Freedom of information, open data and public sector information - transparency, opportunities and policy options
15th October 2015

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:
This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.
Contents

About this Publication 3

Agenda 4

Session Chair’s opening remarks 6

Rt Hon the Lord McNally, former Minister of State, Ministry of Justice and former Deputy Leader of the House of Lords (transcript)

Freedom of information, open data and public sector transparency - the context 7

Dr Benjamin Worthy, Lecturer in Politics, Birkbeck, University of London and IRM Researcher, Open Government Partnership (transcript)

Questions and comments from the floor (transcript) 10

What next for the FOI framework? 13

Graham Smith, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Freedom of Information, Information Commissioner’s Office (transcript)

Questions and comments from the floor (transcript) 17

Freedom of information - costs, openness and prospects for further expansion 21

Martin Rosenbaum, Executive Producer, BBC Political Programmes (transcript)

Robin Hopkins, Barrister, 11KBW (transcript) 23

Tracy Phillips, Employment and Education Solicitor, Lambeth Council (transcript)

Katherine Gundersen, Research Officer, Campaign for Freedom of Information (transcript)

Jonathan Pillinger-Cork, Compliance Manager, Ofcom (transcript)

Questions and comments from the floor (transcript) 29

Session Chair’s closing remarks 31

Rt Hon the Lord McNally, former Minister of State, Ministry of Justice and former Deputy Leader of the House of Lords (transcript)

The re-use of public sector information - latest thinking on new regulations 38

Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy & Services, The National Archives and Controller, Her Majesty’s Stationery Office (transcript)

Questions and comments from the floor (transcript) 40

Public sector information and open data - opportunities, demand and practicalities 45

Steve Goodrich, Open Governance Researcher, Transparency International UK (transcript)

Ian Makgill, Managing Director, Spend Network (transcript) 51

Chris Jarvis, Data Sharing and Access Manager, Environment Agency (transcript)

Eleanor Tunnicliffe, Associate, DAC Beachcroft (transcript)

Katie Childs, Policy and Projects Manager, National Museum Directors’ Council (transcript)

Questions and comments from the floor (transcript) 59

Session Chair’s and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks 62

Carol Tullo, Director of Information Policy & Services, The National Archives and Controller, Her Majesty’s Stationery Office (transcript)

Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum (transcript)

List of Delegates Registered for Seminar 67

Contributor Biographies 69

Please be advised that speakers’ PowerPoint presentations are included within the transcript itself, just beneath the relevant speaker’s text. Please note that not all speakers are able to grant permission for us to include their slides.
About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar: Freedom of information, open data and public sector information - transparency, opportunities and policy options held on 15th October 2015. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Legal Policy Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Legal Policy Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

Westminster Legal Policy Forum
UK Headquarters
4 Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane West
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796
F: 01344 420121
publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Directors
Peter van Gelder
Chris Whitehouse