



# Status of implementation of the INSPIRE Directive – 2016 Country Fiches

## COUNTRY FICHE United Kingdom

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### Introduction

The INSPIRE Directive sets the minimum conditions for interoperable sharing and exchange of spatial data across Europe as part of a larger European Interoperability Framework and the e-Government Action Plan that contributes to the Digital Single Market Agenda. Article 21 of [INSPIRE Directive](#) defines the basic principles for monitoring and reporting. More detailed implementing rules regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting have been adopted as [COMMISSION DECISION regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting](#) on the 5th of June 2009.

This country fiche highlights the progress of United Kingdom in the various areas of INSPIRE implementation and presents an outlook of planned actions for further improvement of the INSPIRE implementation. The country fiche includes information **until May 2016** as a summary of the information acquired through:

- the 2016 [tri-annual INSPIRE implementation report](#),
- [monitoring report](#) in May 2016

## 1. State of Play

A high-level view on the governance, use and impact of the INSPIRE Directive in United Kingdom (UK). More detailed information is available on the [INSPIRE knowledge base](#).

The content of the chapter is tagged according to 5 criteria of better regulation:

- **[Effectiveness]** How successful has the INSPIRE implementation been in achieving, progressing towards its objectives; progress made, gaps, what factors have influenced or why it has not yet been achieved regarding availability of services, data interoperability, sharing, data policy obstacles
- **[Efficiency]** Costs (numbers or difficulties to evaluate them); benefits (qualitative or quantitative) already visible.
- **[Relevance]** Is it still relevant to make data interoperable, remove obstacles of data sharing, drive collaboration between public services, necessary for National SDI, use cross-sector, requested by eGovernment, modernisation of public admin, etc.; support given by National Institutions for implementation
- **[Coherence]** Internal coherence of INSPIRE provisions proved by implementation; cross-border applications; coherence with other National and EU policies
- **[EU-added value]** Improvement of EU cross-border data management and use; use for environmental monitoring and reporting, use for and with Copernicus data; use cross-sector.

### 1.1 Coordination

- National Contact point

Name of public authority	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Mailing address	UK INSPIRE National Contact Point Defra Zone 4D Nobel House 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:UK-INSPIRE@defra.gsi.gov.uk">UK-INSPIRE@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Website address	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/defra">http://www.gov.uk/defra</a>
Contact person	John Dixon
Telephone number	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:UK-INSPIRE@defra.gsi.gov.uk">UK-INSPIRE@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a>

- Coordination Structure
  - UK INSPIRE Compliance Board, led and chaired by Defra, retained responsibility for overseeing UK implementation and compliance with the INSPIRE Directive. This Board is supported by a technical expert board, the Architecture and Interoperability Board (AIB).
- Progress
  - The UK has a well developed, active and engaged private sector and special interest community. They are not formally part of the structure.
  - UK has set up processes that allow much of the data needed for the INSPIRE Monitoring Indicators report to be gathered automatically from the UK metadata portal. **[Effectiveness]**
  - UK Location Information Infrastructure was established to publish location data held by public authorities it is not limited only to publishing INSPIRE data sets.

### 1.2 Functioning and coordination of the infrastructure

- The infrastructure design remained as previously reported. It has been maintained in line with changes to technical guidance and standards and changes to UK data infrastructures.

- UK INSPIRE Compliance Board is the key forum to coordinate stakeholders' interests
- As noted in the last report, the UK decided not to implement a centralised Schema Transformation service, due to the federated nature of data publishing in the UK and the domain specific nature of transformation. This approach was validated by the INSPIRE IOC Taskforce.

### 1.3 Usage of the infrastructure for spatial information

- UK wide SDI is openly available and does not only hold INSPIRE data. INSPIRE is part of a wider agenda which includes making public data more open and more easily available, making government more transparent, and allowing citizens digitally to access all government services by default. **[Effectiveness]**
- In 2014 Defra commissioned four case studies of INSPIRE implementation in local government.
- The Greater Manchester Infrastructure Map is a collection of planning data from 10 local authorities within Greater Manchester to support cross border decision making for planning and regeneration within the Greater Manchester area. The project used some of the INSPIRE principles to collate their data from local authorities **[Coherence]**
- Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom that shares a land border with another Member State - the Republic of Ireland. During the reporting period meetings took place with Ordnance Survey Ireland, the lead organisation on INSPIRE in the Republic of Ireland to discuss INSPIRE coordination **[EU-added value]**

### 1.4 Data Sharing Arrangements

- The position remained as set out in the previous report. The UK simplified its licensing arrangements to treat the public sector as a single body and an equal partner. These arrangements were set out in the last report and are now well established.
- As set out in the last report, The Open Government Licence is promoted for use by public bodies and is now widely used. **[Effectiveness]** It is the default licence for government.

### 1.5 Costs and Benefits

- The costs of implementing the INSPIRE central infrastructure services in the UK are not considered to be prohibitive. But, given the UK's federated approach and the nature of INSPIRE, measuring the total cost of INSPIRE implementation or the value of benefits obtained is not been possible.
- The UK set up and maintains an infrastructure and set of services that users may access and exploit as they wish. The end benefits from INSPIRE will be realised by the users.
- Use cases will continue to be monitored with stakeholders.

