

# Legally Open - a licence taster session

## Francis Davey

Open Data Institute  
65 Clifton Street  
London  
EC2A 4JE  
[contact@francisdavey.co.uk](mailto:contact@francisdavey.co.uk)



# OpenCorporates

- ▶ OpenCorporates
  - ▶ <https://opencorporates.com/>
  - ▶ useful for looking up corporate data
  - ▶ costs money to operate and develop
- ▶ Group task - How can OpenCorporates bring in revenue
  - ▶ balance need to publish open data and revenue
  - ▶ be as open as possible

# It's all about the database

Today we look at one half of the basic dichotomy.

- ▶ The **database**
  - ▶ we collected this
- ▶ Contents of the database
  - ▶ things that other people made (eg photos)
  - ▶ things that don't (**yet**) have IP rights (eg numbers)

# Owning data

- ▶ **Database right**

- ▶ rewards investment in obtaining, verifying or presenting the data
- ▶ i.e. things we do
- ▶ Europe only (not available in the US)

- ▶ **Copyright in the database**

- ▶ rewards intellectual creativitvion eg selection or arrangement of the databsae
- ▶ not so likely to do these things

# Licensing

- ▶ A licence is just a permission
- ▶ May be as bespoke as you like
- ▶ There are standard open licences
- ▶ May also place restrictions on use of an API

# Viral licensing

- ▶ First invented for software (GNU General Public License)
- ▶ Allows re-use but requires sharing
- ▶ For open data may require:
  - ▶ **CC-BY-SA** sharing the data
  - ▶ **ODbL** sharing works made from the data (infographics)
- ▶ Parallel licensing may give market advantage

# Licensing Exercise

In order to protect its business model, how do we license OpenCorporates:

- ▶ data
- ▶ website
- ▶ API
- ▶ Anything else