

Vestnordiske arkivdage 29.-31. august 2017

Surveys and Inspections

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The new Public Archives Act (2014)

All Public Archives are now Monitoring Authorities

- The National Archives of Iceland and the 20 Regional Archives.

The **new role** of Public Archives includes:

- **Monitoring** the **implementation** of the **Act**, of regulations and **mandatory rules**, by **entities** subject to an **obligation** of transfer.
- Such **entities must grant access** to their premises for the **purposes of inspections**.

There is **no reference** to **surveys, questionnaires or surveillance surveys** in the the Public Archives Act (2014).

(See: **The English translation, by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The Public Archives Act (2014), Article 13 – 4.**)

The National Archives of Iceland and The Reykjavik Municipal Archive use questionnaires

*The National Archives of Iceland and The Reykjavik Municipal Archive have **primarily** used (surveys) questionnaires as a tool to **map** how well **entities** are **complying** to **mandatory demands**.*

- The National Archives of Iceland:
Questionnaires 2004, 2012 and 2016
- The Reykjavik Municipal Archive:
Questionnaires (1998), (2006), 2013 and 2017

(Surveys) Questionnaires

- Questionnaires are; **cost-efficient, practical** and get **speedy results**. With questionnaires **you get the ~ BIG PICTURE**.

However, there is a **drawback** in using questionnaires.

- Questionnaires are **opinion based**.
- The **value** of collected **data** in questionnaires **completely depends** upon how “**truthful**” **respondents** are in their answers, their **response bias** and other factors.
- Such **bias** may have a large impact on the **validity** of questionnaires.
- In general, survey researchers **accept** respondents' answers as **true**.



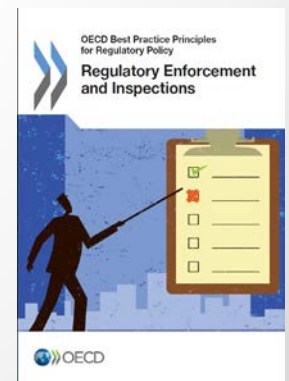
(Surveys) Questionnaires

- The **results**, of **questionnaires**, are in general, **not verified** and they are **not evidence-based enforcement** as required in;

OECD (2014), *Regulatory Enforcement and Inspections*,
OECD Best Practice Principles for Regulatory Policy.

- The Icelandic Prime Minister's Office report from 2014 on **Monitoring Authorities** is in agreement with the **OECD**.

(OECD: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)



Inspections

- *On-site inspections* are both **costly** and **time-consuming**.
- Especially when **majority** of entities **do not comply** with **essential demands** stated in the **legislation** and in **mandatory rules**, as **questionnaires** have shown.



OECD (2014) Regulatory Enforcement and Inspections - Best Practice Principles

- “ **Inspections** are one of the most important ways to enforce regulations and to ensure regulatory compliance” .



OECD - Rule number one

- “Regulatory enforcement and inspections should be **evidence-based** and **measurement-based**:
- deciding what to **inspect** and how should be **grounded** on **data** and **evidence**, and **results** should be **evaluated** regularly.”



The framework of monitoring and inspection activities is incomplete in the Public Archives Act (2014)

The **key questions** a **monitoring system** must address:

1. **What evidence** needs to be **collected**?
2. **When** and **how** should **evidence** be **collected**?
3. **Who** will **collect** the **evidence** and from **whom**?

(See: **Better Regulation Guidelines (2015) EUROPEAN COMMISSION**)



Lacking financial resources

However, *lacking financial resources* the **Public Archives in Iceland** use *questionnaires*.

“It's as good as it gets”

Thank you