## 2 Key Facts and Figures

In addition to the above mentioned issues, the implementation of INSPIRE Directive requires Member States to take four main steps in relation to management of spatial datasets which fall under the Directive:

- Step 1: Identify spatial datasets
- Step 2: Document these datasets (metadata)
- Step 3: Provide services for identified spatial datasets (discovery, view, download)
- Step 4: Make spatial datasets interoperable by aligning them with the common data models.

The key facts and figures presented in this country fiche are based on the information provided by UK on the [INSPIRE dashboard](#). **The provided statistics is not reflecting the data available on [INSPIRE geoportal](#).** The INSPIRE geoportal is

updated on a regular and ongoing basis, whilst the INSPIRE dashboard is typically updated after every reporting round, on a yearly basis.

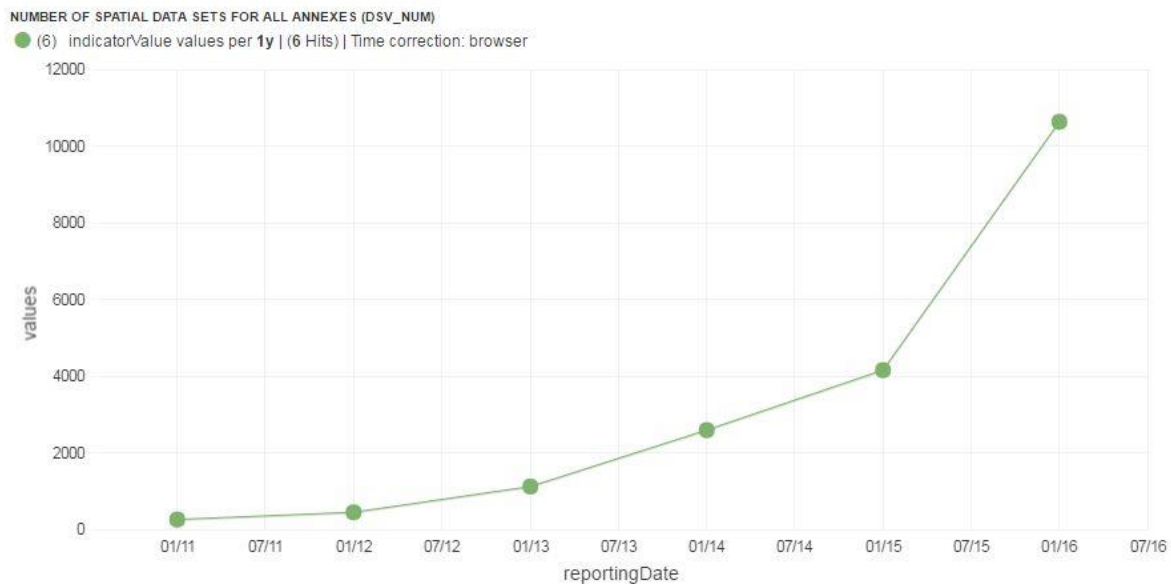
**The UK is concerned that the dashboard used by the EEA and the EC was designed so inflexibly that it does not accept data sets that have been uploaded without an INSPIRE keyword in the associated metadata. This is despite the fact that they have been recorded by the UK on its monitoring return as INSPIRE datasets. The effect is to reduce the overall total of UK INSPIRE data sets recorded on the dashboard.**

The conformity of the implementation is assessed against the full set of legal specifications set out by the Directive and the Implementing Rules and the commonly agreed good practices set out by the technical guidelines.

