

**Demographics User Group Conference
2 October 2008**

Workshop B:

Creating a definitive national address register – what practical problems do users have with addresses now, and what information is really needed?

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Address management issues – Current problem:

- Ownership – who owns the data/problem?
- Addresses not updated regularly / at same frequency
- Too many different versions of the "same thing"
- Census gets it right for 1 week every 10 years then left to decay
- Inefficient use of Census resources to achieve an adequate list.
- Currently money wasted (£500M?)
- Communication between different stakeholders very patchy – not linked up

Proposed solution:

- Single UK national address register
- Clear ownership – a group/department with a "champion"
- Funded or sponsored (could be income generator?)
- Regular updates
- Encourage Councils and other contributing organisations to move into digital data storage to speed up change and updates
- Start small with just the address being correct then layer other details on top (e.g. businesses, households, people etc)
- Use public to help keep up to date using website