Communities and Local Government

www.communities.gov.uk
community, opportunity, prosperity

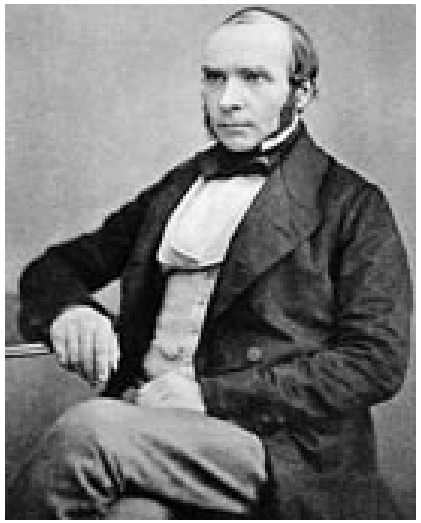
# Irene Lucas CBE

## Director General
## Local Government & Regeneration

# The Future of Transparency

7 December 2010

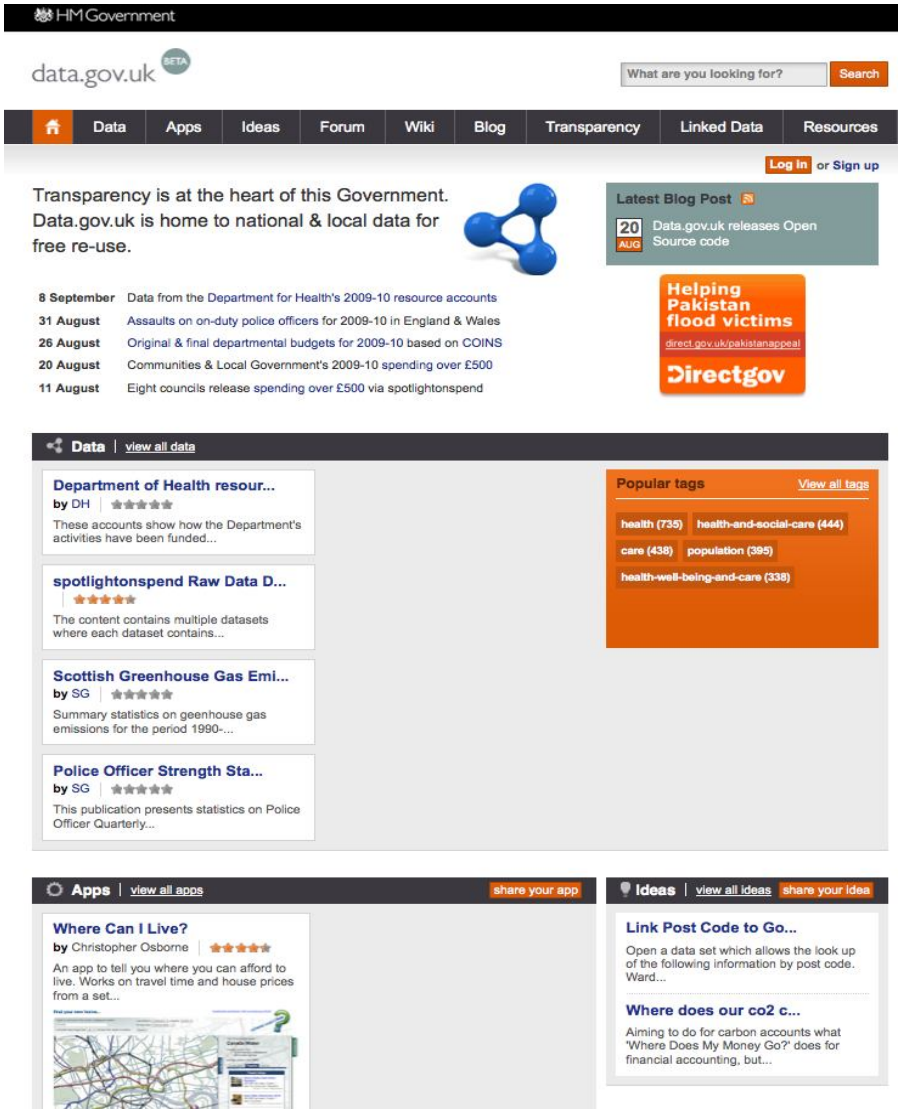
# The power of data is not new

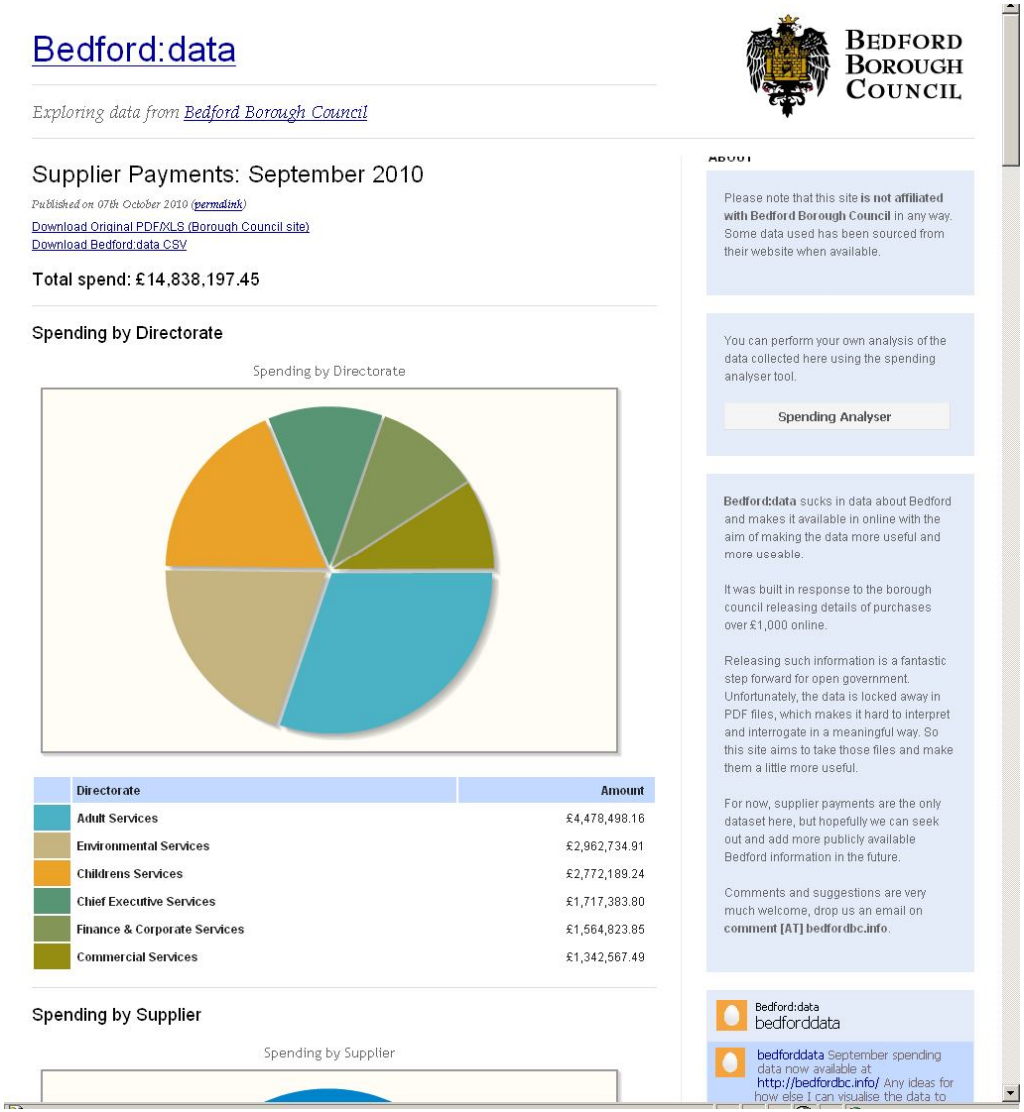


**Cholera cases**

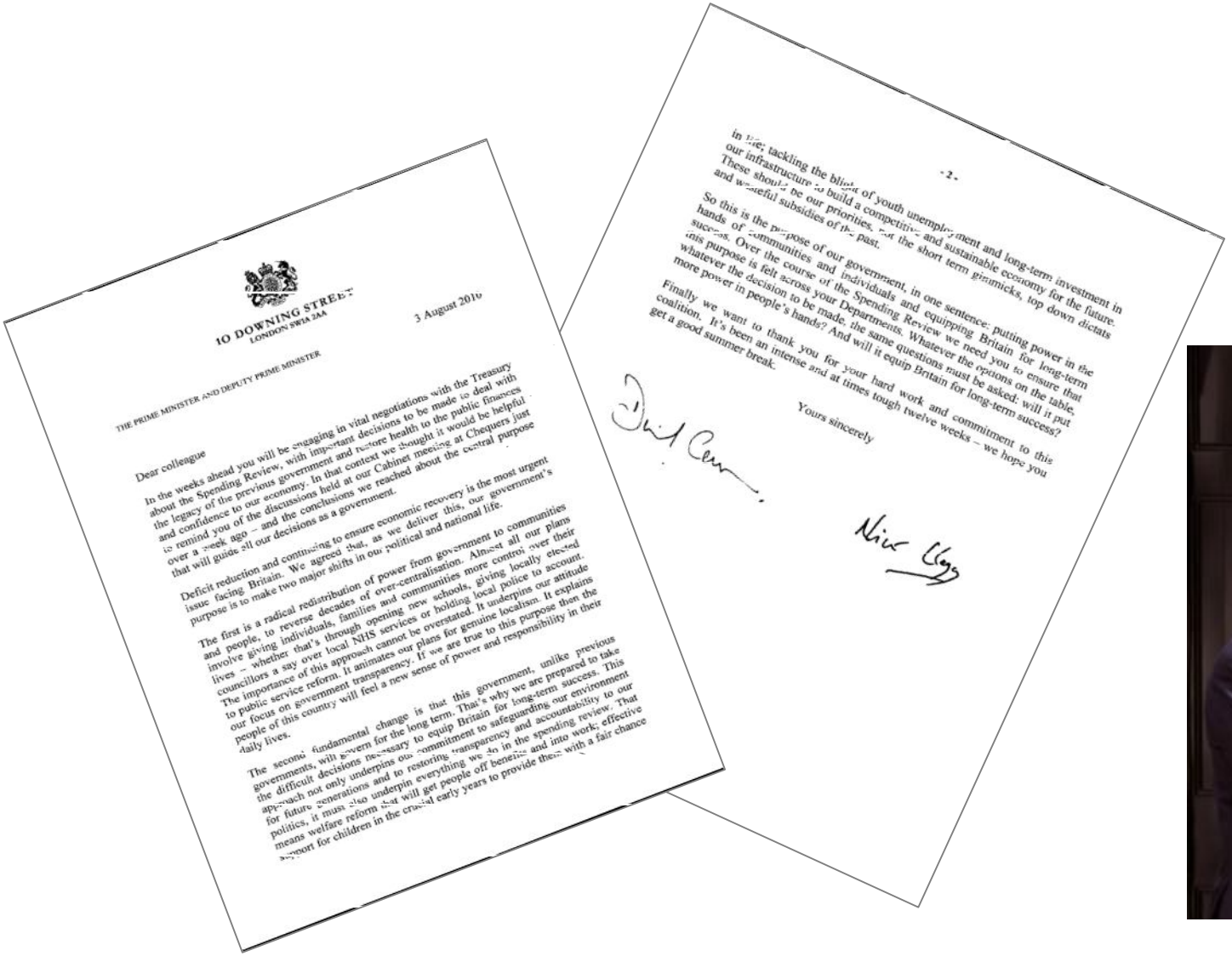
## We can all get frustrated when the information we need isn’t available

# Improved technology is setting new standards



# Leading the way



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

3 August 2010

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Dear colleague

In the weeks ahead you will be engaging in vital negotiations with the Treasury about the Spending Review, with important decisions to be made to deal with the legacy of the previous government and restore health to the public finances and confidence to our economy. In that context we thought it would be helpful to remind you of the discussions we reached about the central purpose over a week ago – and the conclusions we reached about the central purpose that will guide all our decisions as a government.

