**Open Data User Group - Minutes**

**22nd meeting**

**19th March 2014, 14:30-17:00**

**Venue: Room 5/07 – 1 Horseguards Road**

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Sam Roberts (SR) |
| Bob Barr (BB)  2:30o | Ollie Buckley (OB) |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) | Krisztina Katona (KK) |
| Gesche Schmid (GS) | James Ashton (JA) |
| Dominique Lazanski (DL) |  |
| Harvey Lewis (HL) | **Observers** |
| Paul Malyon (PM) |  |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GSo) | **Apologies** |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | Alex Kafetz (AK) |
| Ed Parkes (EP) | Tom Smith(TS) |
|  | Jeni Tennison (JTe) |
|  | Paul Fenton (PF) |
|  | Duncan Ross (DR) |

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Time** | **Lead** | **Papers** |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update | 14:30 – 14:35 | HS |  |
| **2** | Data Request Update | 14:35 – 14:55 | JT | Collaboration Readout |
| **3** | Update on CO progress on Data Requests | 14:55 – 15:15 | COTT | COTT RM update paper |
| **4** | Benefits Cases Review | 15:15 – 15:25 | JT | ODUG benefits cases |
| **5** | DEFRA Panel Reflections – next steps | 15:25 – 15:50 | PM |  |
| **6** | Review of Funding Process | 15:50 – 16:10 | HS  JT | COTT Paper |
| **BREAK 16:10 – 16:25** | | | | |
| **7** | NESTA Open Data Challenge | 16:25 – 16:45 | EP |  |
| **8** | *AOB* | 16:45 – 17:00 | HS |  |

**Chair’s welcome and update**

* The Release of Data Fund process for 2014 is being worked on by Cabinet Office (CO) and ODUG.
* The Chair met with the Bank of England to discuss SME financing – HMRC consultation report is being finished.
* The Public Sector Transparency Board took place on the 11th March –
  + DCLG presented on Energy Performance Certificates
  + DECC presented on NEED data plans
  + Environment Agency presented on plans for Flood Data
  + NHS England presented on Care.Data.
  + The board was effective in pushing back on departments and ensuring the experience of the board is utilised to guide department plans on major data releases.
* As part of the Budget, a commitment to release VAT Registration data has been announced – this data will initially be released to qualified parties, with a consultation on the wider release of the data.
* In reference to the RoD Fund LGA Local Voucher Scheme - an alternate theme to gritting is being considered.
* The Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) report on Statistics and Open Data was published on Monday 17th– CO will be leading on govt response.
* The OPSI report on a complaint made against Ordnance Survey (OS)’s proposed derived data licensing terms for the use of HMLR INSPIRE Index Polygons is expected to be published soon.

**Data Request Update**

* ODUG are now able to use the collaboration space again, and will be able to identify new priority areas to follow up.
* Tom Smith (TS) and Giuseppe Sollazzo (GS) have been working with Jacqui Taylor (JT) on historical data requests.
* Sam Roberts (SR) updated on the data request refresh progress – collecting user stories for feasibility testing. SR invited ODUG members to feed into this process via email.

**ACTION:** ODUG require a process map of data requests – JT to talk to Ekua Boateng to provide this.

**ACTION:** JT to work with SR to feedback into the CO Redmine work.

**Update on CO progress on Data Requests**

* Krisztina Katona (KK) underlined that specific department queries should go to relevant RM.
* GS has been appointed to Department of Health Sector Board.
* DL has been invited to FCO Sector Boardoard.
* Work on the Stats hub, INSPIRE and other issues arising from last year’s DGU platform migration have enabled permanent solutions to many broken link issues (from 9348 to 3482 since January 2014). ODUG welcomed this progress.
* Data.gov.uk developers are currently looking at causes for remaining broken links.
* Training Voucher take-up from the public sector has been slow; this is due in part to the CO’s strategic approach to ensure those trained have a large impact within respective departments.
* Cabinet Office are considering options for the next stage of the National Information Infrastructure (NII) – this will be an agenda item in the next ODUG meeting.
* Cabinet Office are organising an NII (?) workshop for departments in April, further details will be circulated to ODUG in due course.
* The CHIEF consultation is expected to be launched during April.

**ACTION:** Definition question around what constitutes “closed” requests to be taken offline with SR and JT.

**ACTION:** ODUG to email KK with updates on Department Sector Board invites to members. CO to circulate an overview of ODUG Sector Board membership.

**ACTION:** CO to explore inviting HMRC to the next PSTB to talk about the VAT Register.

**ACTION:** OB and SR will discuss Training Vouchers within the Cabinet Office Team to see if there is a quicker way of offering courses.

**Benefits Cases Review**

**NHS Data:**

* Recent Data requests are covering specific health related data sets and meta-data.
* A Benefits Case will be developed to address NHS and DH data and whether it should be held on Data.gov.uk as a central repository, while relevant departments revise their current data systems and strategies.

**ACTION:** ODUG to work on a Benefits Case encapsulating GP practices, dental practices, pharmacies and hospitals. This data is already available, but this will consider the case for Data.gov.uk to be the consistent place for it to be held (GS to lead on this case).

