

Improving data visualisation for public sector decision-makers and researchers

Call for Evidence

We are carrying out a review of data visualisation – how data is presented and brought to life using charts, graphs, maps, timelines, animations etc – for public sector decision-makers and researchers. The work will identify good practice in visualising data, particularly for:

- analysing and presenting small area data (eg, below District level)
- understanding and communicating trends and dynamics over time
- benchmarking comparisons (between areas, groups and services)

We are looking for good examples of visualisation that have:

- made an impact/ helped communicate findings to decision-makers;
- helped researchers understand the story behind the data.

The project/website will be an excellent opportunity to show case your own examples of good visualisation, and help contribute to common standards of good practice in the research community. *If you have any examples, we would love to hear from you!* (contact details below)

Background

The project has been commissioned by the Department of Communities and Local Government, who are looking to understand the potential for visualisations to analyse and communicate data, and provide guidance for national and local analysts on making best use of visualisation.

Work on the project will explore questions including:

- What visualisations are being used by the public sector? What can we learn from elsewhere?
- Is there a useful typology (classification) of visualisation techniques for public sector users?
- How effective are particular types of visualisation in supporting public sector research and decision-making?
- What are the most appropriate visualisation techniques for particular purposes?

The primary output from the project will be a web application, to help users identify strengths and weaknesses of visualisations for particular purposes, also linking to examples and supporting material.

Further information

See www.ocsi.co.uk/visualisation for project details, or contact the project leads below.

James Geehan
(Project manager)
Communities and Local Government
tel: 0207 944 4857
James.Geehan@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Tom Smith
(Project lead)
OCSI
tel: 01273 201345
tom.smith@ocsi.co.uk