

## The challenge of open data and GIS

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How official statistics are organised and delivered is a subject of much debate. New Public Management theory, based on the writings of Nobel prize winning economist Williamson, would have suggested that they should be seen as a commodity that should be traded in the open market. Such a view was seen as antithesis the environment needed for successful development of GIS, which it was argued could add value by spatially integrating datasets. Now, the opposite seems to be happening with the move to open data. However, the argument is now being made that open data is problematic to the development of GIS as it will lead to confidentiality issues and incorrect spatial matching. This paper reviews the issues of access to official data and its relationship to GIS. In particular it looks at the safeguards that might be needed if public confidence is not to be undermined by developments in open data.