

## Open Data User Group

### MINUTES

#### 15<sup>th</sup> meeting

**19 July 2013, 14:00-18:00**

Experian, 6th Floor, Cardinal Place, 80 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Attendees	Officials
Heather Savory (Chair) (HS)	Ed Parkes (Cabinet Office) (EP) (phoning in)
Bob Barr (BB)	Krisztina Katona (Cabinet Office) (KK)
Sarah Hitchcock (SH)	Sejal Acharya (Cabinet Office) (SA)
Dominique Lazanski (DL)	Andrew Grey (Cabinet Office) (AG)
Andrew Mackenzie (AM)	
Paul Malyon (PM)	Observers
Chris Royles (CR)	
Gesche Schmid (GS)	Apologies
Jacqui Taylor (JT)	Jennie Campbell (JC)
	Adam Tickell (AT)
	Jeni Tennison (JTe)
	Roger Taylor (RT)

Item	Description
1	Chair's welcome and update
2	Actions from last meeting ( <i>review</i> )
3	Discussion about OGL 2.0 ( <i>information</i> )
4	ODUG Membership Refresh ( <i>approval</i> )
5	Ongoing benefits cases 5.1 DVLA update 5.2 Met Office update
6	ODUG Revised TOR ( <i>approval</i> )
7	A.O.B
	7.1 ODUG Event/next meetings
	7.2 Data request status update
	7.3 KPIs and Risk Register
	7.4 DWP stakeholder group
	7.5 Other AOB

**Chair's welcome and updates**

1. The chair expressed gratitude for the work that Tord Johnsen had done for the ODUG, and welcomed Krisztina as his replacement.
2. The chair updated the group on her activities since the last meeting:
  - The Chair had attended a meeting of the Public Sector Transparency Board (PSTB), whose main principles are set out in the G8 Open Data Charter: Open Data by default; Quality and Quantity; Usable by All; Releasing Data for Improved Governance; Releasing Data for Innovation.
  - The Chair had attended a meeting of the DWP Transparency Board.
  - The Chair had met with Hugh Neffendorf to discuss NAD proposals. There were a number of options laid out, which will be discussed again before the next ODUG meeting.
  - The Chair had spoken at Citizen 2013, and expressed gratitude to DL for securing this.
  - The Chair had attended the G8 Innovation event and had found less international representation than she had anticipated. However, she was encouraged to hear the Prime Minister announce projects to which ODUG had contributed.
  - The Chair had also attended the G8 Tax, Trade and Transparency Events, which had included a session on Open Data and Transparency.
  - The Chair attended a debate hosted by the Foundation for Science & Technology on making Research and Public Information more accessible, which David Willetts MP had attended.
3. The chair explained that the Public Sector Transparency Board (PSTB) and the Data Strategy Board (DSB) were now aggregated. Their first meeting would be in mid-September.
4. The chair explained that discussions had taken place on the Government Response to the Shakespeare Review and that ODUG would now advise the PSTB.
5. The chair suggested that she had expected Royal Mail to have published their consultation on the Postcodes Address File (PAF) by this point, and would be interested to know why this had not yet happened.

**Actions from last meeting**

6. These can be found in the latest ODUG Action log.

**Discussion about OGL 2.0**

7. The new OGL 2.0 complies with the Open Definition <http://opendefinition.org/>

8. Ordnance Survey applies additional licensing restrictions to the OS Open Data licence. This restricts the competitive landscape in which they operate with partners and prohibits open re-use of the data. ODUG members believe that OS should have an obligation to release their open data, which is publicly funded, to be consistent with the terms of the Open Government Licence. Following publication of the OS Benefits case it was agreed that the ODUG should make a case to BIS and the Cabinet Office Transparency Board for OS to accept the recommendations in the case.
9. OS are also claiming that any data regarded as an interpretation of raw data is exempt from FOI requests. The effect would be to block access to public information data sets which have a geographical component of OS derived data. ODUG does not accept this position, and agreed to work on test cases to demonstrate the impact of this

