Secondary data acquisition and management in Ireland; legal, governance and relationship building issues

Adrienne Harrington, Paul Morrin,
UNECE conference
November 5th 2020
Legal Environment

Data Protection Legislation (GDPR)
(Data Protection Commissioner
Data Protection Officer)
Openness and transparency = Trust

Right to privacy

Freedom of Information Legislation

Statistical Legislation
EU 223/2009
IE Statistics Act 1993

Right to live in an informed society
Data Office

- Compliance
- Policy
- Data Management Policy
- Data Protection Impact Assessments
- Training and Support
Administrative Data Centre

CSO
- Survey system 1
- Survey system 2
- Survey system ...
- Survey system n

ADC

DSP
- Admin data source 2

Organisation

Revenue
- Admin data source 2
Confidentiality and Data Security Committee

• Co-ordinates obligations relating to statistical confidentiality and data security
• Chaired by Data Protection Officer who is a member of the Office’s Management Board
• Focus is on Office policies & rules; education & awareness; and compliance
Data Management Policy

• Creates a data management framework for the CSO
• Part of our overall data governance framework
• Defines the minimum controls required to reduce risk and protect our data and information assets
• Provides guidelines for ownership, management, storage, retention, protection, destruction and security of CSO data
Relationships with data providers

- Our data providers (particularly for administrative data) are not ‘monolithic’ – they employ data users for CSO and linked data too
- ‘Data steward’ role – ‘What’s in it for us?’
- Not sufficient to ‘pass down’ data rules if we in CSO want data quality improvements – services also now central to data access discussions
- Irish DS example – data services, involvement in PS data strategy, secondments, bespoke analysis, methodology support…. (first 2 today)
- Also, will give examples of how our liaison groups work
- What has changed in COVID-19 environment?
Data services

• We have facilitated access to CSO datasets for researchers for many years through Research Microdata Files – similar to many NSI’s
• Administrative data access for research has been facilitated through ‘safe havens’ etc in other countries but not in Ireland
• There is now a legal basis for Departments to facilitate but…….
• Departments need insights from econometric and analytics experts (academic and in-house) to facilitate programme evaluation, etc
• CSO can only do what is within our statistical mandate but this is also useful (COVID example later) – helps with data access and quality
## Involvement in Public Sector Data Strategies

### 2019 Dashboard returns for PPSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Sector Bodies</th>
<th>Total Public Sector Bodies</th>
<th>Civil Service Bodies</th>
<th>Public Service Bodies</th>
<th>Department of Agriculture, Food &amp; Marine</th>
<th>Department of Children &amp; Youth Affairs Agencies</th>
<th>Department of Communications, Climate Action &amp; Environment Agencies</th>
<th>Department of Education &amp; Skills Agencies</th>
<th>Department of Employment Affairs &amp; Social Protection</th>
<th>Department of Foreign Affairs &amp; Trade</th>
<th>Department of Health Agencies</th>
<th>Department of Housing, Planning &amp; Local Government Agencies</th>
<th>Office of the Revenue Commissioners</th>
<th>Department of Transport, Tourism &amp; Sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Number of Datasets</td>
<td>Number of Records</td>
<td>PPSN Coverage %</td>
<td>New Records %</td>
<td>Active Records %</td>
<td>% point change (2019 minus 2018) Number of Datasets</td>
<td>Number of Records</td>
<td>PPSN Coverage %</td>
<td>New Records %</td>
<td>Active Records %</td>
<td>% point change (2019 minus 2018) Number of Datasets</td>
<td>Number of Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public Sector Bodies</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42,069,659</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Service Bodies</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20,331,707</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Bodies</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21,737,952</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Food &amp; Marine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>221,146</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Children &amp; Youth Affairs Agencies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,411,402</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>656,402</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tusla</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>755,000</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Communications, Climate Action &amp; Environment Agencies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,516,828</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4,287,818</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESB</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,348,260</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>873,561</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education &amp; Skills Agencies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,945,934</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>98.5</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,351,527</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>93.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Authority</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,477,714</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLAS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>425,813</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUSI</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>343,000</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Council</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Employment Affairs &amp; Social Protection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,016,631</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Foreign Affairs &amp; Trade</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,287,034</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health Agencies</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8,336,511</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8,336,511</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,128,873</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>77.0</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Housing, Planning &amp; Local Government Agencies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,296,222</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,047,912</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Tenancies Board</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,128,873</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>77.0</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liaison groups with ‘analysis Departments’

• Includes Health, Education, Housing and Transport, who mainly conduct their business via agencies that are also the data owners
• Liaison meetings include all the agencies and research organisations
• Wide ranging discussions about research/statistical activities in both CSO and the various bodies, highlighting the value of linked data
• ‘Soft influence’ in addition to CSO involvement in PS data strategy
• We also have a range of thematic liaison groups on domains - macro-economic, labour market, business, environment, etc
• Consistent messaging – ‘help us to help you’ – access and quality
Liaison groups with ‘data Departments’

- Includes Social Protection, Revenue Commissioners (tax), Agriculture
- Much heavier emphasis on operational detail – upcoming changes to systems, the schedule of datasets, classifications, periodicity, etc.
- Legal basis is discussed in detail – usually to develop our joint MoU’s but increasingly focused on GDPR requirements
- The data analysis sides of the Departments are also represented – often our own seconded statisticians but also economists/policy
- Quality improvements regularly proposed – not always successful!
- Liaison group manages all aspects of relationship with these Depts
CSO COVID-19 developments

• We obtained medical datasets under the first time on condition that we facilitated safe research access for epidemiological purposes
• Downstream benefits for Official statistics and now data quality
• We have focused more on ‘micro-aggregates’ from private sources
• The Department of Health paid for micro-aggregates from one of the three Irish MNO’s for CSO – again, on condition of researcher access
• Also, doors have opened in relation to aggregates from credit cards, microdata from traffic sensors, etc – similar in other countries?
• Need to build on all these relationships to ensure sustainability
Conclusions

• We have invested heavily in data governance in CSO
• This is a ‘must’ with data providers
• But now ‘what can you do for us’ is a factor in both data access and improvement requests
• Our legal right of access to data and right to be consulted in system changes needs to be augmented with services