

Proposal to move to Open Data licencing for UK Performance Indicators 2014/15

UKPITG 15/11

Issue

1. To propose a change to publish UK PIs under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence 4.0 from the 2014/15 edition (published in 2016).

Recommendations

2. UKPITG to approve the change in licencing as proposed, selecting between the basic Attribution and the Share Alike variants as appropriate.

Discussion

3. Currently UK PIs are published under Copyright of the Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited. This is asserted on each published page of indicators. Historically this approach was taken to maintain some control on re-use of the information, obliging any third party to request permission to re-use the statistics. However, in practice this approach has proved of questionable practical value.
4. It is proposed that in future the UK PIs be published under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence. The terms of this licence are as follows:
5. **As a (re)user you are free to:**
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6. An optional variant of the above licence is Share Alike – this means:
If as a (re)user you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. This variant would serve to restrict commercial re-use if such re-use resulted in statistical products that a third party was unwilling to distribute under the same open licence.
7. The advantages of a move to open licencing of this type are that it would encourage re-use and align well with the UK Government strategy to publish more public data using Open Data mechanisms/approaches. The disadvantages include the fact that re-use of UK PIs would not be subject to approval by the publisher (HESA) and there would be no prior notice of high-profile re-uses.

Further information

3. For further information contact Jonathan Waller (Phone: 01242 211130); e-mail: jonathan.waller@hesa.ac.uk)