# HM LAND REGISTRY: PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

*The Land Registry in England is to be merged with other agencies to create a ‘comprehensive geospatial data body’ which will be ‘the largest repository of open land data in the world’. Its function of providing public information about plots and titles is traced to the opening of the register in 1990, and the restoration of price information. The Housing White Paper now proposes a much wider role in tackling the shortage of houses by ‘making land ownership and interests more transparent’ That this will ‘release massive value from our land, and ‘help people and developers build’ is thought to be an alternative reality.*