Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Publishing data from the Incident Recording System openly – Feedback Session

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Balancing sensitivity and public good

The main responsibility the Fire Statistics team will have when publishing record level information is to balance the personal data and potential damage/distress with the public interest of publishing data.

- Hope users understand the risks we are taking
- Try to get a feel for potential uses of IRS data
- Impossible for all users to get everything they want
- In fact probably impossible for a user to get everything he/she wants given public publication

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Expectations and Fairness

As you may remember

- What would the individual expect?
- What's likely to be fair and reasonable?
- What would be the harm if any?
- What would you expect?

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Sensitive Personal Data

As you may remember 3 of the 7 stated sensitive personal data areas are

- Ethnicity
- Physical or mental health or condition
- Offences or criminal proceedings

Examples - basic

X	Y			
576057	156884			

X	Y	INCIDENT TYPE	CAUSE / MOTIVE	
576057	156884	Fire	Deliberate	

X	Y	INCIDENT TYPE	CAUSE / MOTIVE	CAUSE OF FIRE
576057	156884	Fire	Deliberate	Suicide/attempted

X	Y
586548	228631

X	Y	INJURY SEVERITY
586548	228631	Serious

X	Y	INJURY SEVERITY	CAUSE OF DEATH / INJURY
586548	228631	Serious	Impalement

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POST CODE
SE16 4TZ

POST CODE   AGE OF VICTIM
SE16 4TZ   65+

POST CODE   SAFETY SYSTEMS PRESENT
SE16 4TZ   No

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>> Switch to Excel (example output)

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Rank 1-11 the following (groups of) variables.

- A very low level of geography, OS grid reference or similar
- Precise time and date of the incident
- Whether a fire is thought to be accidental or deliberate
- What type of building was involved?
- What was the cause of the fire and source and power of the ignition
- Cause/Severity Death/Injury
- Equipment and vehicles deployed
- Officers present?
- Response time
- Victim information such as age, personal circumstances
- Where the fire started and how far it spread