



Base Registry Information

Once-Only Collection and Continuous Reuse





What is a Base Registry?

Within the Public Service, a base registry represents a trusted source of information on people, entities or objects such as companies, vehicles, licences, buildings, locations and roads. A base registry may consolidate data collected by various organisations into one place so that Public Service Bodies (PSBs) can discover and reuse up-to-date high quality information instead of recollecting from the public.

How is a Base Registry created?

Many key Public Service datasets already behave in the same way as a base registry because they are a trusted source of a specific set of information. However the [Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019](#) establishes a set of criteria and purposes which must be met before any dataset is designated as a full base registry by the Minister of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform. Once a base registry is designated, the owner of that registry will have a series of responsibilities in relation to the availability, quality, transfer and security of its data. Additionally, once designated, the data in the base registry should not be collected from any source other than the base registry.

What are the responsibilities of a Base Registry Owner?

A base registry owner is responsible and accountable for the storage, quality and secure transfer of base registry information. The dataset should be maintained within the Public Service and made available in real time where possible. PSBs are obliged to collect and reuse this data without further external recollection in line with the [Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019](#). A base registry owner must provide Terms of Service in relation to the registry and must consult with the Data Governance Board about these terms before designation.



Benefits of Base Registries:

Different benefits may arise from the implementation of various base registries. Benefits may depend on the purpose of the base registry and the dataset. These may include:

- **Reduced administrative overhead:** In line with the Once-Only principle¹, there may be a reduction in the need for public bodies to recollect data where it is already available in a base registry. Reuse of base registry information will reduce local storage and management costs by reducing duplicate datasets held by multiple organisations.
- **Reduction in data silos:** Base registries facilitate the exchange of trusted data across the Public Service. The establishment of a base registry framework will provide an interoperability network with a whole of government approach to data, its management and governance and efficient reuse.
- **Improvements and consistency in data quality:** On designation, base registry owners will become accountable for the accuracy and reliability of information within the registry. This will improve trust in Public Service data for PSBs when delivering services as well as more accurate data driven policy making.
- **Improved security and governance:** A governance framework outlining legislative standards and practices will protect public data to best standards. The oversight of the Terms of Service by the Data Governance Board of base registry use will ensure the registries are accessed according to best practice in a standard and secure way.
- **Improved options for joined-up services:** The reuse of the data from a central base registry will facilitate PSBs in coordinating linked up services to the public.

¹ The Once-Only principle aims to ensure that the public only have to provide certain information to the Public Service once.



Governance and Base Registries

- **Strategy:** The establishment of trusted sources of information, collected from the public for continuous use by PSBs, is already a key driver of government strategy to reduce the recollection burden on Public Services and the public. Establishing base registries as single sources of trusted information for reuse for Public Services is a key action of [Public Service Data Strategy 2019 – 2023](#) and [Connecting Government 2030: A Digital and ICT Strategy for Ireland's Public Service](#) strategies.
- **Data Governance:** Trust in the quality of base registry information is essential to ensure successful reuse across the Public Service. The [Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019](#) legislates the governance structure of, and the purposes for, base registries. Responsibility and accountability for ensuring the quality of the base registry information is up to date, reliable and complete is assigned a base registry owner. The registry owner will also establish the Terms of Service for PSBs to access a base registry, including security processes and procedures.
- **Operations:** Once a base registry database is established, a public body is obliged to collect available information that is of a high qualitative standard from the base registry to deliver its services, and not from the public again.



Examples of Base Registries:


The designation of base registries for once only collection and continuous reuse has become commonplace within European countries. For example, Denmark has designated a number of base registries including:

- the civil registry of births, deaths and marriages,
- a business registry containing details of registered businesses and companies,
- and a vehicle registry containing vehicle ownership and registration

These registries are accessed and reused by numerous organisations as the trusted sources of relevant data. According to a European Commission Report “[Study on eGovernment and the Reduction of Administrative Burden](#)”, the Danish Government estimated that the designation of base registries under the ‘Basic Data Programme’ achieved €100 million savings between 2012 and 2020 by reducing the administrative costs of data recollection and public interactions when delivering services.

The use of base registries in Ireland will present similar opportunities to reduce administrative costs, improve the sharing of high quality data and enhance further efficiencies in Public Service delivery.

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