#### **ODUG Membership Refresh**

10. It was agreed that the process guidelines would be published on Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> July, to maximise the attention received.
11. There will be an online application form, through which all existing ODUG members must re-apply, as well as prospective new members.
12. A blog entry would be posted drawing attention to the application form, as well as the achievements ODUG had made so far. KK would also produce some slides on what ODUG is and does.
13. The application process will close on 24<sup>th</sup> August.
14. The Chair will select the new group, who will be appointed by 31<sup>st</sup> August.
15. It was suggested that it might be useful to recruit a developer onto the group, to help the group understand how data which has been made open can be used.

#### **Ongoing Benefits Cases**

16. Tranches 1 and 2 of the data requests are now complete, aside from those listed below.

##### *5.1 DVLA update:*

17. This case is yet to be published. It will be published separately as it is a different kind of case from those about to be published.
18. DVLA had expressed concern about the request to publish the VINs of cars, as these had previously been regarded as personal data which could be used to clone cars. The ODUG was generally doubtful that this was a risk as VINs can be obtained from any Car Tax Disc. As the Cabinet Office Transparency Team's relationship manager for the DfT, KK agreed to discuss this with them.

##### *5.2 Met Office update:*

19. SH agreed to take over this case for the Summer, with BB's support.

*Other Updates:*

20. HMRC have published their consultation on sharing and publishing data for public benefit. DL will lead the ODUG's response. This was acknowledged as a good result; the challenge for the ODUG is now to make the case for maximising open data, demonstrating its economic benefits to HMRC.
21. The Cabinet Office is to follow up with the Charities Commission benefits case, and to inform ODUG if anything more is needed from them.
22. BB would create a list of what data is legally required to be a public record, which would be useful in advising on the National Information Infrastructure.

**ODUG Revised ToR**

23. The ODUG endorsed the Revised Terms of Reference, with a few amendments to the draft discussed. The revised ToR will be published by CO.
24. EP noted how much the TT valued the time and effort put in by the ODUG over the past year, and the insight they contributed.

**AoB***7.1 ODUG Event/Next Meetings*

25. It was agreed that the ODUG event would not be aligned with the OGP event on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. Instead it would probably take place in September, after the new ODUG had been appointed and held their first meeting, and Parliament had resumed after recess. KK would liaise with members on what they wanted to do for their event, and when exactly to hold it. The date would also need to be one on which Francis Maude MP is available.

*7.2 Data request status update*

26. The CO Transparency Team are beginning to evaluate the data request system, to try and improve it in terms of both users who request information and departments with whom the team correspond.
27. Sixty requests had been closed since the last ODUG meeting. A cumulative total of 181 requests have now been dealt with, out of the 464 requests made.
28. There are small modifications that the ODUG would like the CO Transparency Team to make to the notifications for users. In particular to distinguish between new data sets which have been released and data sets which are already found to be in the public domain. KK agreed she would discuss with data.gov.uk
29. KK will talk to the data.gov.uk team, to try to clarify how the changes to data.gov.uk as a result of the National Information Infrastructure will affect the operation of the data requests that JT monitors. She noted that at this stage the data.gov.uk team still need to establish what the function of the new site will be.
30. The Chair felt that the CO Transparency Team could make more use of meetings with the ODUG to help determine their medium-term plan for data.gov.uk.

*7.3 KPIs and Risk Register*

31. HS and KK would rewrite these in time for the next meeting in September.

*7.4 DWP board membership*

32. The DWP are looking to expand their external stakeholder group. JT expressed interest in being involved. The Chair will send round details to all the ODUG members.

*7.5 AoB*

33. Priorities for the next meeting:

- a. Building a benefits case for DfE performance data to be made available to the public, to enable them to map individual pupil performance onto the data.
- b. A review of Health data requests.
- c. A review of Education data requests

34. The Chair expressed her gratitude to the members who would be stepping down after this year for their high quality work and enthusiasm.