

Introduction and Overview

The LG Inform Plus API is an open data service providing consistent and machine-readable published data from over 50 trusted open data sources including the Office for National Statistics, DEFRA, DLIHC, Public Health England and many other government departments and agencies. It covers 275 collections, providing over 17,000 metrics and more than 2.4 billion data values, with the data standardised and aligned to geographical and administrative boundaries covering all of England and Wales.

Features

- Quick and easy to use API
- Rapid, consistent and reliable
- Comprehensive range of indicators
- Metrics are easy to find
- Easy setup
- Free trial available

Benefits

- Saves precious time for data analysts, sourcing and updating data
- Removes duplication and the need to manually find and update new data on publication
- Make API calls directly into reporting tools such as Tableau or PowerBI
- Support and training available
- Many applications including policy, operations, planning, market analysis, logistics, etc.

What it does

An open data API is a web-based application that provides programmatic access to published data. The LG Inform Plus API is the gateway to tens of thousands of trusted open data sources on the full range of topics including population, demographics, crime, environment, education and health - all linked to local areas broken down by administrative boundaries (constituencies, wards, or NHS CCG or local authority areas) or standard geographies such as city boundaries, MSOAs, or LSOAs.

The API can either be browsed online using a standard web browser, accessed directly by a customer's own tools such as PowerBI or Tableau, or called by a program written in any language.

The LG Inform Plus API is provided as Software as a Service running on public cloud infrastructure hosted in UK based data centres.

How it works

The LG Inform Plus API is a front end to a substantial data warehousing operation that:

- Researches currently available open published data from trusted sources in England and Wales
- Retrieves open data from these sources on a regular basis, as appropriate for the data source
- Performs a number of calculations and transformations on this data to align it with administrative and geographical boundaries, and
- Provides a front-end API that can search and retrieve the resulting consistent and machine-readable data.

The API can be accessed over the internet by a standard web browser using SSL/TLS1.2. A client can either use our user-friendly interface to search and display metrics and their values, or access the API directly either using code such as Python, or using an analytics package such as Tableau or PowerBI.

If using a web browser, no browser plugins or additional configurations are needed.

Existing customers

Existing customers of our API include a large number of local authorities in England and Wales as well as civic sector organisations such as Charities and private sector clients.

Warranty Features

Hosting providers and locales

The API and data warehouse operation are hosted in the UK using Amazon Web Services.

Capacity

The resources available to customers of the API are constantly monitored and additional capacity provided as needed without intervention by the customer.

Backup and restore

Backups are taken regularly using an internal backup operation. Additionally, two databases are always in operation allowing a standby option should one fail.

Information Assurance

The API is designed and intended for open data access and therefore is not certified as corresponding to any particular Impact Level.

Service Roadmap

Our statistics team continually searches for improvements to the number and quality of official datasets available to power the API, as well as working closely with our hosting and development partner on improvements to the user interface and other features.

Resellers

Other suppliers to the UK public sector are able to purchase the service under the same terms and conditions as a UK public sector customer using the digital marketplace: our prices are standard across sectors.

Support Services

Our service is designed to be used with minimal training, but online help is available within the API's web interface, there is live chat with the support team available during office hours, and regular webinars are held where the API is demonstrated and questions can be asked and answered.

Service Levels

- Our availability target is 99%
- Our standard support hours are 9 - 5:30 Monday to Friday
- We aim to respond to customer issues within 1 working day

- In the event of an outage the RTO (Recovery Time Objective) is 8 hours maximum and the
- RPO (Recovery Point Objective) is 1 day maximum.

Pricing

Please refer to our separate pricing document for full details.

How to Order

Register online at <https://home.esd.org.uk/> and send us an email to get started at lginformplus@local.gov.uk