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Title: Smart meter FOI request - comments from [REDACTED] on GSS Symposium presentation

Categorisation
Personal Work Areas \ [REDACTED]

Originator: [REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk on
04/03/2015
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From : [REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk
To : [REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS, Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS
CC : [REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk, [REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk,
[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk
Date Sent : 04/03/2015 16:43:25
Subject : RE: FW: ONS Smart Meter Research publication

[attachment "GSS Presentation & Dissemination Symposium.ppt" deleted by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS]

[attachment "NTTS-0315-ONS smart-type meters.pptx" deleted by [REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS]
Hi Susan / [REDACTED],

Having reviewed both sets of presentation slides, there are comments we would like to see addressed prior to finalising. As with the report, the presentation narrative migrates from 'occupancy' to 'non-occupancy' (i.e. the Research Question is about 'household occupancy'; later slides refer to identifying 'unoccupied' households). DECC's perspective is that any publishable Government text (such as presentation slides which are often available post conference) should avoid advocating us trying to identify vacant or unoccupied households. Although other slides make clear that consumer protections are in place that would prevent unauthorised access to detailed consumption data, written statements suggesting that smart meter data would be used to identify unoccupied householders can easily be taken out of context and misinterpreted.

As such, feedback on specific bullet points are noted below:

NTTS Conference Presentation:

Slide 4

- ~~High~~ **Public** concern over data security and access **could result in consumer rejection of smart metering if risks not addressed**
- ~~Theoretically: data might be used to identify individual households and real-time occupancy~~ **Without suitable protections smart meter data could be used to track certain behaviours within individual's own homes and build detailed profiles of them**
- **Specific smart meter Data access and privacy legislation being devised has now been put in place in GB**
- ONS has approached UK privacy groups to gain support for this research

Slide 5 - **Research Question:** Investigate the potential of smart-type meter electricity data (high frequency – 30 mins) to model likelihood of household occupancy **patterns**

Slide 6 – Figure title: What does ~~an unoccupied household~~ **typical household occupancy** look like?
- chart legend suggest switch to : ~~An occupied day~~ **An inactive day**

Slide 8 - Initial methods developed to automatically identify ~~days where a household is unoccupied~~ **household occupancy patterns**

Slide 11 (bullet 2) – ~~Huge~~ **Privacy and ethical concerns**

Slide 11 (bullet 3) - Methods to ~~identify an unoccupied day~~ estimate household occupancy patterns using smart-type meter trial data have given promising results

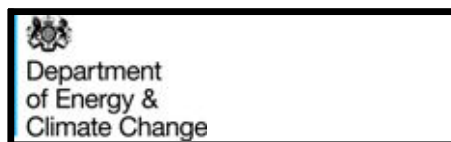
GSS Presentation & Dissemination Symposium

- Slide 7 – **Research Question:** Investigate the potential of smart-type meter electricity data (high frequency – 30 mins) to model likelihood of household occupancy **patterns**
- Slide 8 – Figure title: What does ~~an unoccupied household~~ **typical household occupancy** look like?
 - chart legend suggest switch to : ~~An occupied day~~ **An inactive day**
- Slide 9 > Methods to automatically identify ~~whole days where a household is unoccupied~~ **household occupancy patterns from aggregated data**
 - > For example by **identifying** ~~examining~~ homes with low variance in their consumption pattern
 - > Access to **GB smart meter data (2020)** ~~is politically sensitive~~ will be restricted under **data access and privacy legislation**

But... (maybe switch bullet order)

- ~~Access to smart meter data (2020) is politically sensitive~~ is **subject to data access and privacy legislation that requires the householder's consent for third party access.**
- Need to be careful of privacy / ethics
- Slide 22 – Change chart key from 'Occupied / Unoccupied' to **'Active / Inactive'**

If anything doesn't make sense, please let me know (I'll be back in the office on Friday).
Kind regards,



[Redacted] | Smart Meters Programme
DECC | Orchard 3, LG | 1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET
☒: [Redacted] [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] [mailto:[Redacted]@ons.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 March 2015 14:58
To: [Redacted] (Smart Meters Programme Delivery)
Subject: Re: FW: ONS Smart Meter Research publication

Hi [Redacted],

Would you mind checking you're happy with these slides for the GSS Presentation and Dissemination Symposium by the end of Wednesday please? The symposium is next week. I've sent you the whole thing, but the work we've done on smart-type meters is on slides 7-9, with some visualisations on slides 21 and 22.

Thanks in advance of your help.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [ONS Big Data Project](#) | Office for National Statistics | Segensworth Road | Titchfield |
Fareham | Hants | PO15 5RR | [REDACTED]

From: Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk),
Cc: [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk), [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk), [REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
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Date: 02/03/2015 12:23
Subject: Re: FW: ONS Smart Meter Research publication

Thanks [REDACTED]

We'll work through your suggested amendments - they all look reasonable to me

..we don't have a publication timetable yet - but it won't take long once we have the report revised -
and we will notify ahead of time as to when and where it can be located.

There is some ONS internal research using the Irish smart-type meter trial data to detect methods of
identifying whole days of occupancy (again for use in building up small area estimates). [REDACTED] will
send you a presentation she intends to present at the GSS symposium for presentation and
dissemination (next week in Cardiff).

and here is the presentation that accompanies the abstract to the NTTTS conference (you OK'ed the
abstract a couple of weeks ago)

[attachment "NTTS-0315-ONS smart-type meters.pptx" deleted by [REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS]

Get back to me if there is a problem

best regards

Susan

Susan Williams | [ONS Big Data Project](#) | Office for National Statistics | One Drummond Gate | Pimlico | SW1V 2QQ | Phone:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk)
To: Susan Williams/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]/TITCHFIELD/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk), [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk), [REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk),
[REDACTED] [@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@decc.gsi.gov.uk)
Date: 27/02/2015 15:12
Subject: FW: ONS Smart Meter Research publication

Susan / [REDACTED],

I was aiming to get this to you before both [REDACTED] left and I went on leave, but timings didn't work out, so apologies for the delay.

Please find attached:

- The Smart Metering Policy response to the publication
- Covering text for report (with suggested amendments).

In line with the Policy response to the covering text, we would welcome further clarification on the exact responses by (and questions posed to) the privacy groups that ONS consulted.

In relation to the report, the methodology itself is sound and has been cleared by the Head of Profession ([REDACTED]). However, please can the following comments be addressed:

- Figure 7 (p.12) include sample sizes in axis for clarity.
- Section 5.2 (p.24) This states that the trials were set-up as an experimental design (intervention vs. control), but neither the intervention or control groups have been defined, nor has the analysis been discussed in this context, therefore I am unsure whether the specified design is correct?
- There is key text at the end of the 1st paragraph of Section 5.2 (p.26) about privacy, consent and bias that should be included in the executive summary / forward for greater clarity up front.
- In line with your comments on p.36, we need to be clear that Governments' brief was not to identify individual households.
- Similarly, although the conclusions have been set out in an Official Statistics context (p.38), they are slightly at odds to the narrative in earlier chapters (i.e. single household identification).

Do you have a publication timetable for i) this paper and ii) any related follow on work around smart metering?

If there are any problems, please let us know.

Many thanks,

Bex

[DECC_CYAN_SML_AW-100-1]

[REDACTED] | Smart Meters Programme
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*: [REDACTED]

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