C14267	AGG. ASSLT. - CUT	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Sat, 29 Mar 2008	300x MCMECHEN ST	134	Central
17	08C14449	LARCENY- SHOPLIFTING	STREET	Sat, 29 Mar 2008	250x MCMECHEN ST	133	Central
18	08C14674	RAPE (FORCE)	APT/CONDO - OCCUPIED	Sun, 30 Mar 2008	170x BOLTON ST	133	Central
19	08C15504	BURG. RES. (FORCE)	APT/CONDO - OCCUPIED	Mon, 31 Mar 2008	150x BOLTON ST	133	Central
20	08000050	AGG. ASSLT. - GUN	STREET	Tue, 1 Apr 2008	160x DRUID HILL AVE	132	Central
21	08000050	AGG. ASSLT. - GUN	STREET	Tue, 1 Apr 2008	160x DRUID HILL AVE	132	Central
22	08000991	BURG. RES. (FORCE)	ROWTOWNHOUSE-VAC	Wed, 2 Apr 2008	140x W MOUNT RDYAL AV	153	Central
23	08004746	LARCENY- OTHER	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Wed, 2 Apr 2008	130x PARK AV	133	Central
24	08001058	BURG. RES. (FORCE)	ROWTOWNHOUSE-OCC	Wed, 2 Apr 2008	400x ROBERT ST	131	Central

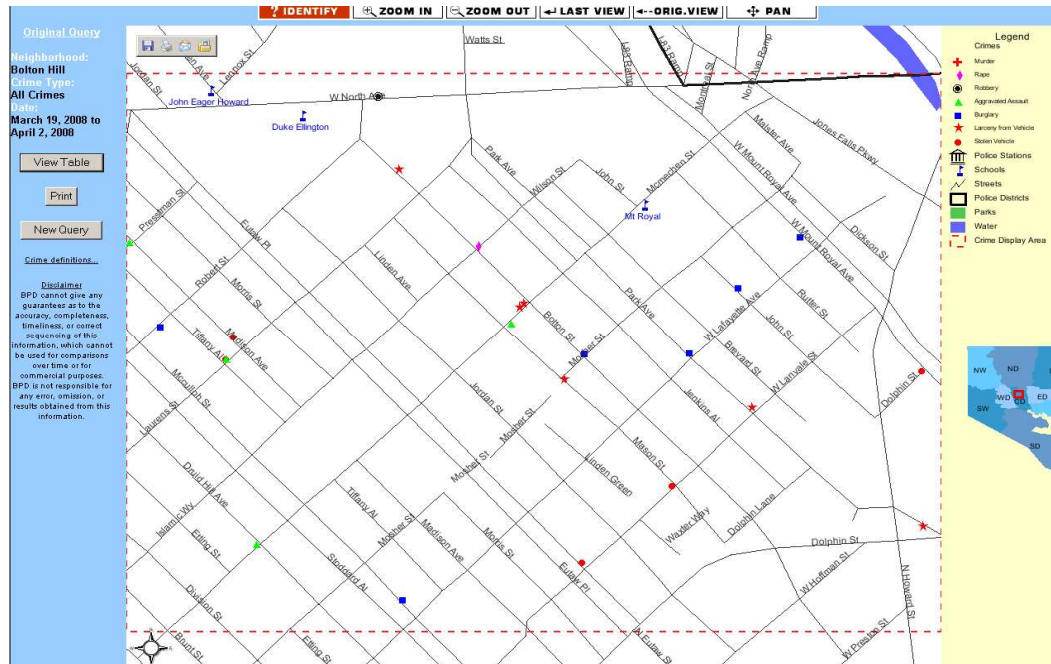
Disclaimer:
BPD cannot give any guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of this information, which cannot be used for comparisons over time or for commercial purposes. BPD is not responsible for any error, omission, or results obtained from this information.

47% of the UK population cannot understand... ‘straightforward mathematical information’ nor can they ‘independently select relevant information from given numerical information’

