Transparency versus privacy

Ann Lewis, Jo Jones and Mark Buckley
Companies House, UK
the data deal

limited liability for
corporate transparency

Companies House
register size growth

3.9m

410,000 removals
611,000 new companies
Companies House timeline

1976: Microfiche
1981: Computerised system
1985: Bulk data
1995: Image system
1997: Website
1998: Electronic filing
2012: Free data product
2015: Companies House Service
free data requests and paid searches

2011/12: 2m
2012/13: 8.8m
2013/14: 10m
2014/15: 3.6m
2015/16: 1.3 billion

Companies House
900% Increase in data searches
15 million searches a day

350,000 users a day

4,000 third party applications

£100 million worth of free searches in the first 6 months
Learning lessons
personal data complaints

76.1% of customers were satisfied or very satisfied with Companies House Service.

- 2012/13: 500 free data
- 2013/14: 1,500 free data
- 2014/15: 2,500 free data
- 2015/16: 3,500 free data
Dissolved company information
Transparency

Protection of individuals
integrity unit since 2014

working with law enforcement agencies

400% increase

Companies House
records management


Paper records → Microfiche → Computerised system → Companies House Service

Companies House
challenges
new legislation, transparency and integrity

- People with significant control
- Registered office disputes
- Directors disputes
- Removal
- Rectification
- Law enforcement liaison
the future

Raw data  Validation  Customers

Companies House
collaboration challenges next year

- Report it now
- HMRC – anti money laundering regulator
- Law enforcement
The deal ...
Limited liability and transparency

The purpose ...
Supporting the economy