Notes from Meeting with Phil Beschizza, 18/1/2019

- When property owner or resident has opted out, the record for their property can not be found through a post code search, but can be retrieved using the reference number.

Opted out data is not published in eg open data or data sent to other departments, but is included in any aggregate statistics.

Data records may be marked as "Not for Issue" or "Non-retrievable"

The full data for a record in the register contains over a thousand data fields, including things like personal details of the assessor; apparently the full data is only used by the Schemes.

People mostly ask for the PDF certificate (public, estate agents, etc).

Green Deal (managed by BEIS) has an MoU with MHCLG, and can pull down a redacted data set.

There are three types of certificate - Energy Performance Certificates (these cover all buildings), Air Conditioning Inspection certificates (generally this is a text recommendation for any changes required, and is required for buildings using c. 12 KWh for air con[not sure of figure]), and Display Energy Certificates (for public authority / public sector buildings)

2 assessment methodologies -

SAP - calculation methodology for a new build;

RdSAP - calculation methodology for an existing building.

SAP is done using building plans, whereas RdSAP involves a visit to the property, and is considered more accurate.

Use of Data -

- Regular users - BEIS - forv the Green Deal and Renewable Heating initiative - both use a redacted cut down data set;

- ONS - for research, again redacted

- Open data site

- Local Weights and Measures officers have access to the data, searching by address, in order to enforce the legislation.

- Also other users may put in adhoc queries, eg DEFRA.

Building Research Establishment - privatised in 1997 - has a role to approve systems for lodgement of data and certificate creation created by 3rd party software developers for the schemes.

This software interacts with the register through an API. The register needs to recognise both the scheme and the assessor - so that for example if an assessor is struck off they not longer have access to lodge data, or nely certified assessors are given access.

Schemes have access to the register to audit data and to reproduce certificates; they can only access data created by their scheme, and are not able to download data in bulk, though they may store data locally in order to carry out audits.

A major issue with data quality is multiple lodgements.

- from a software / networking error, pushing the same record multiple times, or the assessor makes a mistake when lodging the data so repeats it, but the first record is not marked "Not for issue".

- When cleaning and auditing for quality, have to consider the most recent record for a building as being the currently valid record (a building can legitimately have multiple certificates, eg following renovations and work to improve energy efficiency)

- when looking at data quality, need to consider multiple lodgements over a relatively short period of time with minor changes.

Currently the MHCLG does not monitor levels of cancelled ("Not for Issue") records, though this would be useful as part of an audit process.

In the Landmark system, UPRNs are registered when a certificate is created for a new building. ALL UPRNs in the register were created this way.

- UPRN (Universal Property Number) is normally assigned to a new build (or newly subdivided property) by the Local Authority. These are used to identify buildings / flats for a variety of purposes, including planning applications.

- the register needs a unique id for buildings, but for new builds it takes c.2 months for Local Authorities to assign one.

- thus the UPRNs in the register are not the same as those in use in Local Government and the Ordnance Survey.

((Need to consider a method to import the UPRN in wider use during data migration and in general running of the new system))

The MHCLP EPC team get about 5 adhoc data requests a week, and there are about 1800 regular users (public, estate agents, and across Government). The new system needs to make it easier to share data across government, with various levels of access according to clearance and requirements, with flexible controls.