‘Skills for Life’ survey 2003 DfES Research Report 490

**Data for Central Baltimore - Bolton Hill All Crimes
03/19/2008 to 04/2/2008**

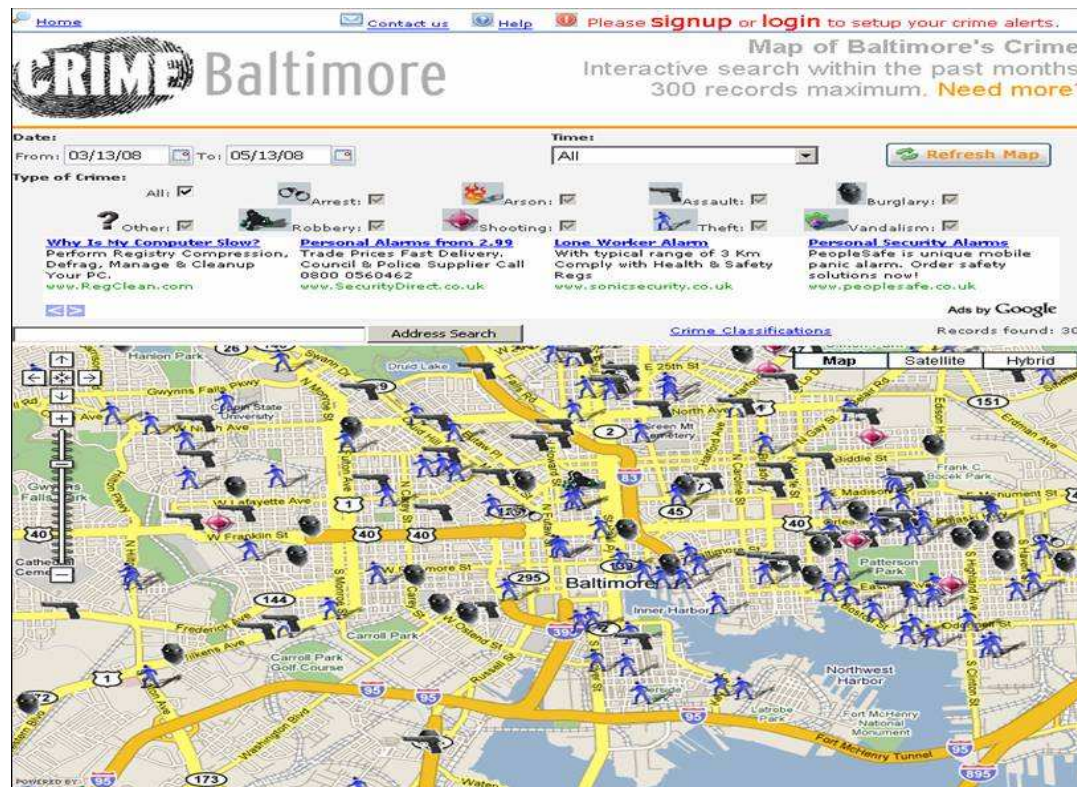
Baltimore Police Department Map



- Data table turned into a functional map by police department

- Increases comprehensibility but seems designed by officials for officials

Third Party Map – using police data



Broader data set
but also of Baltimore

Close to 100% of UK
population can understand
'information given by
numbers and symbols in
simple graphical and
numerical material'

'Skills for Life' survey DfES
Research Report 490 2003

Is crime rising or falling in my area? Mock up for Power of Information – February 2008

Post code driven

METROPOLITAN POLICE Working together for a safer London

Search Enter your search

Clerkenwell Ward, Islington, EC1R 1UA

Overview Local Detail Delve Deeper Do Something

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team for Clerkenwell
PS Joe Kennils [More...](#)

Slider to set time period for comparison

Select a date range for displayed data:
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

Display crime level compared to:
National average Similar areas Previous year

Choose collection:
 All crime
 Personal
 Property
 Vehicle
 Or individual categories...

Summary
Vehicle crime is down on the same period last year, but in the areas around Saffron Hill and Percival Street it has increased.

Computer generated heuristic text based on data

Clerkenwell Ward Headlines
Night time parking services
Two civil enforcement officers will be working alongside Police officers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to enforce parking restrictions. [Read more...](#)
Three variations on licensed premises
Three applications have been received for extended hours for sale of alcohol. [Read more...](#)
[More headlines...](#)

Where SNT produce info it can be displayed here

Top concerns in the Clerkenwell Ward
Your Safer Neighbourhood Team is focusing on:
 1. Anti-social behaviour
 2. Parking
 3. Car theft

What are you most concerned about?
 Select your concern...

