

Clare Clark
Team Leader, Local Transparency
Eland House 3/J6
Local Government Policy and Productivity Directorate
Department for Communities and Local Government

Dear Clare,

Thank you for enabling me as chair of the Local Public Data Panel to wait until the last moment before sending you a submission. In fact, this has given me the opportunity to see a number of the direct responses made to you by panel members on behalf of their own organisations.

Locality, and the Local Government Association, for instance, have made strong cases to you, which rightly reflect their own purposes and interests. Contributions have also been made to the parallel Cabinet Office consultation on the reuse of data.

You will know that I chair the Open Data Institute. The ODI too has sent you a detailed response, now published on our website. This, I feel, makes a number of cogent points.

<http://www.theodi.org/consultation-response/improving-local-government-transparency>

Naturally, since the LPDP brings together a wide range of participants, there are different specific emphases from different members. But there is unanimity in support of the general direction of travel.

In these circumstances, I should like to offer our help to you in reviewing the responses you have received – some hundreds I believe – when you have collated them. Many responses, like those of the panel members, will overlap, so presumably one of your first tasks will simply be to précis and set out the set of issues and suggestions made. I would like to suggest that the panel would like to you advise you at that stage.



Professor Nigel Shadbolt FREng
Chair Local Public Data Panel