**Open Data User Group - Minutes**

**19th meeting**

**10th December 2013, 14:00-16:30**

**Room LG 04, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ**

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Jemma Venables (JV) |
| Bob Barr (BB)  2:30o | Ekua Boateng (EB) |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) | Sam Roberts (SR) |
| Alex Kafetz (AK) |  |
| Harvey Lewis (HL) |  |
| Paul Malyon (PM) |  |
| Duncan Ross (DR) | Observers |
| Gesche Schmid (GSc) |  |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GSo) |  |
| Tom Smith(TS) | Apologies |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | Dominique Lazanski (DL) |
|  | Jeni Tennison (JTe) |
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**Agenda**

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| **Item** | **Description** |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update |
| **2** | Update on CO progress on Data Requests  Update on progress with DGUK |
| **3** | ONS Census Consultation Response – review |
| **4** | Review of draft Case Studies |
| **5** | Review of OPSI guidance note |
| **6** | Review of note on Open Data Competitions |
| **7** | Land Registry Open Data Challenge |
| **8** | A.O.B. |

**Chair’s Welcome and update**

The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting. She updated the Group on her meetings including attending the Public Sector Transparency Board, the DWP Welfare Transparency Board and attending the Land Registry Open Data Challenge Award Ceremony.

She highlighted the group attendance rule which was to attend at least 2 out of 3 meetings to ensure that work could be divided fairly and that members were active. This was to ensure that membership of the group was not taken advantage of.

**CO Data Requests Update on CO progress on Data Requests**

EB presented a short paper highlighting a selection of aged data requests that had been updated in the past two weeks. The Group welcomed the paper. They also felt they could be helpful in providing expertise and advice on some of the requests to the Cabinet Office Relationship Management Team (RMT).

**Action:** JV to invite representative of RMT to the January 2014 meeting to go through and help resolve aged data requests.

**Update on progress with DGUK**

JT updated the group that she had met with the DGUK team to confirm the programme of work to automate and refine the data requests process further.

The Chair highlighted the importance of getting the data request process on data.gov.uk working properly again.

**Action:** JV and JT to meet to discuss the prioritisation of DGUK fixes.

**Action:** EB to provide DGUK team with ODUG process map.

**ONS Census Consultation Response**

TS highlighted the main options put forward in the paper which are outlined below:

Option 1: Online Census every decade retaining the features of the current system, with a complete Census of the population carried out once per decade. Data outputs would remain the same with the majority of population statistics published down to Output Area (smallest building block used by government for statistical data).

Option 2: Annual outputs based on government administrative data sources plus an annual ‘rolling’ Census of 4% of the population. This would produce more regular statistical outputs with annual updates to data for Local Authorities and higher areas.

TS highlighted to the group that option 2 was slightly cheaper to produce but it was untested and the level of statistical output to the lowest level would not be captured. The view of the Group was that they do not necessarily see the options as mutually exclusive. Our preference to maximise value of open data is Option 1 for small area open data, and elements of Option 2 for regular and more timely outputs. The ODUG response to the consultation will reflect this.

The link to the consultation with further information: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/media-centre/statements/census-consultation/index.html>

**Action:** TS and BB to finalise and submit ODUG response.

**Review of Draft Open Data Case Studies**

HL sought feedback on the template for capturing open data case studies. He also confirmed that not all case studies from each member had been sent to him yet. He clarified the traffic lights image on the template as this had been a source of confusion. He informed the group that it was meant to highlight the strength and value of each open data case study. The Group discussed what level of detail should be included in the case study such as financial information and how they should be tagged once published on DGUK. The group also discussed how it was important to include clear references to the datasets and to include the full link to the dataset within the case study. The Group also felt it was important to highlight in the case study if a blend of open data and other data is used and to provide a % of level how much open data is being used.

