

# The MoJ Directive on Electoral Registration Data Standards made easy



Nick Griffiths, Special Projects Director at Intelligent Addressing (IA) discusses how IA is helping local authorities meet the Ministry of Justice directive on data standards.

**The recent guidance issued by the MoJ requires EROs to ensure that relevant electoral registration data held on electronic systems is formatted in compliance with the Standards by 1 December 2009.** This means that the RoE needs to be held in accordance with the British Standard for addressing and that EROs will need to match their data in order to ensure it complies with the Standard. EROs will also need to work with their authority's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) Custodian to ensure that their electoral data contains all of the correct fields, including a Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), and to resolve outstanding anomalies in the data.

## What is the service that IA is offering and why is IA so involved in the process?

To put it briefly, IA is offering a fixed price service to help EROs comply with the Standard. This three part service involves; taking a copy of the addresses from the RoE and returning the file converted to the Standard; supplying an NLPG UPRN for each matched record; and notifying the ERO and LLPG Custodian of any records that cannot be converted to BS7666 or matched to the

NLPG. IA will continue to provide advice until the ERO has signed off the service.

Over the past nine years, IA has cleansed and matched billions of addresses to the NLPG. As the Custodian of the NLPG, IA has worked with every local authority to quality check their records before incorporating them into the NLPG. This work on the Standards is an extension of the services provided under the Mapping Services Agreement.

## From the registers you have so far received, what have been the biggest issues that need to be resolved?

So far the process has gone very smoothly. We are obtaining an average 95.6% match rate, which gives local authorities a high degree of confidence in their data. As IA looks after the technical conversion and matching side, all that the local authority has to do is analyse the anomalies in the data and ensure that they have a process in place so that every new address has a UPRN. We usually turn round the data within a working week and provide a full report, listing every anomaly, together with advice on how to proceed.

## When should EROs be starting this process?

Although the guidance states that EROs have until December 2009 to complete the exercise, this will be taking place within the normal day-to-day work of the ERO. Although IA undertakes the brunt of the work, the local authority as the pre-eminent source of detailed local knowledge regarding the RoE, properties and addresses within the authority area, needs to initiate a process to resolve the anomalies, in conjunction with the LLPG Custodian. In order to be ready for the 2009 canvass the process needs to be completed by August 2009 in order to allow the canvass forms to be printed up in time. With many authorities holding elections during May 2009, it would be prudent to start the process sooner rather than later.

If you would like more detail on the service IA is offering, please see [www.intelligent-addressing.co.uk](http://www.intelligent-addressing.co.uk) or contact:

**Catherine Teare on 020 7747 3500, [cteare@intelligent-addressing.co.uk](mailto:cteare@intelligent-addressing.co.uk)**

Contact us if you are interested in attending a one day workshop on maintaining your RoE to the Standard.