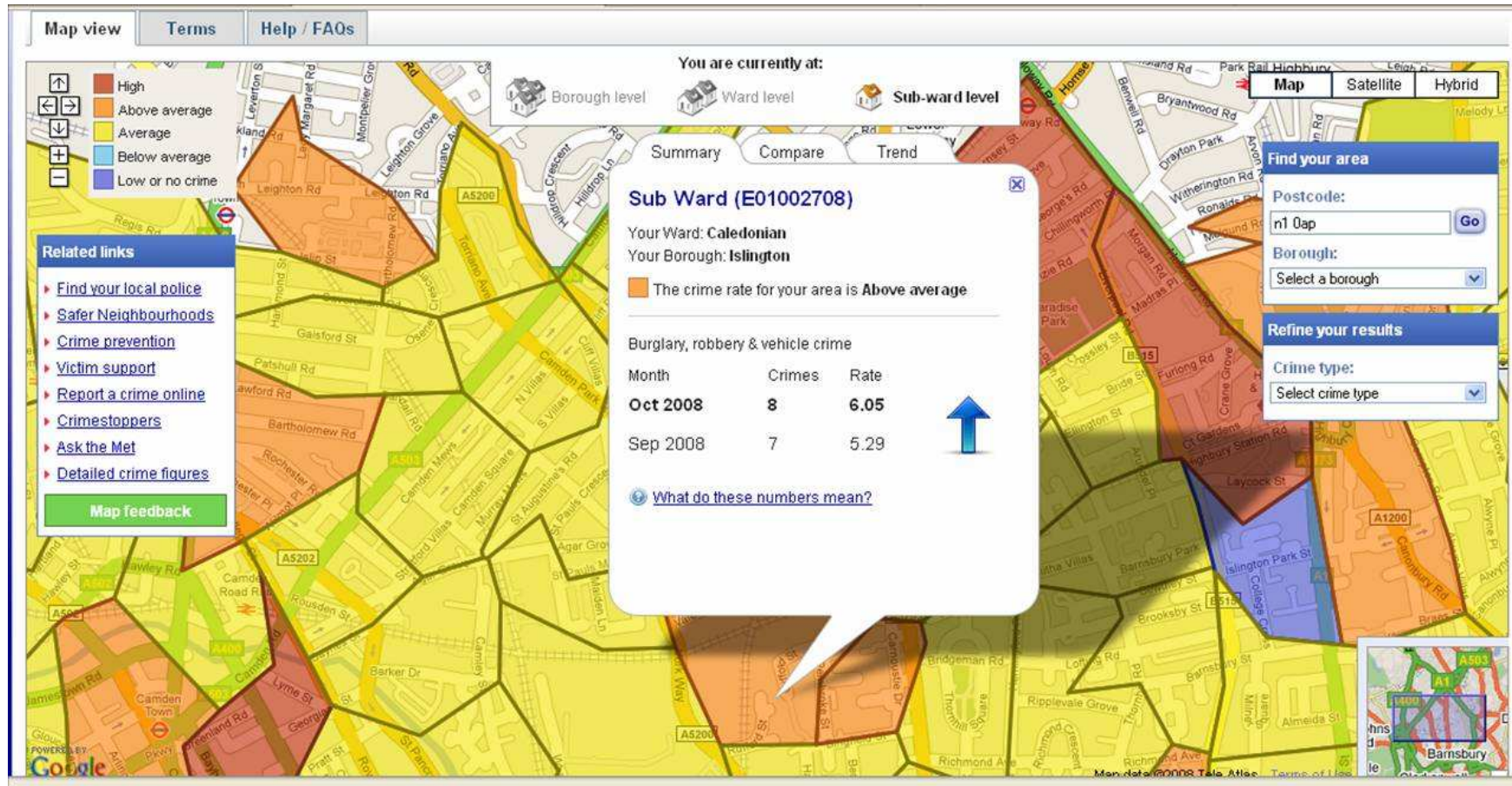
SNT police can email in top priorities set by Safer Neighbourhood Panel and is automatically displayed

Simple vote on SNP priorities

Falling Rising

DUMMY DATA

London police crime maps – July 2008



Parliament repurposed – www.theyworkforyou.com

The screenshot shows the original Parliament website interface. It features a top navigation bar with links like 'ABOUT', 'MEMBERS & STAFF', 'BUSINESS', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'A-Z INDEX', 'GLOSSARY', and 'CONTACT'. Below this is a search bar and a main content area with multiple columns. The left column includes 'ABOUT PARLIAMENT', 'MEMBERS & STAFF', 'BUSINESS', and 'PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS'. The middle column has 'Website highlights' with items like 'Patient nutrition', 'Embryology Bill', 'Draft legislation', and 'Burma and the EU'. The right column has 'Quick links' with categories like 'House of Commons', 'House of Lords', 'Video and Audio', 'Judicial work', 'Parliament translated', 'Jobs', and 'Freedom of Information'. The bottom section is titled 'Today's business' and 'Latest news'.



The screenshot shows the repurposed website interface. It features a top navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Your MP', 'UK', 'Scotland', 'N.Ireland', 'Wales', and 'Help'. Below this is a search bar and a main content area with a single column. The left column has 'At TheyWorkForYou.com you can:' with a list of features: 'Find out more about your MP', 'Search', 'Sign up to be emailed when something relevant to you happens in Parliament', and 'Read and comment on:'. The right column has 'click on the platypus!' with an image of a platypus and a 'donate' button. The bottom section is titled 'Most recent comments'.

Theyworkforyou repurposed the entirety of Hansard to produce more user friendly and effective site than Parliament could itself. 30,000 volunteer coding hours

Public sector attempt not driven from a citizen perspective

UK Parliament website has much less information relevant to the voter

Only information is formal titles and positions – no information on voting, etc

Biographical information from www.parliament.uk, from www.dodonline.co.uk which has very limited information without paid subscription

The screenshot displays the 'MEMBERS & STAFF' section of the UK Parliament website. The main content area is titled 'Member Profile' and features a profile for Tom Watson, a Member for West Bromwich East. The profile includes a photograph of Tom Watson, a Labour Party logo, and a list of his electoral history, Commons career, and political interests. The website's navigation menu is visible at the top, and a search bar is located in the upper right corner. A 'DODS' logo is also present in the top right corner of the profile section.