Deficit reduction and continuing to ensure economic recovery is the most urgent issue facing Britain. We agreed that, as we deliver this, our government's purpose is to make two major shifts in our political and national life.

The first is a radical redistribution of power from government to communities and people, to reverse decades of over-centralisation. Almost all our plans involve giving individuals, families and communities more control over their lives – whether that's through opening new schools, giving locally elected councillors a say over local NHS services or holding local police to account. The importance of this approach cannot be overstated. It underpins our attitude to public service reform. It animates our plans for genuine localism. It explains our focus on government transparency. If we are true to this purpose then the people of this country will feel a new sense of power and responsibility in their daily lives.

The second fundamental change is that this government, unlike previous governments, will govern for the long term. That's why we are prepared to take the difficult decisions necessary to equip Britain for long-term success. This approach not only underpins our commitment to safeguarding our environment for future generations and to restoring transparency and accountability to our politics, it must also underpin everything we do in the spending review. That means welfare reform that will get people off benefits and into work; effective support for children in the crucial early years to provide them with a fair chance

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in life; tackling the blight of youth unemployment and long-term investment in our infrastructure to build a competitive and sustainable economy for the future. These should be our priorities, not the short term gimmicks, top down dictats and wasteful subsidies of the past.

So this is the purpose of our government, in one sentence: putting power in the hands of communities and individuals and equipping Britain for long-term success. Over the course of the Spending Review we need you to ensure that this purpose is felt across your Departments. Whatever the options on the table, whatever the decision to be made, the same questions must be asked: will it put more power in people's hands? And will it equip Britain for long-term success?

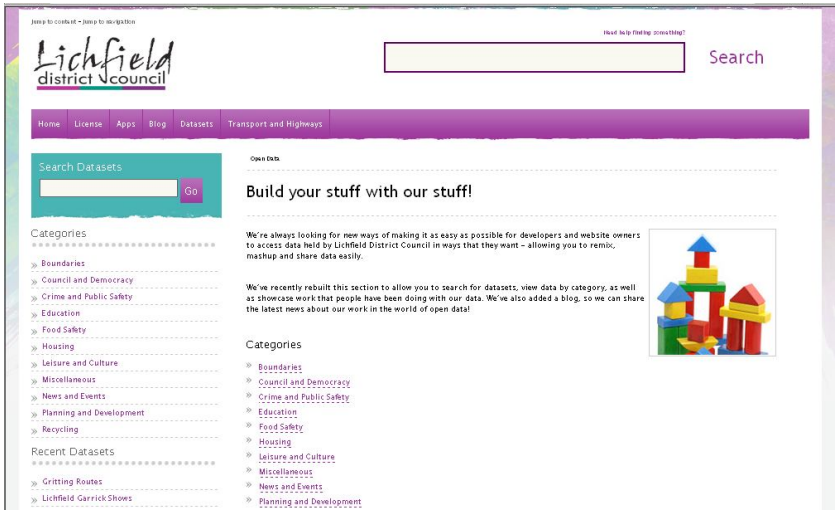
Finally we want to thank you for your hard work and commitment to this coalition. It's been an intense and at times tough twelve weeks – we hope you get a good summer break.

