Confidentiality, ethics, trust: experience from NDAD

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Overview

ABOUT

NDAD

WHAT

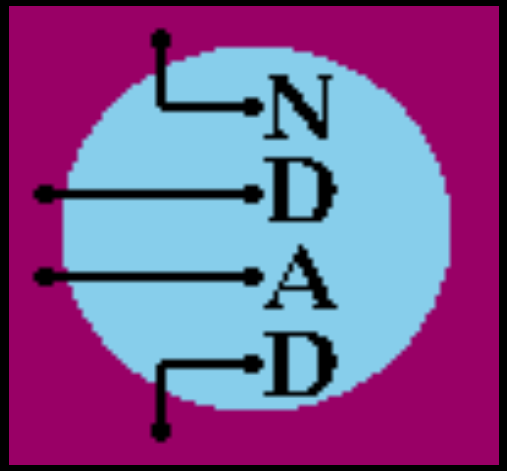
NDAD does with data

REDACTION

What's confidential?

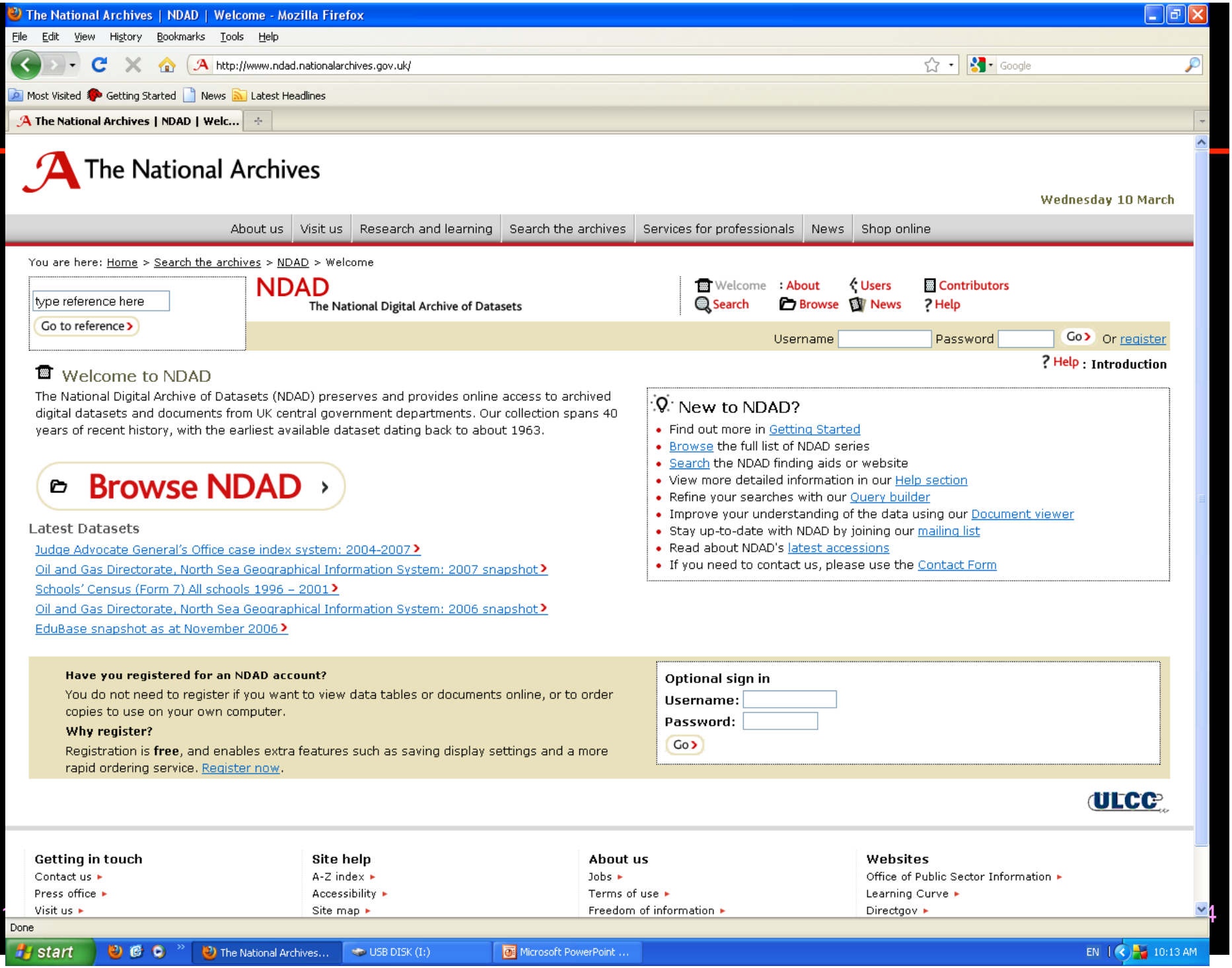
TRUST

How and who ?