www.parliament.uk

HOME ABOUT MEMBERS & STAFF BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS A-Z INDEX GLOSSARY CONTACT

MEMBERS & STAFF

MPs and Lords Government and Opposition Offices Standards Finances

You are here: [Parliament Home Page](#) > [Members & Staff](#) > Member profile

MPs by [Alphabetical List](#)

MPs by [constituency](#)

[Find Your MP](#)

Lords by [Alphabetical List](#)

Lords by [party and type of peerage](#)

[Contacting a Lord](#)

Political Parties [Represented at Parliament](#)

Member Profile

Data provided by

Tom Watson

West Bromwich East

Majority: 11652

Electoral history

Member for West Bromwich East since 7 June 2001 general election

Commons Career

PPS to Dawn Primarolo as Paymaster General, HM Treasury 2003-04;
Assistant Government Whip 2004-05;
Government Whip 2005-06;
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Minister for Veterans) 2006;
Assistant Government Whip 2007-08;
Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office 2008-

Commons Select Committees

Member: Home Affairs 2001-03

Political interests

Industry, manufacturing, law and order, small businesses, defence, technology

Countries of interest

Done

Citizen led transparency – customer focused

MySociety created website pulling together all information from official sources one on MP

TheyWorkForYou.com

Tom Watson MP

RSS



- Labour MP for West Bromwich East
- Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (since 25 Jan 2008)
- Entered Parliament on 7 June 2001 – General election
- Majority: 11,652 votes. – 93rd out of 635 MPs.
- [Send a message to your MP](#) (via WriteToThem.com)
- [Sign up to HearFromYourMP](#) to get messages from your MP
- [Email me whenever Tom Watson speaks](#) (no more than once per

Links to encourage activism

day)

- [Voting record](#)
- [Committees and topics of interest](#)
- [Recent appearances](#)
- [Numerology](#)
- [Register of Members' Interests](#)
- [Expenses](#)
- [Early Day Motions signed by this MP](#) (From edm.ais.co.uk)

Link to more detail:
expenses, interests

Voting record (from PublicWhip)

How Tom Watson voted on key issues since 2001:

- Voted **very strongly against** a transparent Parliament. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **moderately for** introducing a smoking ban. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **strongly for** introducing ID cards. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly for** introducing foundation hospitals. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **strongly for** introducing student top-up fees. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly for** Labour's anti-terrorism laws. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly for** the Iraq war. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly against** an investigation into the Iraq war. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly for** replacing Trident. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **very strongly for** the hunting ban. [votes](#), [speeches](#)
- Voted **moderately for** equal gay rights. [votes](#), [speeches](#)

Read about how the voting record is decided.

More on [well-known issues](#) (from the Guardian) & [their full record](#)

- [Hardly ever rebels](#) against their party in this parliament.

Automatically generated
text on voting record

Citizen led transparency - agriculture



Site set up to track who gets what from CAP

Data lifted from government sites – no permission needed, just lifted straight from web

Not all governments publish data – list published to place pressure on them

Shows contribution and ranks within the EU

Data from 20 countries

2,927,246 searches since 1 December 2005

Farm subsidies in United Kingdom: summary

The United Kingdom data consists of separate data provided by authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Authorities in England first released data in March 2005. Soon after, Northern Ireland released data. Scotland and Wales followed in 2006. The quality and detail of data varies from country to country and this makes UK-wide comparisons almost impossible.

Amount: GBP 8 434 169 880
 Payments: 535 083
 Recipients: 302 837
 Years: 2002-2003 - 2006-2007
[read more](#)

United Kingdom scores 36% in farmsubsidy.org's [transparency league table](#)

United Kingdom: Snapshot Statistics (2006)		Rank*
Total CAP spending in EU:	€49 799 million (€304 per citizen)	
United Kingdom national budget contribution to CAP:	€5 606 million (€96 per citizen)	4th (13th)
Total CAP spending in United Kingdom:	€4 308 million (€74 per citizen)	5th (18th)
Net budgetary gain or loss:	-€1 298 million (-€22 per citizen)	22nd (17th)
Total direct aid to farmers:	€3 521 million	5th

- Austria: Denied
- Belgium: Partial
- Cyprus: No data
- Czech Republic: Partial
- Denmark: Good
- Estonia: Partial
- Finland: Partial
- France: Partial
- Germany: Partial
- Greece: Denied
- Hungary: Partial
- Ireland: Partial
- Italy: Partial
- Latvia: Good
- Lithuania: Partial
- Luxembourg: No data
- Malta: No data
- Netherlands: Good
- Poland: Partial
- Portugal: Partial
- Slovakia: Good
- Slovenia: Good
- Spain: Partial
- Sweden: Good
- United Kingdom: Partial

Data mashing/Public Information Role

LISTEN TO TAXMAN.COM

UK PAYE Income Tax Calculator 2008

Enter gross wages. click calculate

? Tax Year: 2008/09

? Married Widow Blind I pay no NI

? Include student loan

? Age: under 65

? Other allowances / deductions: 0

? Tax code (this is optional):