## 2.1. Identification of spatial data with relevance to the environment (step 1)

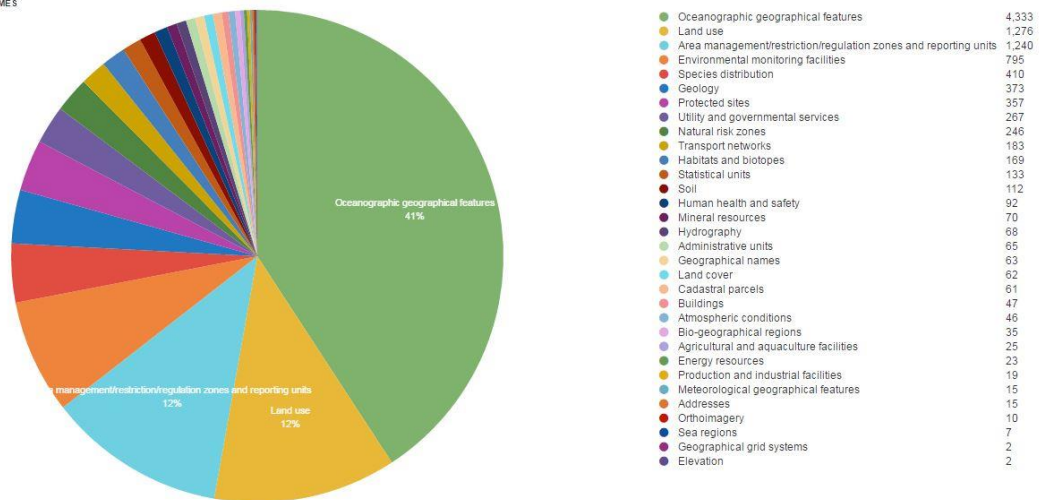
### a. Evolution of the data offering

DSv\_Num: number of spatial data sets for all Annexes



## b. Data sets made available per INSPIRE theme in 2015

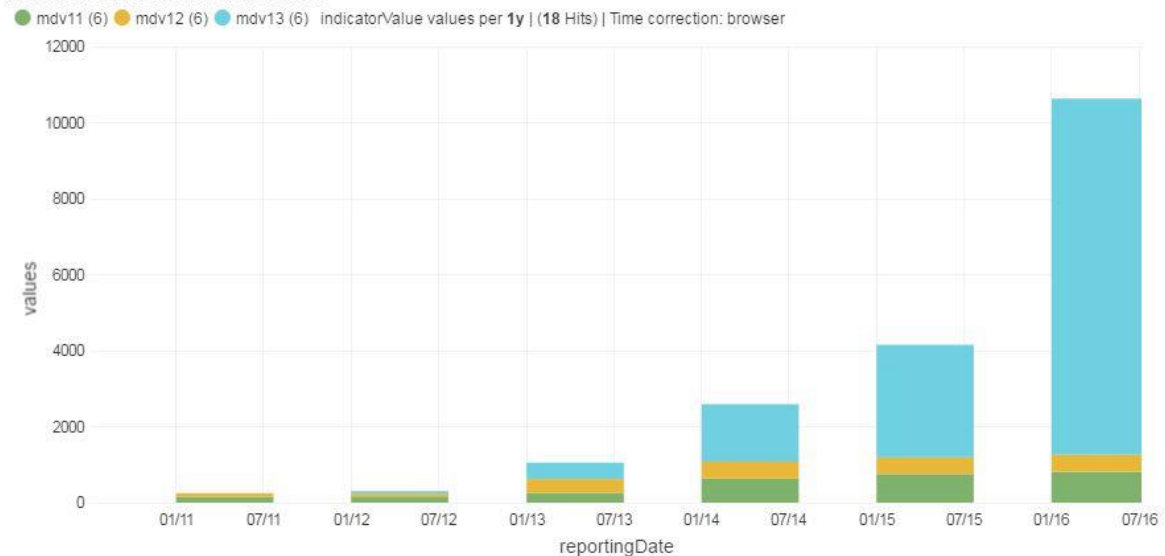
NUMBER OF RECORD PER THEMES



## c. Data sets per annex (Annex 1 & 2: spatial reference data; Annex 3: environmental spatial data)

MDv1.1 (green): number of spatial data sets for Annex I that have metadata  
 MDv1.2 (yellow): number of spatial data sets for Annex II that have metadata  
 MDv1.3 (blue): number of spatial data sets for Annex III that have metadata

NUMBER OF SPATIAL DATA SETS PER ANNEXES



### Evaluation of progress for step 1:

**UK has identified a total of 10632 spatial data sets with relation to the themes listed in the INSPIRE annexes.**

Additional spatial data sets have been identified in 2015 mainly under Annex III data themes. A lot of relevant spatial data sets have already been identified for the different data themes. Further improvement is expected by identifying and documenting spatial data sets required under the existing reporting and monitoring regulations of EU environmental law.

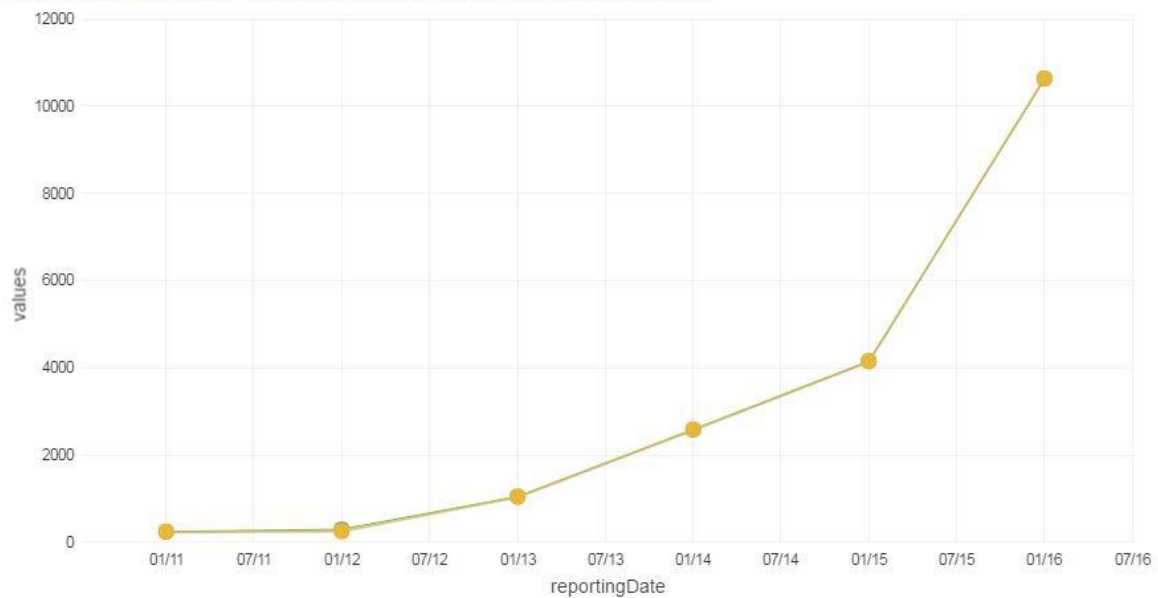
## 2.2 Documentation of the data (metadata) (step 2)

