



CabinetOffice

Open Business Platforms



Melanie Dawes, HMRC
Kate Marshall, Cabinet Office
Tim Moss, Companies House

18 May 2011

**Making
government
work better**

Background



- **Vision** – bring together data and information from government and business to create individual business profiles that can be easily accessed and reviewed by all parties with an interest in UK business activities.
- **Benefits** - accrue to individual businesses, social entrepreneurs, the general public and Government, e.g.
 - Profiled businesses –promote credit worthiness, safety standards, CSR credentials.
 - Social entrepreneurs –more easily find potential partners to sponsor initiatives
 - General public –more quickly access information about businesses in their local community, e.g. part of a ‘fair trader’ scheme, ‘green’ credentials, age of business
 - Government – additional business ‘intel’, channels through which to target policy initiatives.
- **Current Constraints** – time and cost involved in sourcing, verifying and linking ‘base’ data held by Companies House, HMRC and Departments more widely.

How Government Could Help



- Create and publish a **Unique Reference Indicator** for UK businesses:
 - Incorporated businesses – registered with Companies House
 - Non-incorporated businesses – registered with HMRC.
- Promote usage / inclusion of URIs in public documents issued by Government, e.g. procurement contracts, spend data, safety records, consultation responses.
- Support the development of open platforms and business information market more broadly.

Critical Success Factors



- Avoid **crowding out and mission creep** – allow market to develop at its own pace, and in response to customer demand and need.
- Ensure **compatibility and interoperability** – adopt technical standards and protocols that are consistent with business information providers own systems: avoid providers having to ‘reinvent the wheel’.
- Generate **acceptability and support** – manage expectations and potential misconceptions, i.e. be clear about what Government is doing (creating URIs), and what it is not (entering the business information market itself).