NDAD

THE NATIONAL DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF DATASETS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The National Digital Archive of Datasets (NDAD) preserves and provides online access to archived digital datasets and documents from UK central government departments. Our collection spans 40 years of recent history, with the earliest available dataset dating back to about 1963.
Browse NDAD
Latest Datasets
Judge Advocate General's Office case index system: 2004-2007
Oil and Gas Directorate, North Sea Geographical Information System: 2007 snapshot
Schools' Census (Form 7) All schools 1996 – 2001
Oil and Gas Directorate, North Sea Geographical Information System: 2006 snapshot
EduBase snapshot as at November 2006
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Office of Public Sector Information
Learning Curve
Directgov
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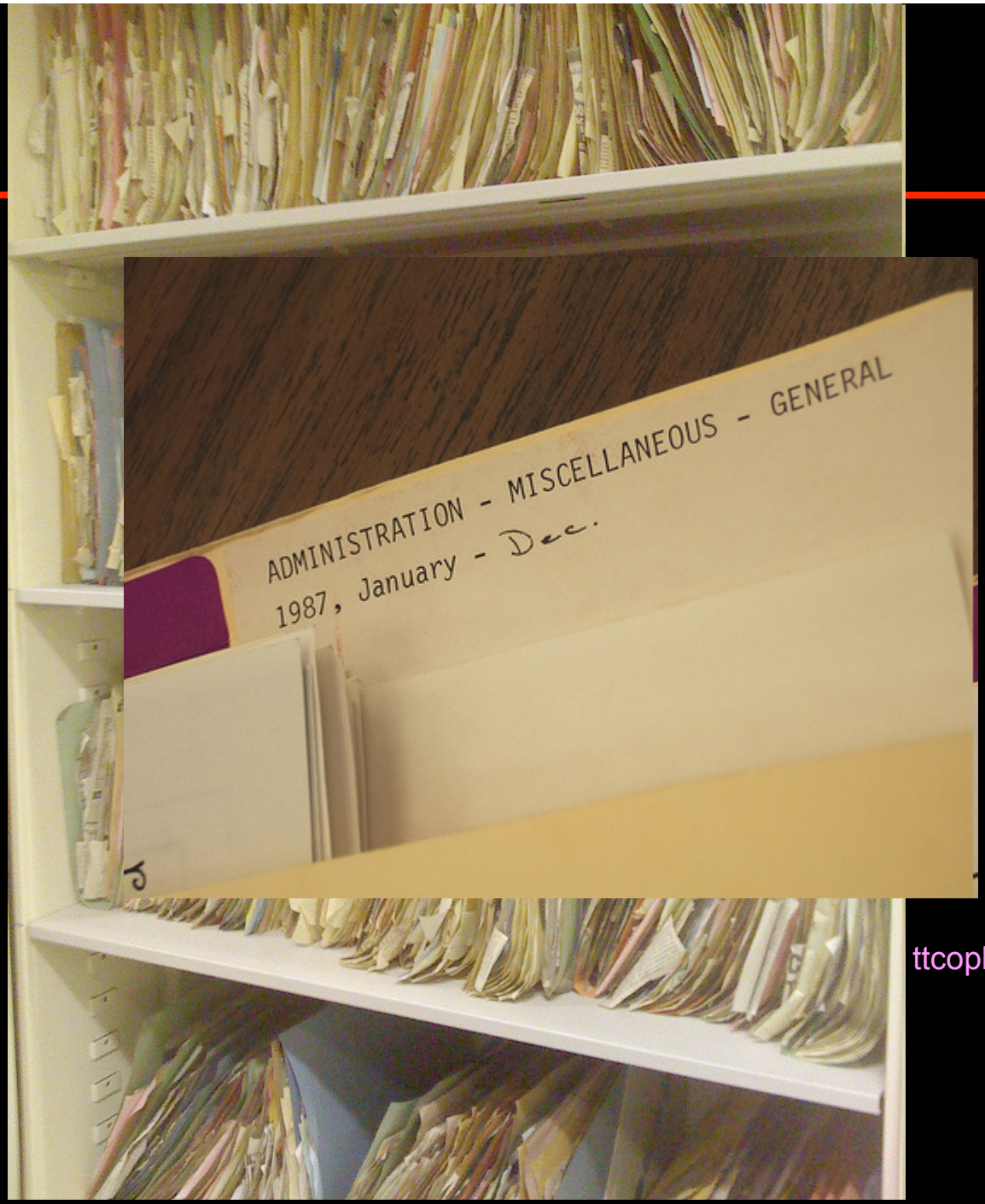
What is NDAD?