### a. Evolution of documented data and conformity of the documentation

MDv1\_DS (green): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have metadata

MDv2\_DS (yellow): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have conformant metadata

NUMBER OF SPATIAL DATA SET THAT HAVE METADATA (MDV1\_DS) AND HAVE CONFORMANT METADATA (MDV2\_DS)  
● mdv1\_ds (6) ● mdv2\_ds (6) indicatorValue values per 1y | (12 Hits) | Time correction: browser



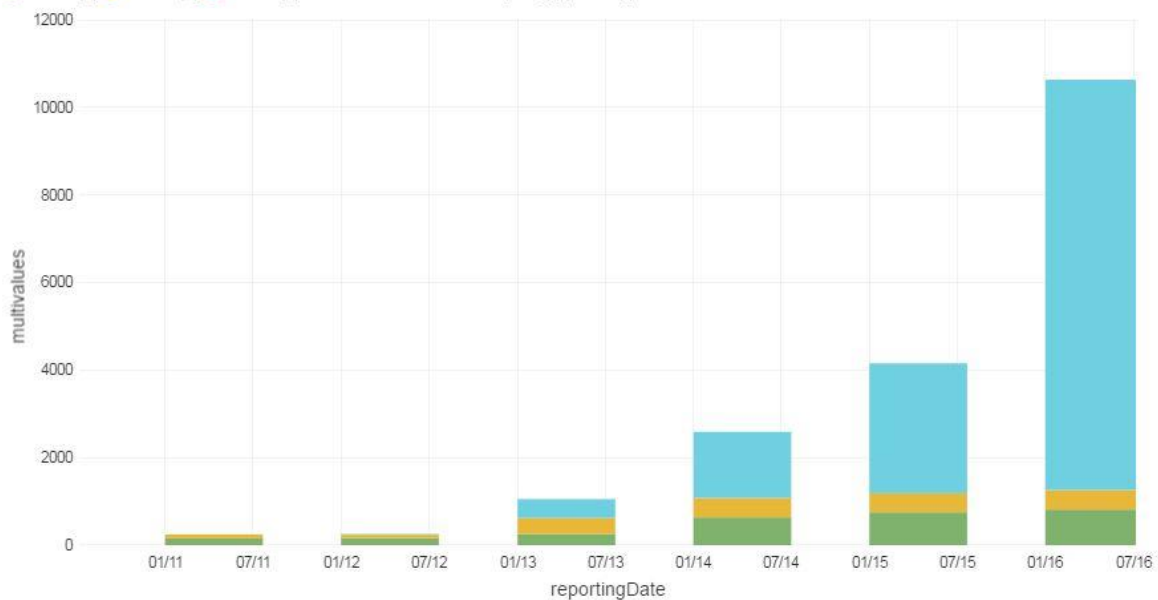
### b. Documented data per annex in 2015

MDv2.1 (green): number of spatial data sets for Annex I that have conformant metadata

MDv2.2 (yellow): number of spatial data sets for Annex II that have conformant metadata

MDv2.3 (blue): number of spatial data sets for Annex III that have conformant metadata

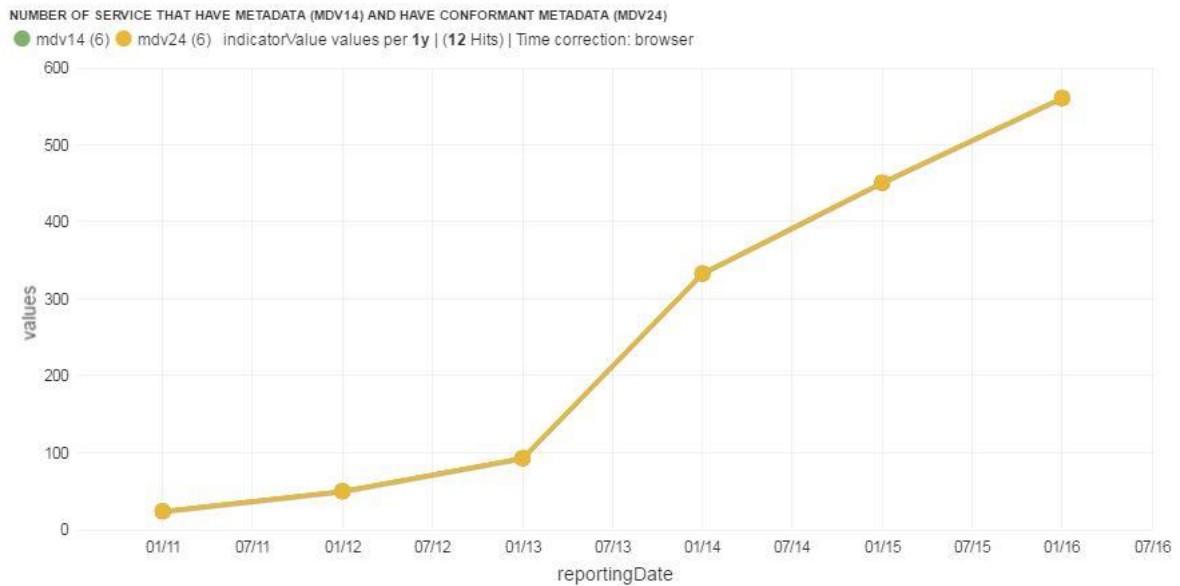
NUMBER OF SPATIAL DATA SETS THAT HAVE CONFORMANT METADATA PER ANNEXES  
● mdv21 (6) ● mdv22 (6) ● mdv23 (6) indicatorValue multivalues per 1y | (18 Hits) | Time correction: browser



