



Isle of Man Government

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Council of Ministers

Open Data Policy

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Foreword by the Minister for Policy and Reform

This administration is committed to further developing a more open and transparent government for the people of the Isle of Man.

This Open Data Policy is another step to fulfil this commitment and to continue to evolve how information is provided to the public.

Much information is already published on the open data pages of gov.im in the form of open datasets to aid research and to generate new knowledge and insight into the processes, procedures and work undertaken by the Isle of Man Government. I welcome this incremental evolution of the process and the expansion of open datasets.

I also welcome engagement with re-users through our current open data page to establish which datasets are required and endeavour to publish those, where possible, to 'increase the number of our datasets publicly available', a Key Performance Indicator in the Programme for Government.



Hon C Thomas MHK
Minister for Policy and Reform

Isle of Man Government: Open Data; a more transparent government

1. Introduction

- 1.1** 'Open Data' is defined as 'data published publicly, that can be freely used, re-used, redistributed and built upon by anyone, with the condition that it be attributed and shared alike'.
- 1.2** According to the European Commission's European Data Portal study 'Re-using Open Data'¹ the publication and reuse of Open Data offers a number of benefits:
- Improvements in transportation through the realtime data to relieve congestion
 - Environmental benefits through analysis of data on emissions and waste management
 - Scientific discovery through sharing research data
 - Saving lives through improved response times, analysis of treatment outcomes and equipment and personnel analysis.
- 1.3** The study also explored the most used data categories by Open Data Organisations. Of the 13 domains/sectors studied the 'Government & Public Sector' Open Datasets were the most used datasets at 11.9% of data accessed. This suggests that Open Data from government and public sector organisations provide the most in demand data from the thirteen domains/sectors.
- 1.4** Increasingly, many organisations are relying on Open Data published by governments and other organisations in their sector to inform their own research and analysis. Open by default data refers to the premise that governments should be aiming for maximum disclosure of information, as referenced in the EU Directive on the 'Reuse of Public Sector Information'², whilst taking into account all political, legal and administrative processes.

2. Background

- 2.1** The publication of Open Data is important to the Isle of Man Government as it affirms the commitment made in the Programme for Government to "Continue to make more government information available and increase transparency in the way government delivers its services".
- 2.2** It is important that the Isle of Man Government keeps pace with advancements in Open Government by encouraging the informed reuse of third-party data, under our current [Open Government Licence](#).
- 2.3** The Isle of Man Government collects and stores a huge range of data. Data already made available includes land registries, livestock and crop data, driving tests, property transactions etc.

¹ https://www.europeandataportal.eu/sites/default/files/re-using_open_data.pdf

² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-legislation-reuse-public-sector-information>

- 2.4** This policy covers our general principles and is intended for use by internal stakeholders to help guide the release of public data, and by external stakeholders to understand how we release our data. Datasets are currently published at www.gov.im/opendata.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1** The Isle of Man Government is committed to openly publishing and sharing Open Data, where appropriate.
- 3.2** All Isle of Man Government reports published on gov.im which contain a dataset should normally have a corresponding Open Dataset created and published on the Open Data page.

4. Policy commitments

- 4.1** In providing Open Data the Isle of Man Government commits to:

- release data which can be used for research purposes by communities, business and industry
- release data to generate new knowledge and insight into the processes, procedures and work undertaken by the Isle of Man Government
- engage with re-users through our current open data page to establish which datasets are required and endeavour to publish those, where possible
- uphold the commitment made in the Programme for Government to 'increase the number of our datasets publicly available'. This is measured as a Key Performance Indicator
- datasets being kept up to date and accurate. We will state how often a dataset is published, and be clear about the reasons for discontinuing publication, where deemed necessary

- 4.2** In sharing data the Isle of Man Government encourages:

- openness and transparency
- increased accountability
- empowerment of citizens
- innovation and new opportunities
- solving problems through knowledge and insight

- 4.3** The Open Data Policy will be applied alongside the Data Protection Act 2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2015, the Equality Act 2017, the Public Records Act 1999 and associated Public Records Order 2015 and the Copyright Act 1991.

- 4.4** The Open Government Licence allows a worldwide, royalty-free, perpetual, non-exclusive licence to use the information subject to some conditions.

5. Policy Principles

5.1 The principles that underpin the policy are:

1. Public data will be published in re-usable, machine-readable formats
2. Public data will be released under the Open Government Licence which enables free re-use, including commercial re-use
3. Public data will be available and easy to find through an easy-to-use, online access point
4. Public data will be published using open standards
5. Public data will be up to date
6. Public data will be freely available to use in any lawful way
7. Public data will be available without application or registration, and without requiring the details of the user

6. Status of the Policy Principles

6.1 This Policy does not prevail over statutory, mandatory or legal requirements. Care must be taken to ensure compliance with any legal requirements under the Data Protection Act 2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2015, the Equality Act 2017, the Public Records Act 1999 and associated Public Records Order 2015 and the Copyright Act 1991.