

From:
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2011 3:09 p.m.
To: Environmental Reporting
Cc:
Subject: Submission on discussion document on environmental reporting
Attachments:

Hello

My submission is not a standard one, and might not be of value in the process; still, I thought to provide it as a challenge and a look ahead to potential future policy development.

We are at the point of making a public release of the attached document. I would rather it is not distributed wider than this until it is formally released. It should provide background and a broader discussion on a related topic.

The objectives on p. 4 of the Discussion Document comment that the scope does not cover environmental data collected in other ways. I can see the sense in limiting the problem in this way; however, there would be value in a long-term strategy that looks at all environmental quality data and integrates them into one free-access, user-friendly, web-enabled database.

Page 15 notes that an objective of the policy is that "high quality environmental statistics are available to underpin state of the environment reporting and environmental policy-making." The issue where attention is needed is a broader one that data are not used to underpin good environmental decision-making. The limitations are institutional rather than technical, and Central Government has the potential to advance the ability of many organisations to make more and better use of data that have been expensively collected and inefficiently used.

I would encourage the Government to see this "Measuring Up" policy development as a step in the direction of a strategy to maximise the value of all environmental quality data.

Regards

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