### c. Evolution of documented services and conformity of the documentation

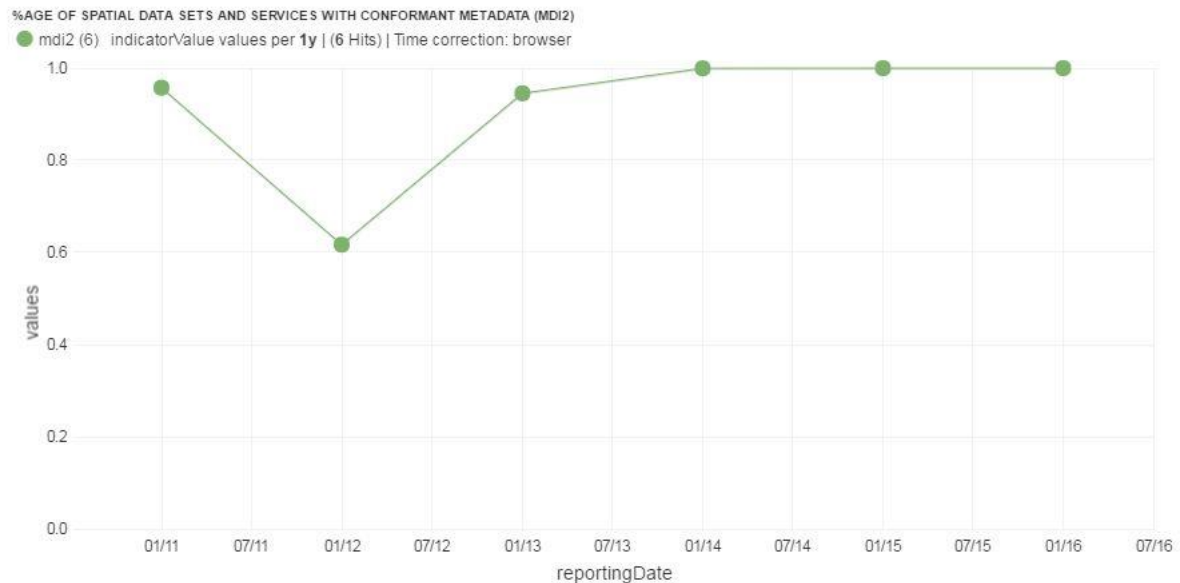
MDv1.4 (green): number of spatial data services that have metadata

MDv2.4 (yellow): number of spatial data services that have conformant metadata



### d. Evolution of the overall conformity of the documented metadata

$MDi2 = (\text{number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have conformant metadata} + \text{number of spatial data services that have conformant metadata}) / (\text{number of spatial data sets for all Annexes} + \text{number of spatial data services})$



#### Evaluation of progress for step 2:

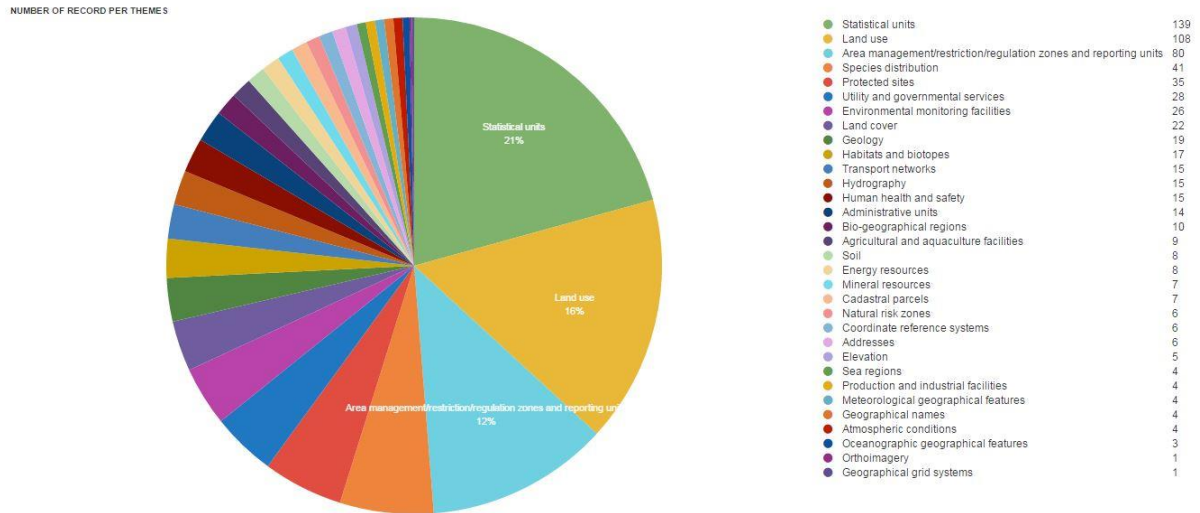
**UK has documented and published metadata through a digital discovery service for 100% of the identified spatial data sets and 100% (561) of the digital services. Overall, 100% of the UK metadata conforms to the INSPIRE metadata specifications.**