Yours sincerely

David Cameron

Nick Clegg

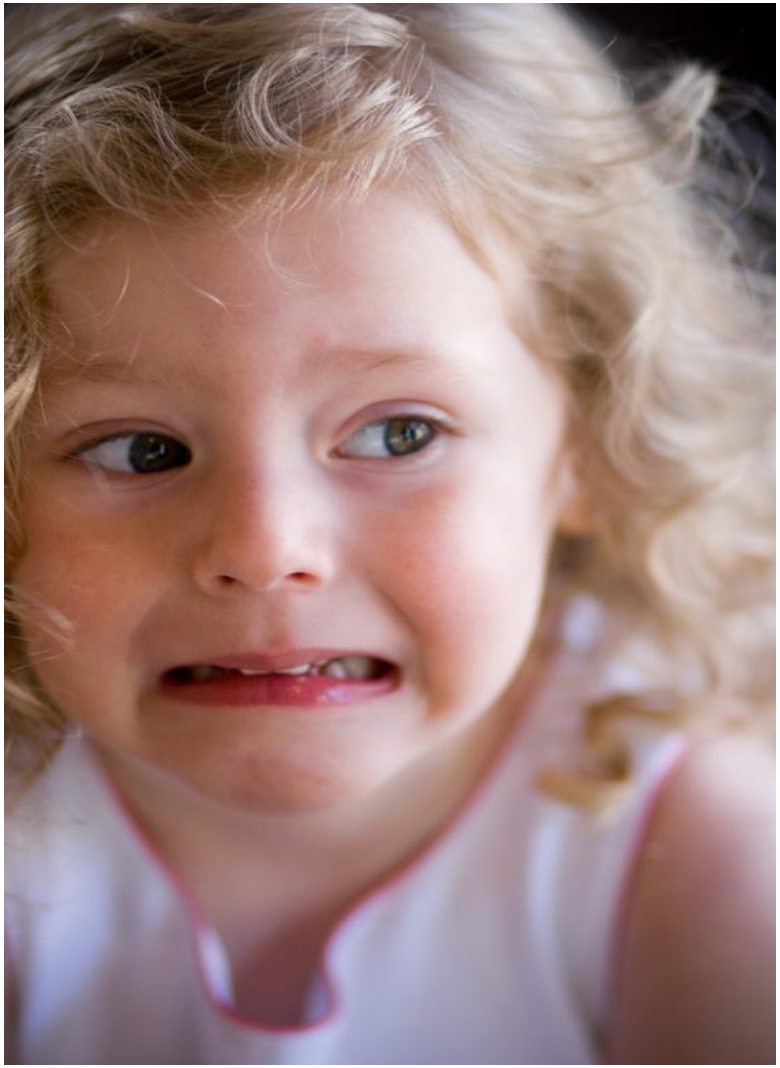
# More than opening the books



# Information matters to me, my family, my community

## So that we can influence decisions on things that are important to us

## Nothing to fear

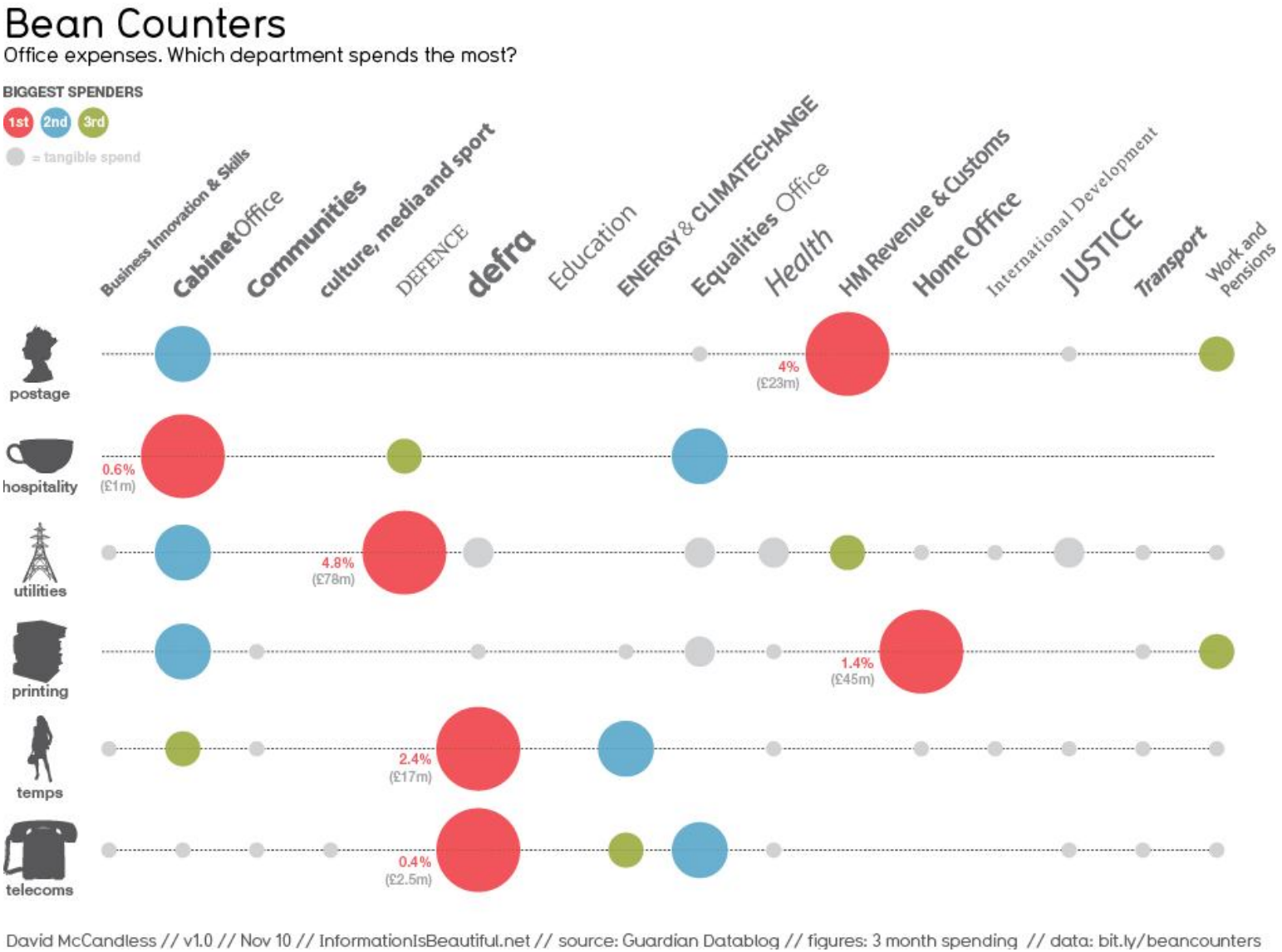


Redbridge Conversation

