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LAND REGISTRY GOES BIG ON OPEN DATA

Land Registry is today, 28 June 2013, making its historical price paid records available to download for free as part of its open data programme. This will allow developers and businesses to use and reuse one of the world's largest property datasets, comprising over 17 million residential cash and mortgage sales in England and Wales. The raw data was previously only available as a commercial product, often seen on property websites. It is also used to calculate Land Registry's popular House Price Index.

The first phase being released today includes records of sales at full market value lodged for registration between January 2009 and January 2012. The remainder of the data covering the period January 1995 to December 2008 will be released by November 2013. Collectively this represents over 17 years worth of valuable information on the country's housing market.

Minister for Civil Society Nick Hurd said:

"This move by the Land Registry is great news for people in the UK who will benefit from the increased openness of this information.

"I'm pleased to announce that the UK's draft National Action Plan on open government is now open for consultation. I would encourage businesses, entrepreneurs, civil society organisations and members of the public to get involved in shaping the UK's direction on open data and transparency.

"It's particularly important that the UK sets the bar high this year, when it is leading the international Open Government Partnership and has made transparency one of the key priorities of its G8 presidency."

Ed Lester, Chief Land Registrar and Chief Executive Officer said:

"Although we have been publishing this data for free since March 2012, this is the first time the complete historical set is going to be made available free of charge as

open data, actively demonstrating our commitment to economic growth through greater transparency and open data.”

Heather Savory, Chair of the Open Data User Group (ODUG) said:

“ODUG is delighted that Land Registry has made this dataset open data, free of charge under an Open Government License (OGL). The data will be valuable to many users. Land Registry is setting the standard here for the release of open data having responded quickly and positively to the requests for this data submitted by the data community via the request form at data.gov.uk/odug.”

Robin Lumley-Savile, CEO of Locatable.com, a member of the Open Data Institute's Startup Programme, said:

“We’re incredibly excited to see the Land Registry publishing its price paid data (PPD) as this ground breaking move aligns directly with our business strategy of bringing greater transparency to the UK residential property market. In doing so the UK Government has really cemented pole position in the race to open the world’s data, setting a global example of how this process can be used to create economic opportunity.”

To coincide with the release Land Registry is launching its first open data challenge. Entrants are being asked to show the value of Land Registry’s open data by demonstrating the potential of how it can be used with up to £3,000 earmarked as prizes for successful entries.

Ed Lester continued:

“We know that entrepreneurs and organisations use our data to support business decision making and develop innovative applications and services. However, with today’s price paid data release and our new open data challenge we hope more developers and SMEs will be encouraged to come up with some exciting ideas that will contribute to business innovation and economic growth.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. Today’s price paid data is Land Registry’s fourth open data release. Land Registry has been publishing free datasets since 2012 under the Open Government Licence (OGL) in CSV and Excel formats.

2. Land Registry began to provide its open data as linked data in January 2013. It has also published a schedule of planned open data releases for this year as well as a full dataset inventory.
3. All Land Registry's open data is available to download from the Land Registry website and Data.gov.uk under the OGL.
4. Full details of the challenge and how to register, can be found at <http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/campaigns/open-data-challenge> Entries can be submitted between 26 July and 25 October 2013.
5. The UK's draft National Action Plan on open data and transparency for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) has been published for consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/open-government-partnership-uk-draft-national-action-plan-2013>
6. Locatable (<http://www.locatable.com>) combines data from Government (including Land Registry, local council, transport, and hopefully energy/utility related sources soon) to create a transparent and efficient platform for home buyers to find and purchase their next home. They are initially focusing on the first time buyer market to offer them all the resources and tools they need to gain a foothold on the property ladder faster and with less stress.
7. Land Registry's price paid dataset contains details of more than 17 million residential property sales completed in England and Wales since January 1995. It provides the basis for the analysis used to complete the monthly House Price Index.
8. The records include the full address of the property, the price paid, the date of the sale, the property type, whether it is a new build or not and whether it is freehold or leasehold.
9. Datasets are published on the twentieth working day of each month in Excel, CSV and linked data formats at <http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/market-trend-data> and <http://data.gov.uk/> for use under the Open Government Licence (OGL). The next datasets will be released on Friday 26 July #opendata
10. For a full list of all the datasets held by Land Registry, please access our [dataset inventory](#)
11. The OGL developed by the National Archives permits the free use and re-use of public sector information. For further information visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence>
12. As a government department established in 1862, executive agency and trading fund responsible to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Land Registry keeps and maintains the Land Register for England and Wales. The Land Register has been an open document since 1990.
13. With the largest transactional database of its kind detailing over 23 million titles, Land Registry underpins the economy by safeguarding ownership of many billions of pounds worth of property.
14. For further information about Land Registry visit www.landregistry.gov.uk
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