University of Dundee

Information Governance - INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations 2009

Statement of ‘Public Task’ in relation to the INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations 2009

Purpose

1. This document sets out the University of Dundee’s interpretation of its ‘public task’ for the purposes of the INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

Scope

2. The INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations 2009 apply to the primary copy of geospatial datasets relating to certain categories of information which are produced, received, managed or updated by a ‘Scottish public authority’ within the scope of its ‘public tasks’. This discussion of the University of Dundee’s ‘public task’ is strictly limited to this specialist context and is not transferable to other spheres.

The University of Dundee’s ‘public task’ under the INSPIRE Regulations

3. After careful consideration, the University of Dundee has concluded that, while it may be possible for a university to have a ‘public task’ for the purposes of INSPIRE, the University of Dundee does not currently have one.

4. In the event that the University of Dundee gains public responsibilities or functions, or begins to provide public services relating to the environment under the control of a government body or public administration, then this statement will be re-examined to assess whether these new responsibilities constitute a ‘public task’ for the purposes of INSPIRE.

5. The University of Dundee may hold and manage relevant research datasets on behalf of others, for example academics may be commissioned to produce data on behalf of government bodies. These datasets fall within the scope of the commissioning organisation’s INSPIRE obligations and ‘public task’. In these cases, responsibility for INSPIRE compliance will lie with the commissioning organisation unless otherwise agreed contractually.

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1 INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations 2009, s 5 (1)b
6. It should be noted that researchers may choose to make their data INSPIRE compliant, or to include it in the UK Locations programme. This does not imply that the University of Dundee has a ‘public task’ under INSPIRE.

This position is consistent with guidance produced by the University of Edinburgh and approved by Universities Scotland Secretaries’ Group. For more information on the background to this position, please see the guidance published online here - http://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/freedom-of-information/about/inspire-regulations/inspire-regulations-sheip.

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<td>Developed by University of Edinburgh for Universities Scotland</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>Universities Scotland Secretaries’ Group</td>
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<td>Adapted for UoD</td>
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<td>Head of Information Governance</td>
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<td>Consultation with Data, Records and Information Committee.</td>
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