- An archive of UK government records which exist as ‘structured information’
- Contains data + contextual information
- Established in 1997 - service in March 1998
- First service by a national archive to provide online public access to preserved material
- Selection undertaken by National Archives and government departments
- Everything else at ULCC: under contract to TNA

Judge Advocate General's casebook

Reasons for withholding info

- 30-year rule
- Data protection - general
- Specific legislation regarding personal info
- FoI exemptions:
  - ⇒commercial confidentiality
  - ⇒promise of confidentiality
  - ⇒national security
  - ⇒etc
- Copyright



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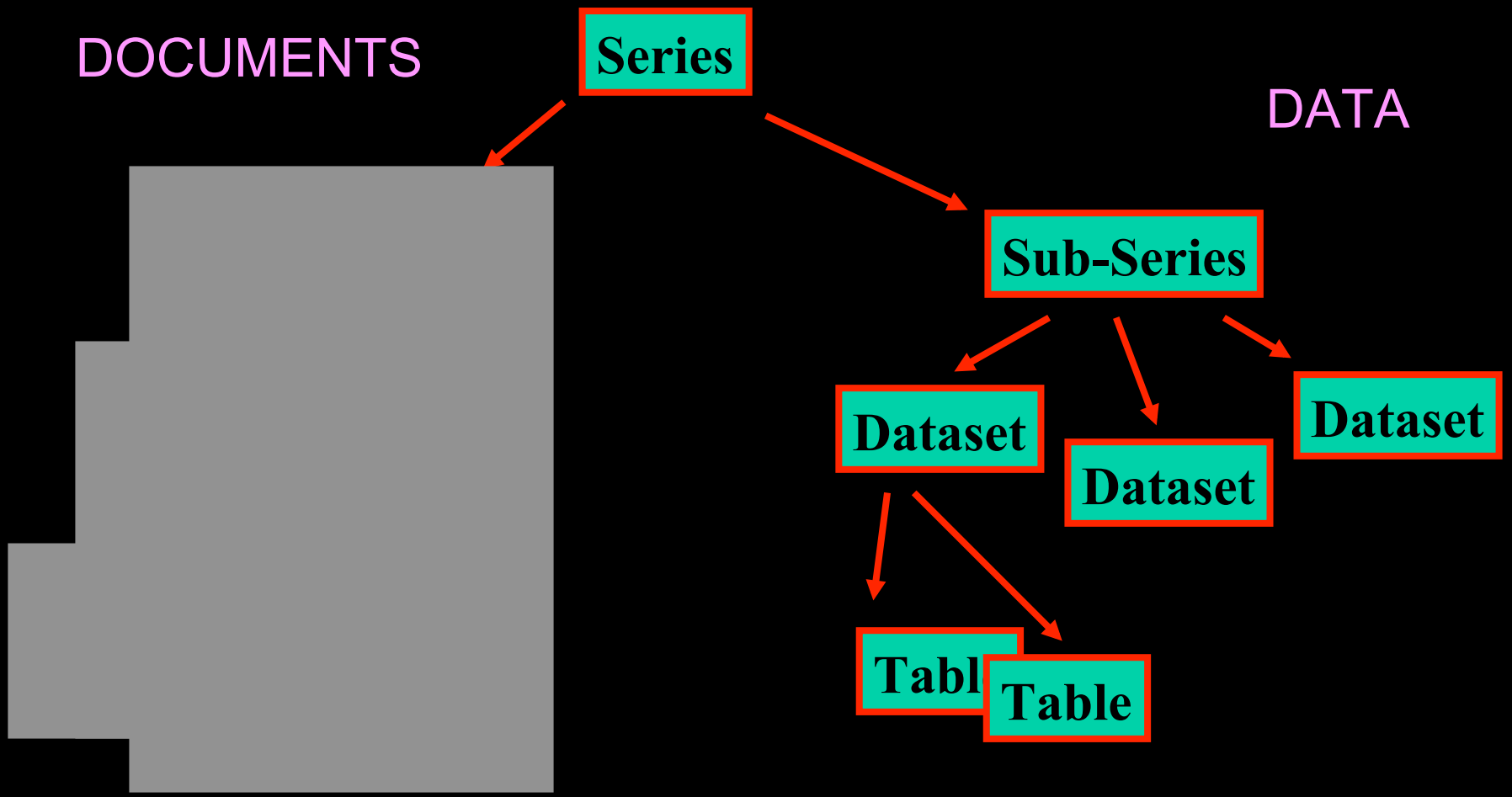
How it works

- Theory: government department identifies in advance
- Practice: sometimes like theory
- Sometimes related to theory
- Sometimes we do all the work
- NDAD ALWAYS double-checks
- Signoff by department & TNA before release

Arrangement



Expensive redaction

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FOOD

CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LEAD CONSULTANT SERVICES

SECTION 2 - CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

2A. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. MAFF'S RESPONSIBILITIES

MAFF will normally issue information, instructions or decisions to [redacted] in such reasonable time so as not to prevent, delay or disrupt the [redacted] performance of the Commission and will award contracts based on [redacted]'s valid recommendation within the project programmed timescales.