**Action:** COTT to steamline the dataset categories used i) on DGU, ii) within the NII, iii) in the data request mechanism, to ensure consistency

**Action:** ODUG to create a selection of case studies and to have 20 finalised case studies for highlight and release in Jan 2014

**Action:** JV to work with DGU to host the case studies in a library format and with CO internal communications on a communications plan for the open data case studies and seek feedback from the group on the plan

**Action:** For all ODUG members to submit a case study if they have not already submitted one to HL.

**Review of OPSI Guidance Note**

DR sought feedback on the guidance note on how to complain about Government data. He asked if the complaints process could be added as form to DGUK and it was discussed that the complains process is not owned by DGUK and therefore it would not be an appropriate feature to add to the website. The Group also discussed how they could best monitor the flow of complaints and whether it was appropriate to set up an ODUG complaints email address to be monitored by the group. The discussion concluded that the note should be promoted on DGUK as a blog.

**Action:** DR to combine items one and two in the note as well to clarify ‘what government data’ means and to highlight that Local Authority data falls under FOI regulations.

**Action:** HS to send the list of current complaints that ODUG have received to JV.

**Review of Note on Open Data Competitions**

GSo highlighted the main options put forward in the paper:

Short –lived and intensive “hack days” (generally lasting 24-48 hours) where developers compete to create a working prototype based on open data and a prize is awarded.

Medium-term challenges, where the goal of creating a business idea which is address by both individuals and companies and a substantial financial incentive is offered to the winner.

GS outlined that he had been involved in the Land Registry Open Data Challenge. He reflected on the challenge by highlighting the key issue which was how incentivise business involvement and how to stimulate a sustainable way of taking open data products to market through improved challenges.

The Group discussed how most value could be derived from the note and suggested some amendments.

**Action:** GS to re-structure the paper outline the types of challenges available, the types of attendees i.e. individuals or businesses and to add a pie chart with a rough estimate of money spend on innovation in this space by government and in which types of event/competition/funding and Technology strategy ‘Innovation Vouchers’ approach for supporting SMEs.

**A.O.B.**

**PSMA Workshop**

GSc asked the group for any issues to highlight at the PSMA licence workshop which was taking place on 11th December 2013. The Group highlighted the following issues:

* The interpretation of the wording of the licensing is hard to understand
* The licensing is complicated and potentially expensive for Value Added Resellers (VARs) which is a significant barrier to innovation & adoption
* The terms of use for VARs are complex requiring several copies of data under the licence to be kept
* Third party re-use and licensing is very difficult and there is a high risk of breaching the terms of the licence for small and medium sized businesses leading to non-compliance and/or prohibitively large data royalty expenses

**NEED Consultation – DECC Energy Efficiency Data**

PM outlined to the group the options for the consultation which were:

* Public use data set, 20,000 records available to all
* End user licence data set, 4 million records with more variables but requires signature of End User Licence. This would prohibit commercial usage.

The link to the consultation with further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-energy-efficiency-data-framework-making-data-available> (Responses due 21st January 2014)

He highlighted that there was an existing ODUD benefits case on EPC data and this he felt would be the best dataset to release. He sought views from the group on responding to the consultation.

**Action:** PM to draft response.

**ODUG Forward Planning 2014**

The ODUG meetings for the next quarter for 2014 had been confirmed and JV sought views from the group about suggestions for invited attendees and the programme of work. The suggestions are listed below:

* To invite Ed Parks to speak about the NESTA Challenge Series at the January 2014 meeting
* To receive a presentation on LGInform which provides performance data for Local Authorities. ([www.local.gov.uk/lginform](http://www.local.gov.uk/lginform))
* To invite Richard Mason to speak about the future strategy of GeoPlace
* To potentially hold a 3 hour panel discussion on statics and open data in February 2014
* To compile a significant number of open data case studies for publication and to invite the open data community to submit their own
* To promote and galvanise the use of open data with communications work to support the release of the case studies
* To considering putting forward an event show case on 20 open data companies

JT informed the group of her recent recognition from the World Economic Forum, she has been invited to collaborate on policy related to the use of Personal Data. She also informed the group she will be launching a new Data Journalism book (a collaboration of thought leaders in this space) in London on January. The ODUG Data Request Roadmap is featured in the book in her chapter, Data visualisation, now for the science.

JV invited ODUG members to join Department Sector Boards.

**Action:** JV to send a list of Department sector boards to ODUG members and to confirm which members would like to sit on the relevant sector boards.