**Open Data User Group - Agenda**

**21st meeting**

**18th February 2014, 14:30-17:30**

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

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Jemma Insall (JI) |
| Bob Barr (BB) | Oliver Buckley (OB) |
| Alex Kafetz (AK) | Matt Brown (MB) |
| Paul Malyon (PM) |  |
| Gesche Schmid (GS) | **Observers** |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GSo) |  |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | **Apologies** |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) | Dominique Lazanski (DL) |
| Tom Smith (TS) | Harvey Lewis (HL) |
|  | Duncan Ross (DR) |
|  | Paul Fenton (PF) |

**Agenda**

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Time** | **Lead** | **Papers** |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update | 14:30 – 14:40 | HS |  |
| **2** | Data Request Refresh/DGU update - User Stories | 14:40 – 14:55 | OB |  |
| **3** | Update from Relationship Management Team (inc. Sector Board Progress) | 14:55 – 15:10 | ML |  |
| **4** | Identify and discuss priority data requests | 15:10 – 15:45 | JT |  |
| **BREAK 15:45 – 16:00** | | | | |
| **5** | Plan for Open Data Day | 16:00 – 16:15 | GSo |  |
| **6** | Land Registry Consultation Response  PAF Consultation Response | 16:15 – 16:50 | BB | Major points (BB) |
| **7** | *AOB*   * Meeting Forward Look/Strategic Objectives * AOB | 16:50 – 17:30 | HS/JI |  |

**Introductions and welcome**

* The Chair read a letter from Francis Maude, Minister for Cabinet Office in which he apologised for being unable to attend the meeting and he stressed the importance of ODUG and their ongoing work.
* The Chair introduced Oliver Buckley as the new head of the Cabinet Office Transparency Team (COTT).
* The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Group.

**Chair’s Report**

* Carlos Somohano has stepped down from the group. ODUG will work with COTT to recruit a new member and will do so in a transparent way.
* The Chair had attended the APPSI workshop on the benefits of Open data, hosted by McKinsey and presented the ODUG Case Studies.
* The PSTB had accepted ODUG proposals for £1.5m of project funding for Open Data projects, as a result of the 40 bids considered. Further bidding rounds would be organised next year and would be more widely publicised.
* The Chair had an introductory meeting with Eddie Copeland at the Policy Exchange, and also met with the Chair of the Registry Trust to talk about the possibility of opening up aggregated, anonymised CCJ data.
* The Chair also met with DVLA about a bulk open data release which does not include personal data. The point was made that if data was released with the VIN number, there would be a quick uptake for reuse.

**ACTIONS:**

* PM to follow up DVLA data release with KK.

**Data request refresh**

* OB gave an update on transparency team priorities.
* COTT are currently collecting user stories to improve the data request process. This will include a template directed to specific, heavy users (COTT, ODUG, practitioners group) to give an understanding of user needs by 7th March. Findings will then be reported to ODUG with a view to making improvements.

**RM team update – presented by Matt Brown**

**James Ashton**

* Met Office keen to look at historical data – input would be welcomed from ODUG members.

**Matt Brown**

* DVLA stolen vehicles data: ODUG are writing to the Secretary of State for MoJ about publishing the data. It was suggested that someone from this field be invited to the next Transparency Board meeting.
* NICE consultation and British National Formulary – this is accessible, but there are restrictions on re-use. Consultation closes 31/3/14.

**Olivia Burman**

* DCLG are working on a submission in March for the consideration of EPCs as open data
* The Chair suggested that if legislative changes are required they could be included in the current deregulation bill.

**Krisz Katona**

* VAT register - if ODUG members want to give input on fields, speak to KK.
* ONS are currently setting up a sector board (an action from previous meeting).
* DCMS are holding an open data forum regarding art data. PM suggested that the Big Data fund recently announced by BIS could be applied to the DCMS art data.

The Chair commented that it should be automatically assumed that ODUG members want to give input into CO Data Release cases and RMs should contact all or relevant ODUG members as a matter of course

**ACTIONS:**

* AK to prepare ODUGs response to NICE consultation.
* KK to speak to PM about VAT register.
* RMs to work on getting ODUG members on departmental sector boards as soon as possible. COTT to put a proposal to ODUG Chair.
* PM to respond to CHIEF consultation.