? Pension (% of gross or amount): 0

? Gross income every Hour - (37.5) is 6.5

Calculate

? Wage Summary
Year Month 4 Week 2 Week 1 Week

Wage Summary		Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
Gross Pay	100%	£12,675.00	£1,056.25	£243.75
Tax free Allowances	43%	£5,435.00	£452.92	£104.52
Total taxable	57%	£7,240.00	£603.33	£139.23
Tax paid	11%	£1,448.00	£120.67	£27.85
National Insurance	6%	£793.65	£66.14	£15.26
Total Deductions	18%	£2,241.65	£186.80	£43.11
Net Wage	82%	£10,433.35	£869.45	£200.64
Net change from 2007		£-48.00	£-4.00	£-0.92

08/09 07/08 06/07 05/06 04/05 03/04 02/03 01/02

- Considered the number one calculator on the internet for calculating earnings, proving an invaluable tool alongside any small business accounting solution or corporate payroll software.
- Calculates tax paid and national insurance, it is constantly updated with new features and the most current tax rates and bands figures from UK budget decisions.

Where has data mashing suddenly come from?

- Massive increases in computer power and the internet make it easy to combine two data sets (a map and the crime stats)
- Ten years ago would have required special computers and statisticians. Now someone sitting on a park bench with a laptop connected to the internet can do it.
- Sometimes called 'data mashing' – take two or more sets of data 'mash' them together in a website to create a new product



How to unlock this creativity? Basic principles

- Any data published should be reusable electronically
- New protocols for publishing data:
 - Data must conform to an electronic version of 'Plain English' - have the right internal grammar and vocabulary
 - In many cases as simple as publishing raw data in an Excel Spreadsheet
- Allow your data to be manipulated by third parties on your website – *'allow the passengers to drive the bus'*
- Acknowledge loss of control and promote creativity
- Ask the customer

Unlocking the potential – just put the data where it is easy to find...

- Search cost for data critical barrier
- Data Catalog by State Government of District of Columbia
- Mainly links to hard to find data sets all in one place
- ‘Click to show this data on a Google Map’

<http://data.octo.dc.gov/#>

Data Catalog

For years the District of Columbia has provided public access to city operational data through the Internet. Now the District provides real-time data from multiple agencies to citizens, a catalyst ensuring agencies operate as more responsive, better performing organizations. Use the data catalog below to subscribe to a live data feed in Atom format and access data in XML, Text/CSV, KML or ESRI Shapefile formats. Please note that by accessing the data catalog and feeds, you agree to our Terms of Use. Please read before accessing the data. All data visualizations on maps should be considered approximate. The visualizations provided by this application include only records that can be mapped.

Live Data Feeds

- CJS Juvenile Arrests and Charges
- Completed Construction Projects 2008
- Crime incidents (ASAP)
- Current Construction Projects
- Hansen Service Requests
- Registered Property
- Registered Vacant Property

See it on Google Maps

- Building Permits
- Completed Construction Projects 2007
- Completed Construction Projects 2008
- Crime incidents (ASAP)
- Current Construction Projects
- DCPS Computer Deployment
- Hansen Service Requests
- Housing Code Enforcement

Custom Downloads

- Building Permits
- CJS Juvenile Arrests and Charges
- Completed Construction Projects 2008
- Crime incidents (ASAP)
- Current Construction Projects
- Hansen Service Requests
- Housing Code Enforcement
- Public Space Permits
- Registered Property
- Registered Vacant Property

Popular Downloads

- CJS Juvenile Arrests and Charges 2008
- Crime incidents (ASAP) 2008
- Crime incidents (ASAP) 2007
- Crime incidents (ASAP) 2006

Browse Catalog

Please note that data feeds contain the latest update from the source database (which might include records from several days ago and not today's date).

Displaying: All categories Enter a keyword to search: Search

Category: All categories

Source	Metadata	XML	Text/CSV	Atom (GeoRSS support)	KML/ESRI Shapefile	Maps	Download
DCRA	Building Permits	10/22/2008	10/22/2008	10/22/2008	10/22/2008	See it on Google Maps	Custom download
MPD	CJS Juvenile Arrests and Charges	10/30/2008	10/30/2008	10/30/2008			Custom download

We asked the public to show us a better way..

Show Us a Better Way

Tell us what you'd build with public information and we could help fund your idea!

What would you create with public information?

Ever been frustrated that you can't find out something that ought to be easy to find? Ever been baffled by league tables or 'performance indicators'? Do you think that better use of public information could improve health, education, justice or society at large?

The UK Government wants to hear your ideas for new products that could improve the way public information is communicated. The [Power of Information Taskforce](#) is running a competition on the Government's behalf, and we have

a £20,000 prize fund to develop the best ideas to the next level. You can see the type of thing we are looking for [here](#). If you can build it - even better - we have an additional £20,000 cash to give you.

