

Roundtable 6: UPRNs: The Key to cross-government data integrity

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What are the largest barriers you have encountered cross-department/organisational in data sharing, linking?

- The multiple ways an address can be put into a system
- Standardising the format of an address at the point of capture (ONS)
- Not utilising the UPRN as a common field/identifier in data
- Not enough 'Top down' enforcement/support
- Geocoding – “when you don't have the UPRN but you're trying to get the UPRN there's not a standard way to geocode across to the UPRN and you do not know how confident you can be in a match made by your org”
- Visualization is impactful! If you are able to visualise the address data it resonates better with non-geospatial colleagues/decision-makers
- Communication... confusion around what exactly a UPRN is. Is it the number, is it a point, is it a tool/asset
- Trust issues, time constraints, longstanding and worsening capacity issues
- Software providers (Idox, NEC, Capita 1) their awareness, alignment with data strategies of LA's.
- Outlining data sharing agreements and implementing them. Currently lacking in this area.
- Software limitations. Some software does not have a field to capture a UPRN (Michael Weir Thameside MBC, CTax)
- Suppliers constraints (Lyn. North Yorks)
- “To be successful, data standards need to be run/enforced in parallel with driving the UPRN” BS7666
- Confidentiality & GDPR
- Data protection uncertainty/confusion around use and distribution of UPRNs
- Unfounded data sharing principles and capabilities within councils (Hounslow VOA & CTax)
- Lack of central gov encouragement/ assistance around good data linking.
- If proper approach is not taken at the point of capture it is nearly impossible to retroactively go back and amend as the backlog is too large.

What datasets do you use that would benefit from having the UPRN implemented at source?

- Companies House Data and FSA data (HMRC for tax related use case. E.g Eat out to help out during Covid was only applicable to some restaurants)
- Care Inspectorate Wales data
- CQC data
- Communal establishments
- ONS's AIMS service was mentioned as a potential route to enabling data linking by multiple individuals.
- Energy consumption data (doesn't have uprns but they are building an in-house matching capability. OFGEM & aligned assets did work on this a little while back)
- Department of Education Data
- CTax, Non-dom rates & Parking (residential permits UC. Kensington & Chelsea BC [using OS Places])
- Companies House
- Questions raised around Open Data strategy/policy.

How can OS and GP support you in increasing the discoverability of the UPRN and driving meaningful adoption of Unique identifiers (UPRN/ USRN). Is there more that can be done in this space?

- Widen the audience of AddressClub. Open invite to all PSGA members who want to join
- Better exposure of Address datasets, available tools and strategic messaging
- Improved Marketing around the UPRN
- Issues with OS Places API, using it for their online residents services. Displaying the cym address first. (North Yorks)
- Speak with the decision makers/Senior Management directly withing Gov departments.