**Data request process**

* Many thanks to Sam Roberts for the time spent on the request spreadsheet.
* Data holder field is still to be fixed.
* 1 request and 1 column missing.
* There are 708 data requests in total. 200 of these are now closed but 180 were not valid requests. Note from MB that there is a discrepancy with the figures on Redmine which says 450 data requests are closed.
* JI suggested should there be some set lines from ODUG for benefits cases that can be used as standard. It was noted that all ODUG benefits cases are published and lines can be taken from these.
* It was noted that users are increasingly using the FOI process instead of data request process.
* Also there are also a lot of repeated requests which stem from an inability to find data.

**ACTIONS:**

* COTT to look at the road map created by JT and cross check with the Redmine data.
* JT to set up a webinar with new ODUG members about the data request process.

**Priority data requests**

NHS Hospital and Dentist address data - NHS choices is very poor as it is only searchable by postcode. There is a workshop on 5th March to discuss solutions.

EA Flood Data:

* Flood warning data: COTT negotiated the release of this data at very short notice for a flood hack day on Sunday 16th February. The hack day included involved several high profile businesses and resulted in some potentially useful app solutions and an agreement from businesses to provide funding for successful prototypes.
* The data was made available under OGL for 3 months through the Shoothill API (flood alert and warning areas).
* This is a potentially vast data resource (real time collection) and is currently being released as a feed. Was there an opportunity to collect the data in the live feed and store it as a data set, so it could be published in bulk for users to access once the 3 month period comes to an end?
* The dataset might be reused by the insurance industry to identify losses. There could also be uses for community groups.
* The point was made that incorrect flood data is a serious liability and it is important understand policy barriers before releasing data.
* However, in the same way that Met Office owns official Weather Warnings as long as EA owns official Flood Warnings this should not be an issue.

**ACTIONS:**

* JTe to give feedback on how is flood warning data geo-referenced.
* All members to look at the collaboration space and sense check the datasets with a business case attached before the next ODUG meeting.

**Open Data Day**

* GSo and HS will attend.
* Case studies: 24 are to be selected and released in the week leading up to Open Data Day. These will be published on the front page of DGU with a blog by Harvey Lewis.

**Land Registry consultation response**

* The Land Registry is to change from a trading fund to a government owned company.
* The land registry data must remain in public ownership.
* ODUG to provide feedback on the consultation, not concerned about company structure – concerned about public ownership of data and availability of open data for wider economic benefit.
* Other comments from ODUG: It is not clear from the consultation what the business strategy, model and funding are and what other services might be offered. Where they acquire 3rd party data, should they release it as open data?
* Another Land Registry consultation may change land charges system from Local Authorities to the land registry. This is an entirely new function of the Land Registry and should not be considered independently of the previous consultation.

**Funding bids**

* The timings for next year’s funding rounds were briefly discussed; the revised process should be up and running as close to the start of the next financial year as possible, as some projects will require as much time as possible for implementation.
* JI and HS are currently looking into the process for criteria for bids etc.
* GSo to discuss Open Data Challenges with Ed Parkes from Nesta.

**Consultation responses**

* ODUG will respond to the BIS report on options for National Addressing. The deadline for responses is 14th March -BB to respond, but will take in collective response.
* COTT will also be responding, but are waiting for responses from externals (excluding ODUG).
* The PSMA exemption process for Local Authority UPRN data needs to be made more transparent.
* Scottish Land Registry meeting - BB attended and spoke.
* ODUG will respond to the Royal Mail PAF consultation results

**ACTIONS:**

* BB to draft response to Land Registry Consultation
* BB to draft response to PAF Consultation response
* BB to draft response to BIS National Addressing Report.

**AOB**

* Discussion about having an external speaker at every ODUG meeting.
* The bidding process for next year will be discussed at the next meeting - themes, timescales etc.
* The next tranche of business cases should be discussed at the next meeting.
* It would be preferable for Relationship Managers to give a written report about cross-government activity before the meeting, rather than an in-meeting update.
* Need to formalise drafting papers before meetings.

**ACTIONS:**

* RMs to put together update on work across government for next meeting