**"At the end of the day, we're not afraid of being open and honest in Redbridge" – Cllr Keith Prince**

# Let the clever people do the whizzy things, they can make raw data meaningful to all

# Information is beautiful

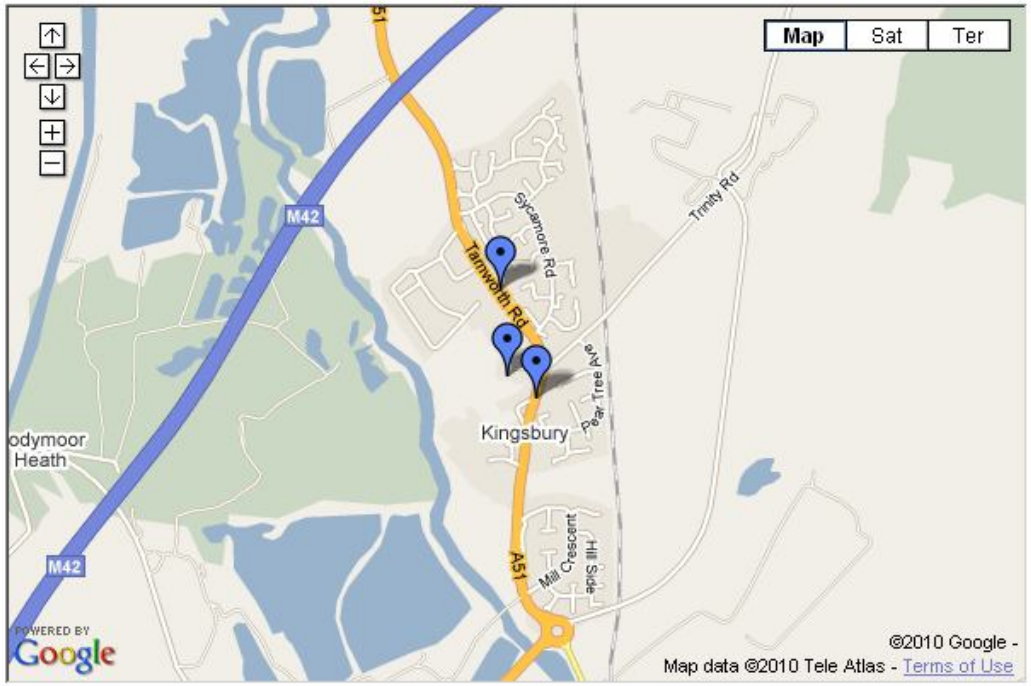


# Mixing up lollypop ladies

## Warwickshire School Crossing Patrols

This app allows you to search for crossing patrols near Warwickshire schools.