To show they are serious, the Government is making available [gigabytes](#) of [new](#) or [previously invisible](#) public information especially for people to use in this competition. Rest assured, this competition does not include personal information about people.

We're confident that you'll have more and better ideas than we ever will. You don't have to have any technical knowledge, nor any money, **just a good idea, and 5 minutes spare to [enter the competition](#).**

Go on, **Show Us A Better Way.**

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The [Power of Information Taskforce](#) is helping government become more open, transparent and effective through better use of published information.

This [competition](#) is asking for your help in developing better ways to publish the vast swathes of non-personal [information](#) that the government collects & creates on your behalf

Public data is your data. [Tell us what you'd build with it](#) and you could win £20k to develop your idea to the next level.

Search

Plain English
No technical
knowledge
required
Prize
Cast net very
wide
400 entries
Global
coverage

This is what they came up with....

Show Us a Better Way

Tell us what you'd build with public information and we could help fund your idea!

« [Broadband everywhere](#)
www.buildingdemocracy.co.uk - new competition from the Ministry of Justice »

How far to Nursery / School?

Submitted by: Wendy McMahon

Describe your idea. How does it work and who does it help?

This helps parents when choosing a nursery for their child. It is particularly useful in rural areas where local nursery provision may be more than 2 miles away. Many local authorities offer assistance in travel to nursery school, where the nearest one is over 2 miles away, by a walking route. I fell foul of this when I moved house, because I only had access to routeplanning software which didn't show footpaths, and so was not aware that my nearest nursery was not considered to be the one I enrolled my children in. It would work in a similar way to the yell.com site, but show the nearest matches, taking into account walking routes, rather than straight line distance or driving routes. The results could also indicate whether you would be considered for assistance with transport to school. Similarly for primary schools, and with a 3 mile limit for secondary schools

What information or services do you need?

Maps, Local Authority lists of nurseries and schools, with addresses.

Posted on 29 July 2008 at 05:22 PM in [Community](#), [Education](#), [Ideas](#), [Local Services](#), [Maps](#) | [Permalink](#)

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Search

School Map

The 3rd Sector – innovative and fresh, producing information in a format the customer wants

School map provides clear map locating schools relative to your address and also provides key statistics about the schools. Thereby allowing for comprehensive comparisons to be made

www.schoolmap

no	name	stage	type	age range	special report	key stage
1	Emmende Hill School	Primary school	Community	3-11	yes	20.2
2	St Mary and St Paul School	Primary school	Voluntary aided	4-11	yes	29.9
3	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, New	Primary school	Voluntary aided	3-11	yes	29.1
4	Richard Gordon Primary School	Primary school	Community	3-11	yes	20.1
5	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	Primary school	Voluntary aided	3-11	yes	27.9
6	Our Lady Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary school	Voluntary aided	3-11	yes	26.9
7	St Michael's Church of England Primary School	Primary school	Voluntary aided	3-11	yes	26.9
8	Kentish Town Church of England Primary School	Primary school	Voluntary aided	3-11	yes	26.2
9	St Paul's Primary School	Primary school	Community	3-11	yes	25.0
10	Carton Primary School	Primary school	Community	3-11	yes	24.7
11	Overstock School	Secondary school	Community	11-18	yes	
12	North Undebrook School	Independent school	Other	11-18	yes	
13	St Andrew's School	Primary school	Community		yes	
14	North Undebrook School	Independent school	Other		yes	
15	Chilcot School	Community special school		11-18	yes	

Search again or Refine results

Page 1 of 2 (1-100) Page 2 (101-112)

- Luton Infant School 0.22km from Luton, Kent
- Luton Junior School 0.22km from Luton, Kent
- Byron Primary School 0.63km from Luton, Kent
- Hospital and Medical Tuition Service 0.99km from Luton, Kent
- All Saints Church of England Primary School, Chatham 1.10km from Luton, Kent
- Greenvale Infant School 1.12km from Luton, Kent
- Gloucester Junior School 1.28km from Luton, Kent
- Napier Community Primary and Nursery School 1.37km from Luton, Kent

Click on a red marker to see the school's details.
Note: only the 20 closest schools are shown on the map.

Central Point: Directgov

Direct gov – provides list of school and their contact details within 10km of your postcode. A basic code provided to give an idea of facilities at the school but information remains hidden

www.direct.gov.uk

To calculate the straight line distance between two postcodes:

First postcode:
 Second postcode:

Postcode Distances Batch Tool

You can also upload a CSV file (up to 200 Kb) specifying its delimiter (usually a comma or tab), the postcodes columns numbers and the distance unit required (miles or km). A new column will be added to the file giving the distances between the two postcodes.

Note: Fields which contain a delimiter should have quotation marks around them.

