

LPS Public Task for the re-use of public sector information

Introduction

This document sets out the Land & Property Services (LPS) Public Task and explains and describes the role and high-level responsibilities of LPS. In addition, it sets out the specific functions associated with LPS' mapping remit. To ensure that it can fully discharge these functions, it is necessary for LPS to charge a licence fee for the re-use of some of its mapping products.

Background

LPS is a core directorate of the Department of Finance (DoF). DoF is one of the Northern Ireland Departments established in December 1999 by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

LPS is responsible for mapping, land registration, valuation and rate collection in Northern Ireland. LPS:

- Maintains a domestic rating assessment system and collects and recovers rates on behalf of central government and district councils;
- Provides a valuation, estate management and property data service to the public sector;
- Records legal interests in land, provides a registration service and maintains an accurate register of land ownership. This is supported by a land information service which underpins the conveyancing industry in Northern Ireland.

In addition, LPS collects, creates and manages spatial data in Northern Ireland for dissemination and re-use throughout the public and private sectors in Northern Ireland and beyond.

LPS is Northern Ireland's national mapping organisation with responsibility for the currency and completeness of Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland® (OSNI®) branded mapping in Northern Ireland. LPS creates, maintains and disseminates consistent, definitive and authoritative geospatial and cartographic data products and services for Northern Ireland.

This responsibility originates from The Survey (Ireland) Acts, 1825 to 1870, which authorised the systematic six-inch-to-the-mile mapping of Ireland, beginning in 1825, and formed the foundation of the mapping datasets that OSNI subsequently inherited intact in 1922.

LPS surveying and mapping functions are:

1. To undertake the necessary surveying and mapping functions required to maintain the national Ordnance Survey map base of Northern Ireland.
2. To maintain and develop the underlying physical infrastructure which is required to support national mapping applications; including to maintain a national co-ordinate reference framework and map projection system, and the associated

national geodetic and height frameworks, and to link these to international systems.

3. To collect and record the following information for the purpose of creating the core reference national Ordnance Survey map base of Northern Ireland and related geographic information, which are consistent in content, completeness, currency, accuracy and style:
 - The topography and topology of natural and man-made features of the landscape;
 - Descriptive annotations and distinctive names/postal numbers of buildings, places and features;
 - The connectivity of water and communication networks including rail, roads, tracks and paths;
 - The alignment of current and historical administrative and electoral boundaries;
 - The extent and classification of certain types of land cover and use;
 - Collation, maintenance and distribution of the definitive address dataset for Northern Ireland; and
 - Other geographically referenced information which may, from time to time, be required to be recorded in a manner consistent with OSNI mapping in the wider public interest.
4. To provide the core reference national Ordnance Survey map to government, the wider public sector and to the private, academic and voluntary sectors and to the general public. LPS may charge for these products and services such that it recovers the cost of providing the surveying and mapping functions, including data maintenance, customer support and the ability to reinvest in its business. Such charges will always be consistent with government policy and legislation for charging for public information. In addition, they will be pursuant and commensurate with providing the necessary structures and resource to discharge this Public Task.
5. To encourage, promote, facilitate and co-ordinate the benefits and use of OSNI mapping and related geographic information databases and systems across the public sector, and to develop products, services and markets to meet public sector user needs. LPS may develop a variety of other products and services from the core reference national Ordnance Survey map base, either on its own, or in partnership with others.
6. To provide advice and support to government and the wider public sector in the development of policy and practice of survey, mapping and geographic information, and on the development of national spatial data infrastructures, including in the provision of mapping and geographic information systems for Civil Contingencies.

7. To provide the necessary technical support to the Boundary Surveyor, the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, the Local Government Boundary Commissioner and the District Electoral Area Commissioner or other senior government officials appointed to determine administrative and other boundaries, including their accurate delineation on Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland maps.
8. To represent Northern Ireland at regional, national and international level on matters relating to surveying, mapping and geographic information.

Access and Licensing

LPS operates a licensing model in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 (RUPSIR) and in line with guidance set out from time to time by The National Archives (TNA).

This licensing model currently provides OSNI products in three ways:

- Under OSNI's standard licensing terms to both commercial organisations and citizens
- Through agreements like the Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA) and the Local Government Mapping Agreement (LGMA); and
- As free data for users under the Open Government Licence

Further information on the Licensing model can be found at:

[How OSNI data is licensed | nidirect](#)

Details of OSNI products, their specifications, licence terms and relevant licence fees are available on <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/osni>.

In licensing our products, we are committed to continuing to abide by the Re-use of PSI Regulations (e.g. RUPSIR).

This Public Task has taken into account transposition into UK law of the revised Public Sector Information Directive (Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information 18 July 2015); together with the subsequent amendments made by EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (which retained the regulations) and Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 under which RUPSIR is retained as assimilated law.

This Public Task will be reviewed at regular intervals, through consultation between LPS and DoF; and with reference to guidelines published by both TNA and The Information Commissioner. Engagement with relevant customer groups and/or stakeholders in the Geographic Information industry will also inform any review.

If you have any queries about our Public Task, you may contact us by email at copyright@finance-ni.gov.uk.

If you have a complaint about us under the Re-use Regulations, you may submit it using our general complaints handling process at:

- <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/how-make-complaint-lps>

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