

Herewith the response of the Cardiff jury

Q.9a. As an EIC we can almost always obtain the information we need or sign post enquiries elsewhere. This has been helped greatly by the improved web pages established by the Commission.

The types of enquiries we receive are not normally asking how the decisions were made but just what has been agreed and how the enquirer has to operate.

So content = Good

Presentation could be improved.

Media electronically = good other sources which actually increase awareness of the info is poor and acquiring hard copy, if not available electronically can be time consuming.

In the UK the Public Relay network is increasingly active and we Brits are increasingly aware of the changing role of Libraries. BUT there is still a gap between those who are aware and those who are not.

Q9b. Increase awareness of all citizens via all current forms of media.

The UK has just published its Freedom of Information Bill which is generating current debate, but that then needs the practical link of where and how info can be accessed.

Q10. TV is still the most impactful media, but could also use free press and inclusions in other newspapers.

It would need to be an on-going campaign not just a once-only !

Q4a. Businesses realise the importance and value of info they need and are prepared to pay a reasonable price.

But the number of companies aware of EICs is low. Smaller Companies are reluctant to pay for info until they can see the value of it in converting the cost of it to value for them as a business.

If companies know info is in the public domain then they are reluctant to pay for some other organisation to access it for them, and yet many have neither the skill nor time to access it themselves.

Q4b. Yes, but it has to be seen as added value, which can take a variety of forms from format to interpretation.

Q3a. YES. The excess of info means that we all need maps on how to get what we want, and the use of maps is itself a skill to be acquired.

Q3b. Directories in all possible media eg. TV, telephone, internet, libraries.

Q3c. Major simple headings which then lead on to detailed info. which must then be up-to-date.

Q5. The costs of opening up the panoply of information will cost money and the general trend seems to be to recover the cost of the establishment. Therefore I would envisage that public bodies would also have to charge for the service, ie compete with private businesses who may be supplying a value added service.

Best regards

Brian Meredith