

# PSI Alliance<sup>★</sup>

## The logic

**Michael Nicholson**  
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# The background

- Public Sector Information under-pins 15-25% of commercial information products and services
- It provides the information infrastructure for both the public and private sector (maps, financial information, the weather, statistics etc)
- A State cannot function without PSI
- Recent reports (eg MEPSIR, OFT, Statskontoret) illustrate the advantages of open and fair access to PSI for re-use
- The current position limits the development of the EU
- And limits development of the Knowledge Economy

# The difficulties

- PSI producers are normally state-owned monopolies
- They interpret PSI re-use in different ways
  - Some are unaware of the subject's importance
  - Some do nothing about it, others obstruct
  - Some see the issue as a low priority, others as vitally important
  - Some exploit PSI themselves and focus on revenue protection and maintenance of their monopoly
  - Some seek to disseminate PSI as widely as possible and to co-operate with the private sector
- There is good practice which is often insufficiently recognised
- There is bad practice which goes unchallenged

# How do PSI Holders avoid effective challenge ?

- Why should a PSI producers change? Little incentive to do so unilaterally
- PSI producers are owned by the State and responsible only to politicians
- SMEs do not want to challenge a State-owned body. Many do not want to risk complaining to their sole supplier of PSI
- Industry Associations seek influence in specific sectors only (geographic, financial, legal etc) not to influence general PSI policy or politicians
- *Only the political decision-makers can enforce policy change*
- WHO IS INFLUENCING THEM?

# The PSI Alliance – an agent for improvement and change

- To share our knowledge at the EU level. To support good practice and help expose the consequences of bad practice
- *To brief EU politicians about the need to enforce existing policy or secure policy change*
- To encourage constructive dialogue between the public and private sectors
- Specifically to reinforce efforts to strengthen the Directive for the Re-Use of PSI
- To secure a more dynamic, open and fairer market-place for PSI re-use
- To help the EU knowledge economy develop

## PSI Alliance

Email: [info@psialliance.eu](mailto:info@psialliance.eu) or [harriet@quintuspa.com](mailto:harriet@quintuspa.com)

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