**EA Flood Data:**

* An announcement is anticipated very soon, there is no requirement for a Benefits Case on this.

**VOA Data:**

* Blockers to this data have been identified and are being worked through; there is no requirement for a new Benefits Case.

**NEED Data:**

* Update on plans for NEED is required, ODUG have responded to the DECC consultation.
* Cabinet Office are making sure that DECC are linked up with right people who have released data as there are sensitivities around granularity of NEED data leading to de-anonymisation.

**ACTION:** Matt Lloyd to update PM on current DECC status.

**CHIEF Data:**

* Consultation will be published in coming weeks.

**DVLA:**

* DVLA will release interim, anonymised bulk Open Data in parallel with a consultation on the data fields for a more comprehensive future release. The VIM data will be part of the consultation. This is also needed to release the Police stolen vehicle register.
* The winner of the NESTA crime challenge series has requested the release of data of the frame numbers of stolen bikes.
* There is also a data request for road haulage and transport operators’ data. This data is already available but the SIC code data is missing this code (which is required to make the data set of value).

**Other Comments:**

* There appears to be a gap in requests for Education data – Cabinet Office will investigate why this may be.

**ACTION:** JT to look at backlog of requests and work with ODUG members to begin shortlisting new benefits cases.

**ACTION:** ODUG Members to review and assess data requests using collaboration space after receiving training.

**ACTION:** Cabinet Office to check back through Historic English Heritage datasets to ensure closed requests have been adequately dealt with.

**DEFRA Panel Reflections – next steps**

* DEFRA are concentrating on how they engage and need help attracting stakeholder views. They require assistance identifying the potential of data, as they do not receive input from the open data community. There have only been 13 data requests for DEFRA data.

**ACTION:** ODUG to engage with wider open data group on DEFRA’s behalf. PM to list Defra data on DGUK as a commentary.

**ACTION:** Cabinet Office to investigate wider INSPIRE data to understand the licensing, public status and location of this data.

**Review of Release of Data Fund Funding Process**

* HS and Cabinet Office are finalising a paper. This will ensure a wider reaching and more co-ordinated approach to future funding rounds.
* This will potentially be circulated for sign-off at next ODUG meeting.
* A wider approach to marketing and publicity approaches will be decided between CO and ODUG.

**ACTION:** Revised RoDF proposal to be circulated to ODUG members out of committee for final sign-off.

**NESTA Open Data Challenge**

* Ed Parkes talked ODUG through a slide pack relating to the Open Data Challenge Series, run by NESTA and the ODI.
* Open Data Challenge Competitions are distinctive from Hacks, as there is a rigorous set of criteria by which entries are judged.
* Data Challenges are one of many (e.g. longitude prize, most high profile social challenge prize).
* The Open Data Challenge prizes are a great lever for innovation across policy areas.
* ODUG are positioned well to bridge gap between Whitehall and users of data to help understand what data topics would most benefit from the Challenge Prize model.
* New potential challenge prizes might be run on housing/land, food or health.
* A broader economic analysis of financial markets and smaller business funding using open data was suggested. This could evidence growth and help strengthen the case for the short term release of VAT register etc.

**ACTION:** Harvey Lewis (HL) to email template for Case Studies to EP to begin collecting NESTA winners on Data.gov.uk.

**AOB**

* Local Authorities (LAs) are not currently publishing data onto Data.gov.uk regularly. Data.gov.uk should consider implementing an infrastructure capable of holding LA data.
* An identified priority area for Cabinet Office is open data use in companies.
* There may be some interest from train operating companies across the UK in the use of open data.

**ACTION:** Cabinet Office to consider:

1) How to apply open data clauses to organisations procured for work which is *yet* to be outsourced.

2) How to involve open data practices within organisations which have *already* had outsourced work.

* HL is talking to the Technology Strategy Board about case studies to encourage more and simplify the process to submit studies.

**ACTION**: HL to send template to Cabinet Office (SR), to be made openly available on Data.gov.uk.

**ACTION**: When Case Studies are submitted Cabinet Office to do initial case study moderation then pass to ODUG for final sign-off.

* James Ashton (JA) is leaving Cabinet Office at the end of March for a new role in GDS.
* JA would like ODUG to help his replacement by re-engaging with the Met Office Historical data Benefits Case.
* Matthew Brown will take over on DWP, Krisztina Katona on DWP and Olivia Burman on BIS.

**ACTION:** ODUG member to meet with Cabinet Office, BIS and Met Office to work through Met Office Historical Data Benefits Case.

**ACTION:** HS to carry work forward after JA’s departure to assist the incumbent CO team member leverage data releases. JA to draft handover note for HS.

* HS has been contacted by FOODit about ODUG support for a hackathon.

**ACTION:** ODUG member required to liaise with FOODit on this.

* ODUG will plan a community and stakeholder event for the Autumn as part of the Release of Data Funding Work

**ACTION:** ODUG member required to plan and coordinate this event.