It shows a very high level of maturity and conformity.

## 2.3. Accessibility of the data through digital services (step 3)

### a. Digitally accessible spatial data per INSPIRE theme in 2015

Note: This figure reflects the amount of spatial data sets made available through a digital service, not the amount of available digital services. A digital service can make several spatial data sets available.



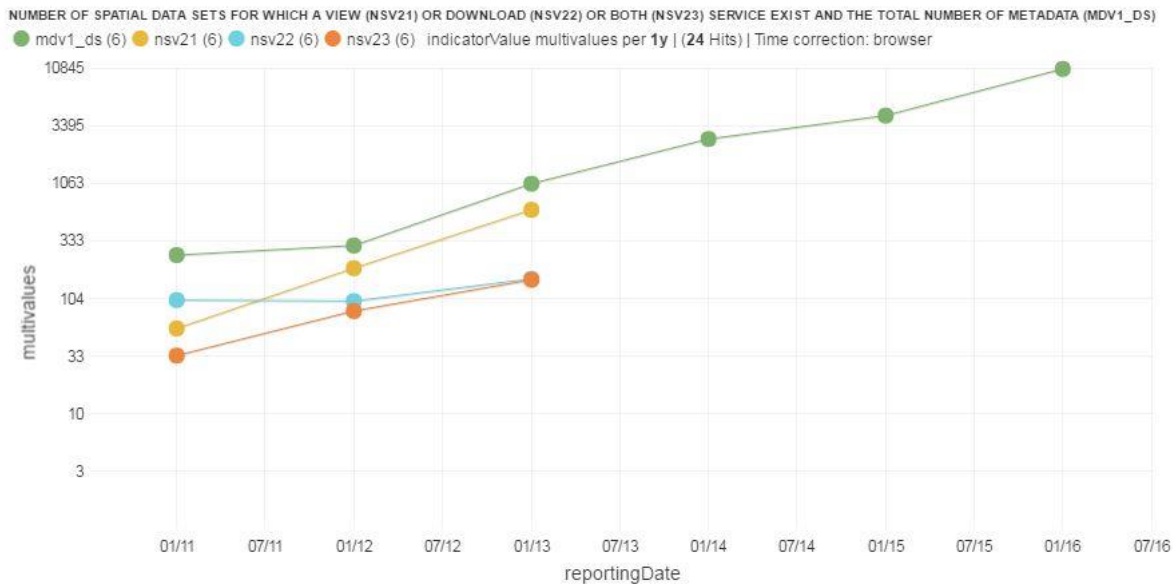
### b. Evolution of spatial data made accessible through digital services

MDv1\_DS (green): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have metadata

NSv2.1 yellow): number of spatial data sets for which a view service exists

NSv2.2 (blue): number of spatial data sets for which a download service exists

NSv2.3 (orange): number of spatial data sets for which both a view and a download service exists





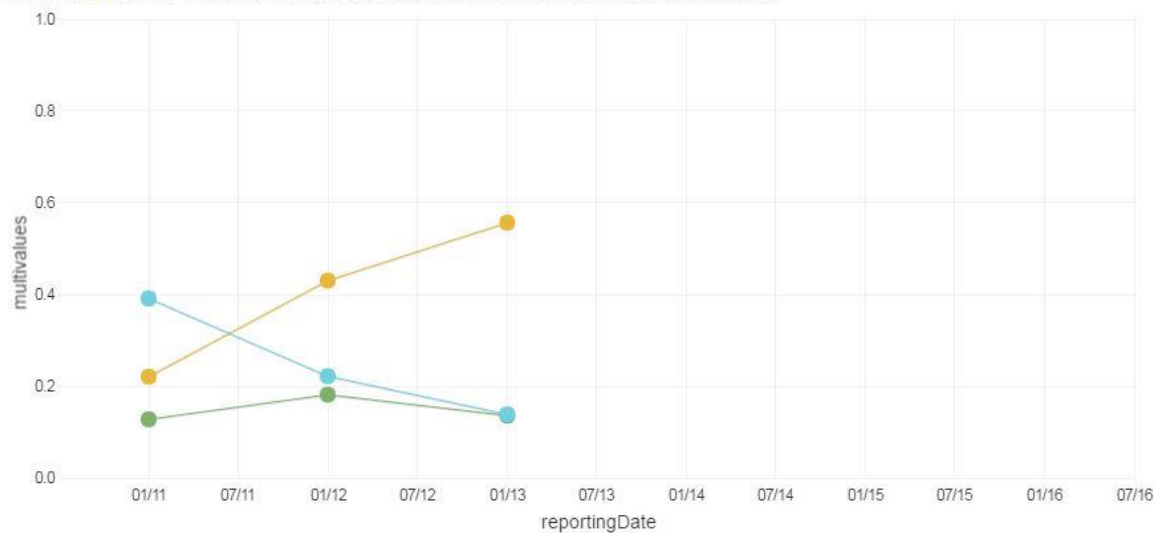
NSi2 (green) = number of spatial data sets for which both a view and a download service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

