

Industry Access to Assignment Data. Update on Progress.

1. Introduction.

The purpose of this paper is to provide MSC members with a brief update as to progress on the Agency's Industry Access to Assignment Data initiative and developments within the MSC sub-group on disclosure issues.

2. Progress on Feasibility Study

The MSC Sub-Group on Access to Assignment Data met on the 3rd December 2002. The main order of business was a 'requirement workshop' run jointly by RA and its IT partner RSI. The purpose of this exercise was to help crystallise what the industry would want from any database and involved the demonstration of a mock-up of the database design. This proved a very productive exercise and much useful input was garnered.

The output from the meeting provided one important element of RSI's ongoing feasibility study. This work involves a detailed examination of the project's business requirement, an analysis of the data requirement, and initial IT design relating to IT systems and possible technical options. This work is now nearing completion and should be presented at the next meeting of the MSC sub-group on the 6th March 2003.

The next stage of the project will be a pilot system targeted at selective frequency bands. The sub-group has identified a number of possible candidate bands. RA/RSI are currently examining the exact nature of, and technical options for, this pilot and this is also on the agenda for the next meeting of the sub-group. We would hope to press ahead with setting up the pilot study as soon as the feasibility study is completed in early March.

RA2/LPU: February 2003