Upload CSV file:
 Field delimiter:
 First postcode column number:
 Second postcode column number:
 Distance unit:

Quick Links
 • DCFS
 • Schools
 • Attendance
 • Funding
 • Neighbourhood
 • Education

Departmental Level

DCFS provides distance locator; however one needs to know precise postcode of school and the page gives no indication of location in relation to you. Little extra info provided

School guru

The 3rd sector: **School guru's** simple-to-use 'admissions calculator' provides names of schools, OFSTED report links and importantly the likelihood of getting into the school. A key concern for parents today.

www.schoolguruherfordshire.co.uk/

The screenshot shows the 'Hertfordshire toolkit' with buttons for 'Primary schools Admission Calculator', 'Secondary schools Admission Calculator', 'School selector', 'Measuring distance', 'Admission rules', and 'Priority areas'. Below this is a 'More information' section with links for 'About SchoolGuru', 'News', 'Appeals', and 'Useful links'. A 'Register for free news updates' button is at the bottom. The main report area is titled 'Report for Abbey C of E VA Primary School (The)' and shows a 'Good' rating, a 1-time offer in the last year, and a 2008 OFSTED rating. A 'Summary of details' section lists the school name, address, admission category, distance, and exam results.

The screenshot shows a 'Parents' section with the title 'Applying for a school place: admissions criteria'. It includes a photo of a young boy and text explaining that admission is not automatic and schools have 'admissions criteria'. Below this is a section titled 'How schools allocate places' which states that every child aged five to 16 is entitled to a place at a state school. Another section titled 'Admissions criteria' explains that schools have rules for admissions and oversubscription.

Central Pont: Directgov provides more detailed information on admission criteria however nothing specific to individual schools.

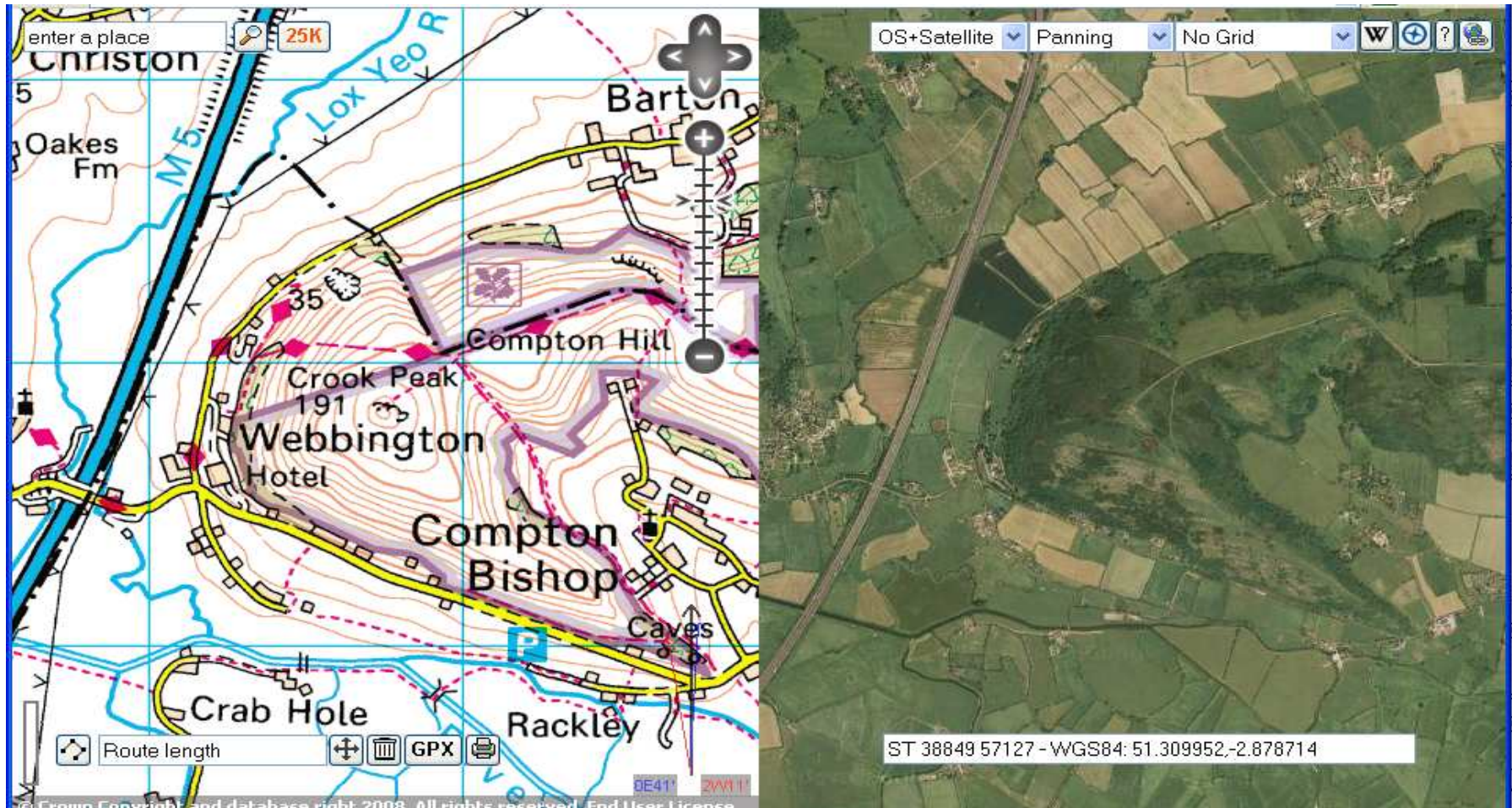
The screenshot shows a section titled 'How do I decide which schools to...'. It includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Primary admissions 2009-2010: booklet and other...'. The main heading is 'How do I decide which schools to...'. Below this is a 'You can:' section with a list of steps: find schools in your area, contact authorities outside Hertfordshire, find out which is your nearest Hertfordshire school, visit the schools, read the admission rules, read the school prospectus, view academic results, contact the Ofsted office, consider transport, and consider statistical information.