NSi2.1 (yellow) = number of spatial data sets for which a view service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

NSi2.2 (blue) = number of spatial data sets for which a download service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

%AGE OF SPATIAL DATA SETS FOR WHICH A VIEW SERVICE (NSI21), A DOWNLOAD SERVICE (NSI22) OR A VIEW AND DOWNLOAD (NSI2) EXIST

● nsi2 (6) ● nsi21 (6) ● nsi22 (6) indicatorValue multivalues per 1y | (18 Hits) | Time correction: browser



### c. Evolution of the conformity of the digital services

NSv4 (blue): number of all conformant network services

NSv4.1 (orange): number of conformant discovery network services

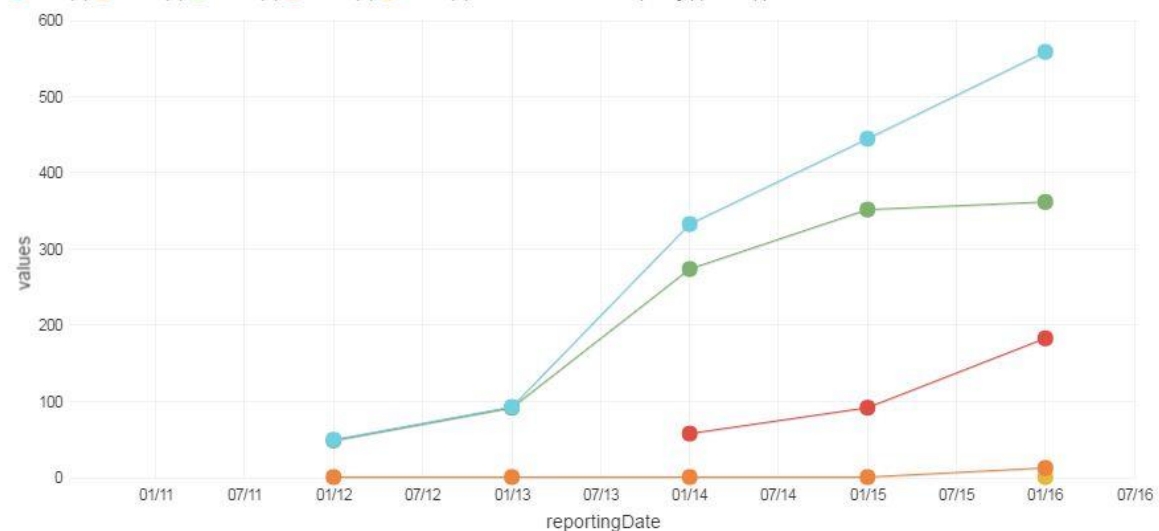
NSv4.2 (green): number of conformant view network services

NSv4.3 (red): number of conformant download network services

NSv4.4 (yellow): number of conformant transformation network services

NUMBER OF ALL CONFORMANT NETWORK SERVICES: DISCOVERY (NSV41), VIEW (NSV42), DOWNLOAD (NSV43), TRANSFORMATION (NSV44) TOTAL (NSV4)

● nsv4 (6) ● nsv41 (6) ● nsv42 (6) ● nsv43 (6) ● nsv44 (6) indicatorValue values per 1y | (30 Hits) | Time correction: browser



### Evaluation of progress for step 3:

UK has:

- 55,68% of its data sets accessible for viewing through a view service;

- 13,87% of its data sets accessible for download through a download service.

All available digital services are conform to the INSPIRE network service specifications (100 %).

UK shows that it has built the capacity and competences to make data accessible through digital INSPIRE network services.

