

## GOVERNMENT CHARGING PROPOSALS

*All info given will be treated in the strictest confidence. No individual companies will be identified*

**Please return completed questionnaires by  
5pm on Friday 29 August 2008  
to [info@copso.org.uk](mailto:info@copso.org.uk) or fax 020 7637 0419**

The Government has recently published proposals to allow local authorities to charge personal search agents and companies for access to their data. The proposals are based on local cost recovery – this is not the industry’s favoured option, but if we are to challenge it, we urgently need our own evidence. In particular, we need to understand the average cost of carrying out a PSC search, the cost of insurance and the proportion of searches which rely on insurance. In order to respond to these requests, we have drawn up a short questionnaire which is being circulated to all members. If you object to paying for access, please let us have your views. If you are unable to answer any part of the survey, please leave blank.

<b>Name of company:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Location of Head Office</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>No of employees /agents</b>	<input type="text"/>

1. **How many personal searches does your company carry out each year?**

2. **Do you currently have to pay to access unrefined data** YES/NO

3. **What is the average cost of a search carried out by your company**

### Relationship with local authorities

4. **How many local authorities does your company currently work with?**

Of these, how many:

- restrict access to one of more search records

- impose unreasonable access arrangements

- charge for access to unrefined data

5. **How many of the local authorities you work with allow access to unrefined data free of charge?**

**Use of Insurance – Incomplete Searches**

6. What proportion of the searches your company carries out require the use of insurance to cover missing data?

7. What is the average cost of insurance per search?

8. Is your insurance cover part of your PI or separate from it?

9. If the insurance provision was lifted, would you still need insurance cover for your work? Please indicate whether you think you would need this on a temporary run-off basis, or permanently

10. If the insurance provision was lifted, how much do you estimate this would save your company each year.

11. Are you supportive of the move towards greater use of technology in searches, including an expansion of the service provided through Land Data?

12. Would you be interested in taking up a Channel Licence for Land Data if more are made available?

Please provide any additional comments on the impact of the charging proposals below or on a separate sheet.