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From: [REDACTED] Cabinet Office

Sent: 01 September 2011 15:06

To: [REDACTED]

Subject:[UNCLASSIFIED] RE: Open Standards Consultation Information further to our recent meeting

Thanks [REDACTED] – I had the response to the survey and have seen the CS Transform paper.

I'll peruse the other material and get back to you if there is anything I need to follow up on.

I'm sure the meeting with [REDACTED] will be useful.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Government ICT

From: [REDACTED]microsoft.com]

Sent: 31 August 2011 16:56

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Office

Subject: Open Standards Consultation Information further to our recent meeting

[REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you after our meeting, and further apologies for sending you lots of documents but wanted to make sure you had all the relevant information.

The documents are as follows:

* Standards Consultation Letter to [REDACTED] FINAL – this is the letter [REDACTED] sent to [REDACTED] as requested on top of the completed online survey response

* Court of Audit Report from Dutch House of Representatives – findings from Dutch Government on benefits of open source software and open standards

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- * Open Standards, OSS and Choice – highlights examples of where a mandate of a single standard has proved detrimental and the advantages of a policy of choice
- * The Importance of a Neutral or Multiple-Standards Policy in Document Format Standards – as the title suggests rationale as to why a neutral policy on document format standards makes sense
- * eGovernment Interoperability – CS Transform white paper providing the world's first comprehensive study of e-Government Interoperability Frameworks. Expect you've already seen this but just in case.

As discussed it would be great to understand more about the rationale for any potential mandating of open standards. I've never seen any evidence to support why this would be a good idea and certainly no hard information on potential benefits, be great to know what such a proposal for the UK is based on. Personally I'm just aware of examples in Massachusetts, India etc which highlight the issues. As [REDACTED] offered in the meeting we'd also like to offer any help we can if you get questions regarding Microsoft technologies and support for standards from other interested parties, obviously with the examples regarding Office support for ODF and our support of ODF 1.2 there is some misunderstanding and as you can imagine we are keen to ensure that we have the opportunity to respond to any potential negative claims regarding our support for standards.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are due to see [REDACTED] on 9th September for a broad conversation but sure at which open standards will come up, however please don't hesitate to let me know if anything else you need from us in the meantime.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Microsoft Public Sector

[REDACTED]

Microsoft Limited, Microsoft Campus, Thames Valley Park, Reading, RG6 1WG

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