#### 2.4. Interoperability of spatial data sets (step 4)

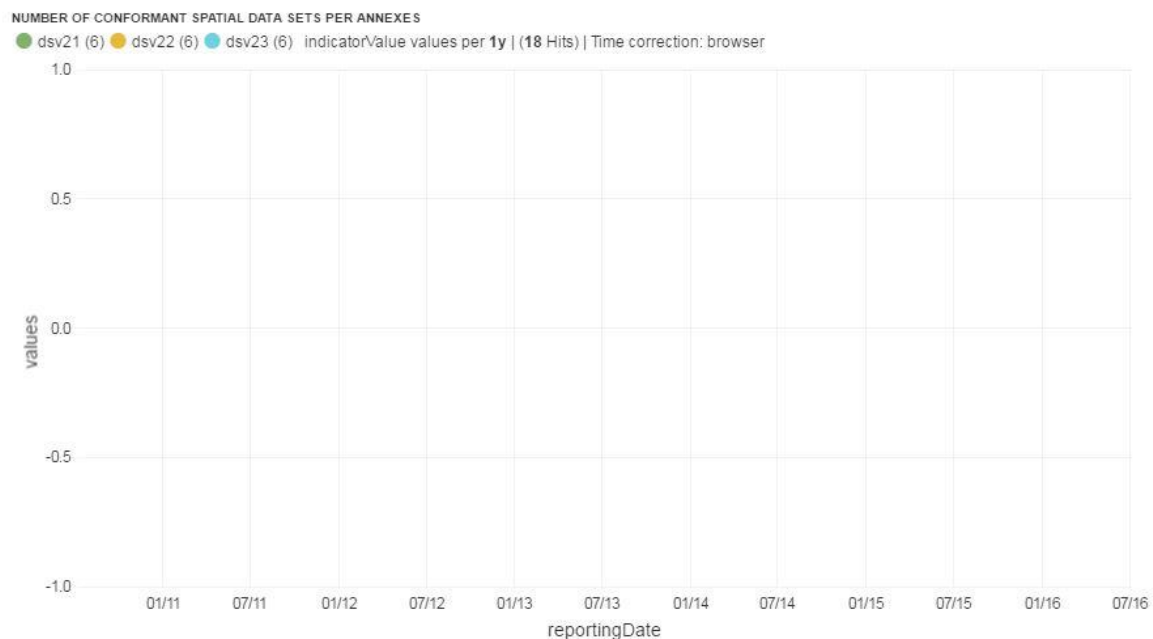
The interoperability of spatial data sets is an outlook on the readiness of Member States to make their spatial data interoperable according to the interoperability specifications laid down in the INSPIRE interoperability implementing regulation ([Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 1089/2010](#)). The deadlines for implementation of the spatial data interoperability are in the future: 23/11/2017 for Annex I data and 21/10/2020 for Annex II and III data.

##### *a. Evolution of the conformity with INSPIRE interoperability specifications for spatial data*

DSv2.1 (green): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex I

DSv2.2 (yellow): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex II

DSv2.3 (blue): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex III



#### Evaluation of progress for step 4:

UK reported 0 data sets to be conform to the INSPIRE interoperability specifications in 2015.

We can conclude that UK did not started its preparations for the 2017/2020 data interoperability deadlines. It is an area which needs further improvement.

### 3. Outlook

No action plan was provided

### 4. Summary - How is Country doing?

INSPIRE key obligation	Overall implementation status and trend	Outlook	<p align="center"><b><u>Dashboard Legend</u></b></p> <p><b>Implementation Status:</b></p> <p>☺: implementation of this provision is well advanced or (nearly) completed. Outstanding issues are minor and can be addressed easily.</p> <p>☹: implementation of this provision has started and made some progress but is still far from being complete. Outstanding issues are significant and need to be addressed to ensure that the objectives of the legislation can still be reached by 2020.</p> <p>☹: implementation of this provision is falling significantly behind or has not even started. Serious efforts are necessary to close implementation gap.</p> <p><b>Trend:</b></p> <p>↗: the trend of the implementation is positive.</p> <p>→: the trend of the implementation is neutral.</p> <p>↘: the trend of the implementation is negative.</p> <p><b>Outlook:</b></p> <p>🟢: clear and targeted actions have been identified which allow reaching the objectives of the legislation in an effective way.</p> <p>🟡: No real progress has been made in the recent past or actions which have been identified are not clear and targeted enough to predict a more positive outlook.</p> <p>🔴: no actions have been identified to overcome identified implementation gaps.</p>
Ensure effective coordination	☺ ↗	NA	
Data sharing without obstacles	☺ ↗	NA	
Step 1: Identify spatial datasets	☺ ↗	NA	
Step 2: Document datasets (metadata)	☺ ↗	NA	
Step 3: Provide services for identified spatial datasets (discovery, view, download)	☹ ↗	NA	
Step 4: Make spatial datasets interoperable by aligning them with the common data models.	☹ →	NA	

### Specific recommendations:

For each Member State, the accessibility of environmental data (based on what the INSPIRE Directive envisages) as well as data-sharing policies have been systematically reviewed.

United Kingdom has indicated in the 3-yearly INSPIRE implementation report that the necessary data-sharing policies allowing access and use of spatial data by national administrations, other Member States' administrations and EU institutions without procedural obstacles are available and implemented. The UK simplified its licensing arrangements and the Open Government Licence, promoted for use by public bodies, is now widely used.

Assessments of monitoring reports issued by United Kingdom and the spatial information that United Kingdom has published on the INSPIRE geoportal indicate that not all spatial information needed for the evaluation and implementation of EU environmental law has been made available or is accessible. The larger part of this missing spatial information consists of the environmental data required to be made available under the existing reporting and monitoring regulations of EU environmental law.

### *Suggested action*

- Identify and document all spatial data sets required for the implementation of environmental law, and make the data and documentation at least accessible 'as is' to other public authorities and the public through the digital services foreseen in the INSPIRE Directive.