Please select a school: Kingsbury School, A Specialist Science and Mathematics College [Submit]




### To Find School Crossing Patrols:

Select a school from the list and click Submit.

Once the map has loaded, click on the icons for more info.

If a map doesn't appear, please ensure Javascript is enabled in your browser.

For further details please contact:

Tel: 01926 412661
Email: roadsafety@warwickshire.gov.uk

Web: School Crossing Patrols on the Warwickshire Web

Built by Stuart Wright using data from the Warwickshire Open Data website.

# Mashing up bikes

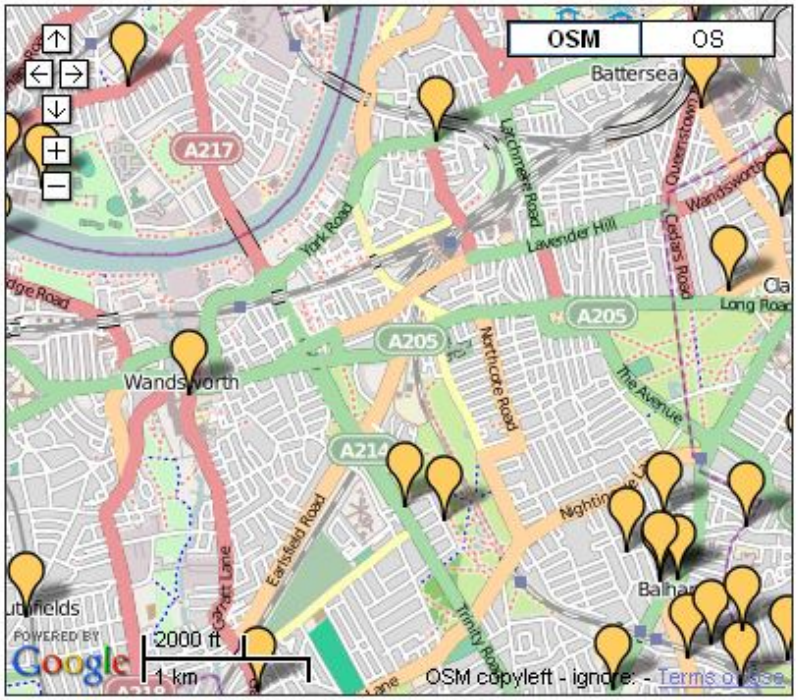
**TfL Cycle Hire Mashup – created by Ben Baker**

# Sharing postboxes

## SW1 - Locate or find your nearest postboxes

First half of postcode: SW1 Go

Locate a postbox on the map (either using the yellow pins or by clicking on the map) using your local knowledge and pick which one it is from the list. *All postboxes have their reference number printed in the bottom left hand corner of the front text plate, so do go and check that.* Please only use the map to locate postboxes. By submitting, you agree to place the location you submit in the public domain.




SW1 – Buckingham Palace Road (ref. SW1 136)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 – Milner Street (ref. SW1 36)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Broadway (ref. SW1 3)
Last collection M–F: 18:45 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Ebury Street (ref. SW1 18)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Hans Place (ref. SW1 162)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Pont Street (ref. SW1 194)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Victoria Square (ref. SW1 184)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0 – Victoria Street (ref. SW1 150)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0AD – 42 Pont Street (ref. SW1 8)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30
SW1 0AU – 52 Grosvenor Gardens (ref. SW1 185)
Last collection M–F: 18:30 Sat: 11:30

Map from OpenStreetMap or Ordnance Survey (contains Ordnance

**Dracos.co.uk**

## There are other benefits for councils too

Aims

Efficiencies

Benchmarks

Excellence

# Government is embedding transparency in to its activities – what are you and other service providers doing?

None of us is
as clever as all of us
Irene.lucas@communities.gsi.gov.uk