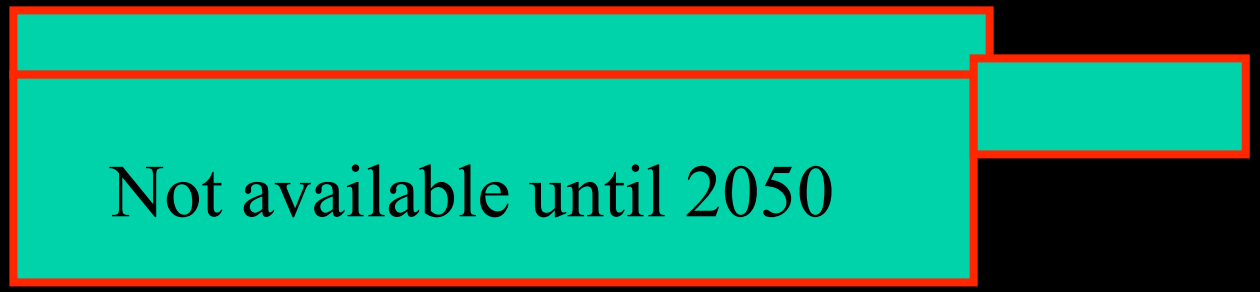
2. FINANCIAL CONTROL

MAFF will retain responsibilities for control of funding for the project including the establishment of cost targets and cost limits where necessary.

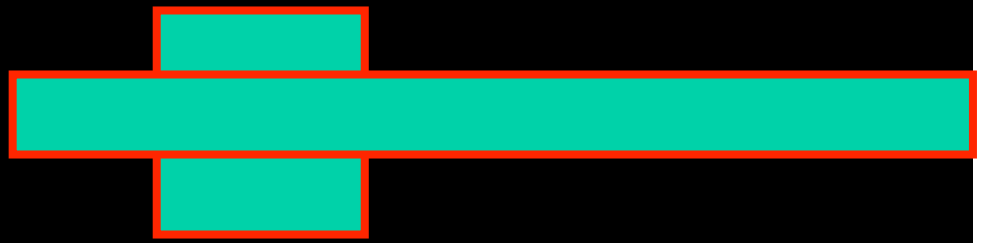
3. [redacted] RESPONSIBILITIES

(i) [redacted] shall exercise all reasonable skill, care and diligence in the discharge of the duties agreed to be performed by him. If in the performance of these duties the [redacted] has a discretion exercisable as between MAFF and the contractor or [redacted], he shall exercise this discretion fairly.

Access: restricted viewing



Trips



Vehicles

Our model

- Need to define:
  - ⇒WHO is allowed to see
  - ⇒WHAT under
  - ⇒WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES
- e.g.
  - ⇒Kevin can see anything if the access takes place from ULCC secure network and the purpose is quality control
  - ⇒User57 can see table CRDA/20/DS/1/2 from IP address xx.xx.xx.xx between May 18 and May 20th because of authorisation from the data owner

Access definition

- WHAT is:
  - ⇒a dataset
  - ⇒a table
  - ⇒a column
  - ⇒a row
  - ⇒a document (or set of documents)
  - ⇒a page of a document
  - ⇒a part of a page (rectilinear areas only at present)
- Most done using traditional archival hierarchical numbering

Who/which

- A userid or class and (potentially) a source
- An optional time period
- A reason (simply coded)
- We log accesses and their authorisation
- We force users to know when their access is ‘privileged’
- Much of this isn’t database-specific: should be a generic answer
- Task is to express it in/with preserved data

Why can’t I see this?

- Related problem: we should define WHY you can’t see something (legislative authority)
- We already preserve history of past restrictions
- Analogy with paper folders: metadata on front cover
- Tools exist for redacting PDF & annotating redactions (reasons, disclosures, etc) for FOI
- Annotation can do the same for data

TRUST - who's involved ?

- Data owners:
  - ⇒we follow their instructions
  - ⇒we work constructively with them
  - ⇒We keep them informed
- National Archives:
  - ⇒We follow their guidelines
  - ⇒We record & audit everything
  - ⇒We keep them informed
- The Public:
  - ⇒We document what's happened
  - ⇒We respond to questions