

# Getting Started

Initial Guidance to Data Providers and  
Publishers

Guide 0: UK Implementation  
of INSPIRE

Edition 2.0  
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## Document Control

### Change Summary

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Change Summary
1-0	20/08/2010	Tim Manning	Initial version of document.
1.1	22/03/2011	John Dixon	Draft second version.
2.0	21/07/2011	John Dixon	Second version of document. This guide was previously "Guide 5".

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## The UK Implementation of INSPIRE

*This initial guide in the UK Location “Getting Started” series provides UK guidance on the EU INSPIRE Directive<sup>1</sup>. It should be viewed as a supplement to the [Guide to INSPIRE Regulations in England, Northern Ireland and Wales](#) which accompanied the UK Regulation. It provides additional information on how INSPIRE is being implemented in the UK, as part of UK Location Information Infrastructure, including the execution of Member State responsibilities.*

*Scottish Data Publishers should refer to the separate Statutory Instrument and guidance for Scotland.*

### Based on National Spatial Data Infrastructures

Clause 5 of the Directive states that INSPIRE should be based on the infrastructures for spatial information created by EU Member States. In the UK, this spatial data infrastructure is **UK Location**.

### Joining the Network

Article 12 of the Directive states that:

*“Member States shall ensure that public authorities are given the technical possibility to link their spatial datasets and services to the network.... and that this service will be made available upon request to third parties whose spatial datasets and services comply with implementing rules laying down obligations with regard, in particular, to metadata, network services and interoperability”.*

This requirement is also reflected in Regulation 8 of the UK Regulation.

The “network” in the UK is the **UK Location Information Infrastructure** (referred to as “UK Location”) and “linking” is achieved through a process of registration through the UK public data portal [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk). To join, you will register as a Data Publisher and register the datasets and services you wish to publish.

In the case of UK Location, the scope of the “network” is wider than INSPIRE. UK LOCATION encompasses a wider range of data than covered by the INSPIRE Themes.

If your data comes under an INSPIRE Theme, in joining the network you will be bound by the INSPIRE regulations.

For data outside an INSPIRE Theme, by joining UK Location, you are agreeing to also comply with the INSPIRE regulations, but only for those network services you choose to publish. So for example, if you publish a dataset and a View Service for that dataset, you must comply with the general requirements of the INSPIRE Directive and also the Discovery, View and Data Sharing Regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).

## Discovery Metadata

The INSPIRE Metadata requirements for discovery are set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1205/2008. UK Location has adopted UK GEMINI 2 as its discovery metadata standard. UK Gemini 2 was developed as a UK standard, for adoption across UK industry and is widely used. UK Location uses an application profile of UK GEMINI2, which is INSPIRE compliant.

Article 5 of the Directive requires that Member States take the necessary measures to ensure that metadata are complete and of a quality sufficient to fulfil the purpose set out in the Directive.

UK Location will achieve this through a process of rule-based verification, self-certification and central quality assurance, operated by the UK Location Coordination Unit.

UK Location places a requirement on Data Publishers to quality assure their metadata as part of its publication. The UK Location Coordination Unit will monitor quality through a quality assurance plan, based on regular sampling against a set of published quality criteria. A quality report will be produced and made publicly available.

## Network Services

Article 11 of the Directive requires that Member States establish and operate a network of services. The UK Regulation (Regulation 7) places this responsibility on public authorities. The exception is Discovery Services.

Discovery Services are delivered through a common central service, hosted on data.gov.uk. There is no operational requirement for public authorities to establish individual Discovery Services.

## Points of Access

Clause 20 of the Directive requires that:

*"Member States should provide access to their infrastructures [UK Location] through a Community geo-portal operated by the Commission, as well as through any access points they themselves decide to operate."*

Article 15 also refers.

UK Location will provide access to a Discovery Service. Anyone will be able to access the network through this service. UK Location will include a point of access through [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk), to provide a basic "Search and Evaluation" service to UK data users.

## Coordination within Member States

Clause 27 of the Directive states that:

*“Effective implementation of infrastructures for spatial information requires coordination by all those with an interest in the establishment of such infrastructures, whether contributors or users. Appropriate coordination structures which extend to the various levels of government and take account of the distribution of powers and responsibilities within Member States should therefore be established.”*

Article 18 of the Directive states that

*“Member States shall ensure that appropriate structures and mechanisms are designated for coordinating across the different levels of government, the contributions of all those with an interest in their infrastructures for spatial information.*

*These structures shall coordinate the contributions of, inter alia, users, producers, added-value service providers and coordinating bodies, concerning the identification of relevant datasets, user needs, the provision of information on existing practices and the provision of feedback on the implementation of this Directive”.*

In the UK this is being implemented through the UK Location Council and its governance arrangements; and through the [UK Location Programme](#).

Article 10 of the Directive requires that Member States ensure that any information, including data, codes and technical classifications, needed for compliance with the Directive are made available to public authorities or third parties.

Delivery against this article is being achieved through the creation of a UK Location Registry within data.gov.uk. This will provide Data Publishers with access to code lists and other reference data and schemas required at a UK level and not located at other sources, e.g. the EC INSPIRE geoportal.

## Coordination Unit Responsibilities

Article 19 states that:

*“Each Member State shall designate a contact point, usually a public authority, to be responsible for contacts with the Commission in relation to this Directive. This contact point will be supported by a coordination structure, taking account of the distribution of powers and responsibilities within the Member State”.*

Regulation 14 of the UK Regulation also relates.

The lead department for the implementation of INSPIRE in the UK is the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The **UK Location Coordination Unit** will act on behalf of the Secretary of State for the implementation and compliance with the EU INSPIRE Directive. It is responsible for ensuring that Data Publishers can link to UK Location, so they can publish their datasets and services (Regulation 8).

The UK Location Coordination Unit will act as the point of contact between the European Commission and the UK on matters relating to the implementation of INSPIRE (Regulation 14), in close co-operation and agreement with the Devolved Administrations.

The UK Location Coordination Unit functions will include:

- Enforcing the INSPIRE regulations, in particular the registration of Discovery Metadata and Network Services
- Monitoring the operation of UK Location and making the results publicly available and to the Commission.
- Issuing guidance to public authorities and third parties on the implementation of the INSPIRE Regulations.
- Maintenance of standards, data specifications and registry items in conjunction with the European Commission.

These functions will be exercised within the wider operational scope of UK Location.