

## FAIR TRADING INFORMATION – PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

I am personally committed to making sure that the UK Hydrographic Office trades in information fairly. I encourage you to re-use our material for new purposes, to stimulate new markets and to bring our material to new customers so that everyone can enjoy the results of over 200 years of investment in our high quality hydrographic data.

I fully support the Office of Public Sector Information's (OPSI) Information Fair Trader Scheme (IFTS) and I am proud that we were the first organisation to be successfully verified with Fair Trader accreditation. I can make the following statement with confidence.

I insist that we strictly follow a system of open trading that meets the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations (including competition law and the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations), and of UK Government policy. I aim, in principle, to meet the needs of anyone who applies for a licence to re-use information for any purpose. We publish any exceptions on our website ([www.ukho.gov.uk](http://www.ukho.gov.uk)) and will strictly follow them.

I insist that we follow the following principles when licensing the re-use of our material:

- We will offer all material for re-use unless there are strong reasons not to and we will be open about those reasons
- Barriers to the re-use of our data, where identified, should be removed
- Licensing (including pricing) must be transparent and be applied fairly to users of the same data for the same purposes
- Licensees should fairly contribute towards our relevant operational costs based on their use of our material
- Pricing should reflect the market's ability to pay
- Pricing should reflect our costs to administer the licensing process
- Licences and processes should be as simple as possible

The role of information trading is written into our business model. We set our licence fees in line with the role of information trading within that model. We publish our licence fees on the website and strictly follow them. Any exceptions are described in full on the website, and are available to anyone who qualifies for them. I am committed to reducing as far as possible the administrative burden on people who re-use public-sector information.

I will tell the Director of OPSI about any complaints I receive that my organisation has broken this commitment, and I will investigate them thoroughly. If OPSI decide to investigate a complaint, I will allow the OPSI investigation team to see the relevant staff and records.



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