

The Data Interchange Hub December 2008 update

By the Department for Communities and Local Government

Latest Hub news

Hub updates and essential maintenance

Subject to successful user testing of updates, the [Hub](#) will be unavailable from the evening of December 16th to the morning of December 18th.

This short period of downtime is to allow for the introduction of new functionality.

Key updates will be the introduction of a monitoring report tool (see below for more details); functionality to enable the input of indicator values for NIs 179 & 198; and the addition of a data completeness report, which will show how many of the locally submitted indicators have been submitted at any given time. This update will also be used as an opportunity to move to new hardware that will ensure the stability of the Hub.

Don't forget that if you need to view the National Indicator Set during this period you can do so at [Floor Targets Interactive](#).

For more details and the latest news relating to this update please visit the [esdToolkit forum](#) where any maintenance schedule changes will be highlighted.

If you notice any usability or other issues after the update please contact the [Hub service desk via email](#).

Hub data updates

A number of new and updated indicators will be made available on the Hub in January. This data update is

currently scheduled for the night of January 8th.

Further information on the detail and scheduling of the update will be posted on the [esdToolkit forum](#) under the topic heading 'Hub Data Upload'.

Floor Targets Interactive updates

[Floor Targets Interactive \(FTI\)](#) is currently the first place you should visit if you want to undertake any analysis or visualisation of the National Indicator Set. All national indicators will be updated on FTI as soon as possible after they become available on the Hub.

On December 19th a number of national indicators will be updated on FTI. Numbers: 9, 10, 11, 19, 30, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 55, 56, 69, 107, 108, 110, 111, 115, 117, 124, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 141, 142, 143, 144, 151, 152, 153, 155, 157, 158, 161, 162, 171, 178, and 180.

Locally submitted indicators

Whilst the majority of the national indicators are collected in the Hub directly from central government departments, there are a small number for which no central collection mechanism exists and therefore local authorities need to input the indicator information into the Hub utilising the forms provided.

Facilities for the input of NI179 and NI198 will be on the Hub from December 19th. The Hub team is working with government departments and other suppliers to ensure guidance

on the collection and validation process for this set of indicators is clear and well publicised. We will use the [esdToolkit forum](#) and other regular routes of communication to keep you fully updated on progress, and to provide information on who needs to do what and when.

The Hub Monitoring Report facility

From the end of December Hub users will be able to access a new Monitoring Report facility. This has been developed with Government Office and Local Strategic Partnership representatives with the aim of providing a common approach to monitoring performance against the national indicators.

You can access the tool via the front page of the [Hub](#). The facility has been developed to be as intuitive as possible but specific guidance on its function and use will also be made available on the [Hub](#). Don't forget if you have any difficulty or queries you can contact the [Hub service desk via email](#).



A look ahead

Timely data

The Hub is predicated on the basis that it should make the national indicators available as soon as they are published. This sounds simple, but as you will all be aware, there are many challenges both in practical terms and in considering the minutiae of the process which results in the final publication of a *National Indicator*.

We are of course aware that many of the key users of the national indicators are currently able to access some of the indicators from local sources before they become available on the Hub. There are many reasons for this: they could be process, definitional or status related.

But that doesn't really matter. What does matter is that the Hub is there to support the LAA process and to help reduce the related burden in data collection and sharing. So over the next few months we will be making a concerted and renewed effort to break the log-jam, and make this reduction in burden based in reality rather than theory.

To do this we need your experience and input. So in the New Year we will be undertaking a number of workshops. Details of these workshops will be provided in January on the [esdToolkit forum](#) and we hope that many of you will be able to contribute to this process either by attending a workshop or providing your views and comments via the forum.

Following the workshops, a roadmap for action relating to each NI will be produced and made public so that you can all see very clearly how we are progressing and what you can expect from the Hub in the coming months.

An Analytic Tool for LSPs and GOs?

Whilst the Hub has been built as a means of viewing and sharing data it is not an analytic tool. To undertake mapping, charting or other visualisation and analysis of the national indicators you have to use local systems or software packages.

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Government Office (GO) senior users on the Hub project gave a strong steer to CLG that providing a consistent way for users to visualise and analyse data was essential if the Local Area Agreement process was to be efficiently supported. Whilst some LSPs and GOs have access to excellent resources to undertake analysis, this is not the case everywhere. It was also considered to be of potentially enormous benefit to have a consistent view to enable negotiations and discussions to be based not just on consistent data but also on consistent representation of that data. Finally, it was deemed vital that any tool developed should be intuitive for users and provide a rapid way of producing a picture of progress against the NI set.

CLG therefore committed to funding the development of an analytic tool for use primarily by LSPs and GOs. We will make a first version of this available by April 2009. Initial and ongoing development will be driven by user

requirements so we would like as many stakeholders to be engaged in the development process as is practicable. In the next couple of months we will undertake a managed engagement process.

Further details will be provided on the [esdToolkit forum](#) in January and we will keep you updated via email.

The Effective Partnership Data Management project

Those of you who were able to attend the recent esdToolkit showcase events in Leeds and London will already be aware of the CLG Effective Partnership Data Management (EPDM) project.

The project is tasked with building models for data sharing between partners that will help LSPs deliver services and change more effectively for their citizens.

From December 12th esdToolkit will have a small area of the current [Hub forum](#) dedicated to the EPDM project. This is a small-scale project running to a tight timescale and we are therefore working with a small core group of LSPs, but we are keen to share information about the project with you and get as many LSPs engaged in the work as possible. Please take the time to have a quick look at the documents on esdToolkit and share your thoughts, which would be greatly appreciated.

Another view

GOL LAA Target Analysis Tool

The Government Office for London has recently made available on their website the [LAA Target Analysis Tool](#). It is a simple and efficient Excel-based system. We think it's great so [take a look](#).

Places

Not only did CLG's Places team recently win an [award](#) but they also helped celebrate their achievements by launching a new regular [newsletter \(pdf\)](#); and they even found some space for a mention of the Hub.

