

Data Sharing Review

Richard Thomas and Dr Mark Walport

Consultation paper on the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sector

List of questions for response

We would welcome responses to the following questions set out in this consultation paper. Please follow the question order as set out in the consultation paper, leaving a blank response box for any questions not answered.

Please email your completed form to contact@datasharingreview.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively you can send a hard copy response to:

Data Sharing Review Secretariat
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11 Tothill Street
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Thank you.

Section 1: Background

Question 1.

Comments:

Section 2: Scope of personal information sharing, including benefits, barriers and risks of data sharing and data protection

Question 2.

Comments: For the individual and society the main benefits of the sharing of personal information is law enforcement and child protection

Question 3.

Comments: The risks of sharing information are that it increases the likelihood of someone who is unauthorised accessing it and that it can be used for purposes other than that for which it was initially provided e.g. function creep
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Question 4.

Comments: A centralised database poses the greatest risk to an individual since a single security breach can have more serious consequences than if the information was spread over a number of non linked sites. Also an organisation or individual who has access to a more concentrated store of information can

either deliberately or unintentionally have a greater oversight or control over an individual's life .e.g. An employer or a health insurance company can find the NHS Care Record database a more useful source of illegally or legally obtained information than if this same information was held at a doctors surgery.

Question 5.

Comments: Although the state holds a large amount of information on us I believe its mostly reasonable amounts as long as its held only on databases to which a particular department needs access to and is not held without our consent . e.g. the DVLA should not have access to database that hold council tax information and Contactpoint should not hold information unless its given through informed consent.

Question 6

Comments: I don't believe there is too much information held on us in the private sector as long as we agree to that information and that we have control over what is done with it and to withhold that information if the purpose for which it was obtained is changed.

Question 7.

Comments:

Question 8.

Comments: I don't believe that congestion charge vehicle movement records should be handed over to the metropolitan police without the police first having a reasonable requirement for some or all of that information. This is an example of information being used for something other than what it was intended for.

Section 3: The legal framework

Question 9.

Comments: I believe the DPA is ineffective especially with reference to information held by the state. The rules whereby the Home Secretary can ignore the act are too arbitrary and wide ranging.

Question 10.

Comments: In reality the DPA does not seem to apply to the state when the state wants to ignore it. The individual does not seem to have much control over information held by state. I believe the private sector does adhere more to the second principle.

Question 11.

Comments:

Question 12.

Comments: The Commissioners powers should be more effective. I believe the DPA fails to prevent the creation of databases which are primary there for data gathering rather than providing an useful service .e.g. Contactpoint and the National Identity Register.

Question 13.

Comments:

Question 14.

Comments:

Question 15.

Comments:

Section 4: Consent and transparency

Question 16.

Comments:

Question 17.

Comments:

Question 18.

Comments: The more rights a person has to view information held on them the more they will be willing to provide that information in the future. Control over your personal information, including the ability to withhold it, should be a basic human right.

Question 19.

Comments:

Section 5: Technology

Question 20.

Comments:

Question 21.

Comments:

Question 22.

Comments:

Section 6: International comparisons

Question 23.

Comments: I believe that there should be a time limit on the retention on details held on the DNA database of those not convicted or charged with an offence similar to those in some other European countries.

Question 24.

Comments:

Question 25.

Comments:

Question 26.

Comments:

Section 7: Additional questions

Question 27.

Comments:

Question 28.

Comments:
