**Minutes of Open Data User Group 8th meeting**

**13 December 2012, 14:00-17:00**

ODI, 3rd Floor, 65 Clifton Street, London, EC2A 4JE

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Farah Ahmed (Cabinet Office) (FA) |
| Bob Barr (BB) | Jim Wretham (National Archives) (JW) |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | Tord Johnsen (Cabinet Office) (TJ) |
| Andrew Mackenzie (AM) |  |
| Dominique Lazanski (DL) | **Observers** |
| Gesche Schmid (GS) | Ed Parkes (Cabinet Office) (EP) |
| Paul Malyon (PM) |  |
| Adam Tickell (AT) | **Apologies** |
| Roger Taylor (RT) | Adam Tickell (AT) |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) | Dominique Lazanski (DL) |
|  | Jeni Tennison (JTe) |
|  | Mick Cory (MC) |
|  | Romina Ahmad (Cabinet Office) (RA) |
|  | BIS observer |

# Agenda

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| **Item** | Description |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update |
| **2** | Actions and minutes from last meeting |
| **3** | Code of practice – dataset consultation |
| **4** | Update on ODUG landing page |
| **5** | Economic modelling and strategic rationales |
| **6** | Update on incoming data requests process |
| **7** | KPI and Risk Register |
| **9** | A.O.B |

**Welcome and Updates**

1. The Chair updated the Group on recent activities:

* The PAF Advisory Board has offered to form a working group with ODUG
* The data release recommendations made to the DSB on 28 November received backing
* The Chair provided initial feedback on the Deloitte report into PSI – advised to focus on new evidence of benefits and emphasise a stronger market analysis and service provision assessment of open data usage
* The Chair met with the chairs of the DSB and the other customer groups on the DSB, where she made the case for ODUG’s independence in order to be able to represent the data user community effectively.

1. Cabinet Office shared news about the appointment of Paul Maltby as new Director of Transparency in Cabinet Office.

**Actions and minutes**

1. The actions and minutes from last meeting were approved.

**Code of Practice – Dataset consultation**

1. The National Archives and Cabinet Office provided an update to the Group about the current consultation on the code of practice for the amendments to the FOIA through the Protection of Freedoms Bill and the Right to Data, particularly focusing on the new suite of government data licences. This also includes new legislation for the re-use of data.
2. The consultation is set to end on 10 January 2013, with the code of practice coming into operation as part of the April 2013 commencement date.
3. Comments were made around the short length of the consultation and the tight timetable for adopting the code across the whole of the public sector in time for the proposed commencement.
4. Concerns were also raised about the proposal to introduce a charged for data licence, and that this could undermine the open data agenda by failing to provide an incentive to release data for free. In response to these concerns, it was highlighted that the OGL will remain the default licence, and that in a European context the UK was pushing for greater openness. Marginal cost will be applied to dissemination of data, not collection and production. In order to charge above marginal cost, the publisher will still have to seek an exemption order from the National Archives.
5. Other points raised included ability for data publisher to sub-licence data and the need to create more clarity about provision of data – particularly with regards to third party licensing. Another point that was raised related to the continuity of supply of data, and that there was nothing in the new provisions that offered a guarantee to the re-user of data to secure continuous supply. National Archives acknowledged these points.
6. The Chair summarised the discussion by offering ODUG recommendations to the new proposals:
   1. Charged for data licence has the potential to undermine transparency agenda
   2. Presumption to publish for free must be upheld
   3. There needs to be consistency across all public bodies
   4. There should be no net increase in complexity of licensing terms
   5. A sub-licence provision must be available
   6. Implementation of the new requirements should be postponed to the October commencement date
7. ODUG will respond to the consultation, as well as putting views into the PSI Review.

**Update on ODUG landing page**

1. The Group expressed disappointment with the level of follow-up from the data.gov.uk team in terms of providing a development plan for the proposed update of ODUG’s content on the site.

**Economic modelling and strategic rationales**

1. Since last meeting, ODUG submitted 5 recommendations for data releases to the DSB. These were:
2. Support the request to release an Open National Address Dataset as set out in the ODUG paper published on 1st November 2012 as well as further work to build a full understanding of the benefits of this to the economy;
3. Develop the rationale for the release of all historic Land Registry Price Paid information prior to April 2012 by the Land Registry, via the Public Data Group (PDG);
4. Set out the rationale for the release of all UK Met Office hourly weather observations prior to November 2011 by the Met Office, via the PDG;
5. Set out the rationale for the release of the UK VAT Register as open data by HMRC (via their Tax Transparency Sector Board and Ministers) ; and
6. Raise the issues relating to reduce the restriction of third party IPR in the release of open data with particular reference to Ordnance Survey derived data. Strategic rationales for two datasets in this category have been developed resulting in two specific recommendations to the DSB which are:
   * To seek transparency from the PDG on costs of the Ordnance Survey Rights of Way (RoW) business case, for OS to release national RoW data set and for local authorities to release RoW data under OGL
   * To ask the Ordnance Survey and the Environment Agency to create a generalised River Network map as part of medium and small scale location infrastructure under an open government licence.
7. These recommendations were submitted as strategic rationales – a document composed of the data request, a narrative argument supporting the release and a benefits case. The strategic rational combined with cost estimates and a cost-benefit analysis makes up a full business case.

*Detailed discussion on recommendations*

1. It was recognised that the strategic rationales presented to the DSB needed to be more fully elaborated. The DSB will be raising the strategic rationales to data owners who will be elaborating the costs of releasing this data. In order for these datasets to be successfully released the benefits elaborated by ODUG would need to be seen to outweigh these costs. Members of ODUG had committed to making public the data requests and benefits cases that they were working on however it was recognised that this process of publishing the documents would not necessarily always further elaborate the benefits of releasing this data and that broader support would be needed.
2. It was recognised that after further analysis, these datasets may not demonstrate the benefits which were perceived after the initial analysis. If this is the case ODUG could de-prioritise these and alert the DSB and data owners. Another challenge for this next stage of the process would be to reach out to organisations and individuals who were not aware of the data at the moment and who would be the most likely to think of innovative uses and benefits which could be derived from it.

Benefits case for National Address Database

1. At the Data Strategy Board it was recognised that the next step would be to elaborate more clearly the benefits of releasing this data for free. The DSB will write to Ministers to get their steer on how to further develop the full business case for this work. BB committed to setting out broad headings of benefits and presenting this into an updated benefits case.

Benefits case for Historic Land Registry Price Paid data

1. It has been hard identifying individuals who could benefit from this dataset. It was recognised that in order to fully elaborate the benefits case for this dataset ODUG would need to reach out further to the community to elaborate key benefits.

Benefits case for Historic Weather Data

1. The main issue here was that it has been hard to establish the uses for historic data specifically. Much of this data is already released for academic purposes. It was suggested that ODUG would need to reach out to innovative organisations such as AIMEE to understand more broadly how this release will benefit the private sector.

Benefits of reducing 3rd party licensing

1. The issue of 3rd party licensing and IPR was exemplified by the requests for Right of Way data and the River Networks data. The key challenge is to address the underlying issue of 3rd party licensing by using other requests to advise on the benefits of the removal of such licensing.
2. A list of datasets on data.gov.uk that are not published under the OGL has been supplied to ODUG. An initial scan of these datasets revealed most of these datasets are not published under OGL, as they are subject to 3rd party licensing.

Benefits of the UK VAT register

1. The main issue here is to quantify the benefits and interrogate existing evidence of potential benefits from making the VAT register open.
2. It was agreed to publish the strategic rationales with the following information:

* Bullets with areas where benefits will be added
* Describe in words where the benefits are going to come from: Commercial/business benefits + public sector benefits and efficiencies + transparency
* Benefits presented in the magnitude of 000k, 0000k and 000000k
* Examples of where benefits will hit – business, public sector, etc in magnitude.
* Who benefit accrues to

**Update on incoming data requests process**

There was an update on the analysis undertaken of the data requests and the historical datasets.

**AOB**

Next meeting scheduled for 7 January 2013

**Action list**

**Secretariat**

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| Circulate minutes and actions from eighth meeting |
| Publish note and actions from eighth meeting on data.gov.uk |
| Schedule series of meetings with 6-8 weeks interval |

**Collaboration Space**

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| Finalise visualisation and voting ability for .csv extract of data request form |
| Submit easy-to-read-and-understand case studies to collaboration space |
| Advise ODUG members on use of collaboration space |

**Benefits Case process**

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| ODUG members to clearly elaborate the likely areas of benefits for each of the benefits cases before publication – to be returned to Tord by 19 December |
| All of those who had requested the dataset to be alerted before the strategic rationales were published |
| Heather’s blog to set out what types of information are needed specifically for each benefits case on a case by case basis |
| ODUG to tweet out on a daily basis after publication highlighting datasets and making call to action for contribution by followers |
| ODUG to reach out to networks of entrepreneurs who may not be aware of the datasets but who may have very sound ideas of the benefits of release of the data e.g. TechCity and ODI |
| ODUG and TT to develop a stakeholder engagement plan for each of the benefits cases |

**Data Requests and data.gov.uk Workstream**

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| *Check status of beta requests on DGU* |
| Schedule and detail of updates to ODUG landing page |
| Follow up on categories for data requester feedback on data.gov.uk |

**Open Data Roadmap Workstreams (to be discussed at next ODUG meeting when new data requests available from data.gov.uk submissions)**

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| Work with OD community to define a set of principles for the release of open data |
| ODUG next paper on problems with the release and use of open data – to cover issues such as licensing, ease of finding datasets on data.gov.uk etc. |

**Metrics and Costs of Data Workstream**

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| ToR for workstream |

**Business Models and Barriers**

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| Consider existing signposting to data already released |

**Licensing**

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**KPIs and Risk**

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| Review for next meeting |

**Communications Workstream**

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| Set up facility for sentiment monitoring for ODUG and provide a baseline assessment |
| ODUG Branding |
| Draw up and share key slides on ODUG |
| List of events ODUG members are attending and list of relevant events |
| ODUG schedule of comms events |
| Stakeholder engagement plan |
| Key points to make about ODUG |
| Press pack for publication of Addressing paper |
| ODUG to develop own website for comms activities with link from data.gov.uk |
| Response to DCLG consultation |
| Read and contribute to ODUG Comms Plan |

**Addressing Workstream**

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| ODUG Chair to write to Ofcom to set out community aspirations for content of report into Royal Mail PAF licensing costs |