Local county council website provides a checklist of what to consider when choosing a school. However provides no information on the local schools and their admission criteria

Where's the path?

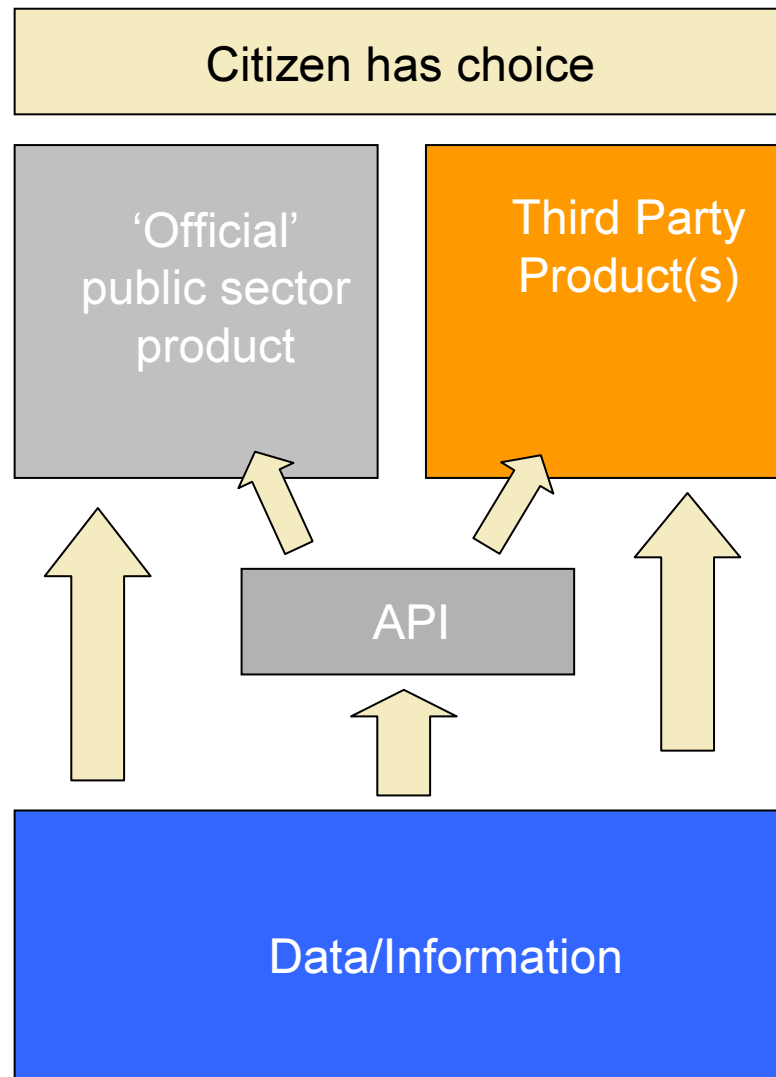
Official maps are combined with Google's satellite imagery. Allows exports to GPS device, journey times, etc to be provided.

<http://wheresthepath.googlepages.com/wheresthepath.htm>



Use cursor to trace the path on the left, appears in Google Maps on the right

Enabling innovation – new publishing model



Diversity of products for different customer groups – eg www.Parliament.uk or www.theyworkforyou.com

Interface ('API') that manipulates your data made openly available to independents – eg ONS API

Raw data (from your website) made openly available to independents – eg publish crime stats in a spreadsheet as well as a map

What can you do?

- Get into partnerships with the third sector and experts
- Be prepared to innovate and fail by creating a climate of experimentation
- Publish your data and API so it can be reused – RSS feeds helpful
- Geotag your data
- Get a discussion going around your knowledge build a community – see BBC Backstage <http://backstage.bbc.co.uk>
- Look at Taskforce blog <http://powerofinformation.wordpress.com>
- Go to <http://poir.pbwiki.com> for a list of sites demonstrating potential of the power of information
- Keep it small and experimental
- Build the skills - find your digital natives, let them play and learn from them
- Don't go rushing to your big IT company –find small developers
- William.perrin@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk
- Richard.stirling@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk