

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Minister for the Cabinet Office has established a review of the impact of Transparency on Privacy. The Review will ensure that as the Government develops its transparency agenda, it continues to uphold high standards of personal privacy.

The Review will support officials and Ministers in ensuring that on-going releases of data are done in a way that provides maximum transparency of data consistent with the appropriate data protection safeguards.

Remit

The Review will:

- Support the Government in striking the right balance between transparency and data protection safeguards, and between the interests of wider society and the interests of the individual or corporate body.
- Identify the nature of the risk to privacy of the individual posed by transparency of public data, in particular the potential for 'jigsaw' identification.
- Advise the Government on practical approaches to take.

Process and reporting

- To achieve this remit, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked Dr Kieron O'Hara to lead the Review. Dr O'Hara is a Senior Research Fellow in electronics and computer science at the University of Southampton, with research interests in privacy, trust and Web Science.
- The Review will be supported by a team based in the Cabinet Office's Transparency Team.
- Findings from the Review will be published in March 2011.

