

**Minutes of the 28th ODUG meeting**

**10 October 2014, 13:30 – 16:00**

**Venue: 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ**

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| **ODUG Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (HS)  ODUG Chair | Kam Marshall (KM)  ODUG Secretariat / Cabinet Office |
| Charlie Boundy (CB)  BAE Systems Applied Intelligence | Lawrence Hopper (LH)  Transparency Team |
| Simon Briscoe (SB)  PASC/FullFact | Daniel King (DK) (part)  Transparency Team |
| Stuart Chalmers (SC)  Building Research Establishment | **Guests** |
| Bob Barr (BB)  Manchester Geomatics, University of Liverpool | Keitha Booth  New Zealand Open Government Data Programme |
| Paul Hodgson (PH)  Greater London Authority | **Guest speaker**: Mark Ratnarajah  FindMeHealth.com |
| Nick Halliday (NH)  National Audit Office |  |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT)  Flying Binary | **Apologies** |
| Johanna Walker (JW)  Web Science Institute, Southampton | Hendrik Grothuis (HG)  Cambridge County Council |
| Ian Makgill (IM)  Spendnetwork.com | David Kane (DK)  National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) |
| Paul Malyon (PM)  Experian | Giuseppe Sollazzo (GS)  St George’s University of London |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe)  Open Data Institute (ODI) |  |

**Welcome and updates**

The Chair welcomed the group to the 28th meeting of the ODUG and noted apologies from Hendrik Grothuis, Giuseppe Sollazzo and David Kane. Keitha Booth was introduced as an observer to this meeting during her visit to the UK.

### The Chair thanked the group for their work to respond to the National Archives Consultation on the UK Implementation of the EU Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information.

The group was informed of the Chair’s recent interview with a journalist from Sisa Journal of South Korea. Sisa Journal is one of the most influential weekly magazines of the country that covers politics, economics, and international issues. The Journalist was working on an article about the UK Government’s Transparency and Open Data Policies.

The Chair updated the group on a recent OPSI meeting which had positive outcomes for both parties, leading to a way forward to a review of the Ordnance Survey’s proposed licensing terms for the commercial use of HMLR INSPIRE Cadastral Polygons.

Finally a brief update was provided on the Demographic User Group conference.

The group formally approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 September 2014. The group also formally approved the revised ODUG Strategy paper.

Volunteers were sought to represent ODUG on Sector Boards that held a vacancy:

* Simon Briscoe volunteered to liaise with the Statistics User Forum.
* Ian Makgill volunteered to join the Tax Sector Board.
* Johanna Walker volunteered to join the Transport Sector Board.
* Nick Halliday volunteered for the Market Research Society Census and Geo-demographic Group.

**Transparency Team update**

Lawrence Hopper (LH) informed the group that the DVLA consultation which was originally due in March 2014 was now due to take place this month, rather than in January next year – as was noted in the previous ODUG meeting.

LH reported on the process and analysis of the data requests. He stated that a vast majority of the closed requests relate to datasets that were already available. LH provided a summary of overall dataset requests. Relationship Managers are in the process of working closely with Practitioners to inform them of the process and escalate the outstanding data requests assigned to them.

The group discussed suggestions of a standardised way of getting data released such as a route-map and the relative importance of data requests which ask for small amounts of data. An analysis of these will be provided for discussion at the next meeting.

**Data Request / Benefits Cases review/update**

Jacqui Taylor (JT) has received access to the Data.gov.uk portal and will provide an evidence base extract at end of next week which will be launched into the ODUG collaboration space. There will be a focus on new data requests rather than the backlog.

**NII update**

Charlie Boundy gave an update on the groups NII work. Some ODUG members are supporting the Cabinet Office Transparency Team in the preparation of a revised proposal on the NII. Other ODUG members will continue with ODUGs wider work in this area.

**FindMeHealth.com: Presentation from Mark Ratnarajah**

Mark Ratnarajah (MR) explained that the idea of FindMeHealth.com was formulated when his mother was ill and they struggled to find any data on basic information to make important decisions such as who she should go and see, why she should go and see them. Working with acquaintances with knowledge in ecommerce and technical expertise, they were able to create a web portal aimed at the general public. FindMeHealth is a for profit organisation which is free for customers and doctors to use. Revenues are sourced from targeted advertising and value added services to doctors to help them better communicate with the public better.

FindMeHealth.com allows users to investigate, search and compare health procedures, doctors and hospitals based on performance data. People can look through both public and private practices and book through the website too. The service aims to help health consumers be better informed.

MR explained that he has access to performance data for all of the consultants in England from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) but MR needs to ensure that Government guidelines are adhered to around data protection and data quality. Having shown to be following the necessary guidelines, FindMeHealth.com is one of the few organisations that has the authority to publish that data and chooses to do so by asking permission from consultants before data is published.

MR informed the group that the biggest barrier to improved health service, in his view, is that the public is not aware that they have a choice.

**ODUG Comms**

Simon Briscoe and Nick Halliday presented their thoughts on how the ODUG comms strategy should be developed. The group questioned why it took so long for ODUG blogs to be published on data.gov.uk and new members noted that it was difficult to locate ODUG on the site, also to find previous benefits cases and meeting minutes. The group discussed setting up its own online presence as members felt that an additional space was now required for uploading blogs, engaging with industry bodies, and showcasing the Groups achievements. The group acquired the domain odug.org.uk to progress this.

**Release of Data Fund**

LH updated the group on two of the three main bids from Tranches 2 which required additional approval from the Minister for Cabinet Office and the Public Sector Transparency Board:

1. Environment Agency NAFRA bid: their National Flood Risk Assessment model.
2. Free Birth, Marriage and Deaths (BMD) index.

LH explained that there was some ongoing work on comms for the Release of Data Fund, the aim is to promote the success of these projects in order to encourage other organisations to release their data.

**Open Addressing**

JTe reported that the funding approved for the “discovery phase” in July 2014 has been received and development work for the alpha phase has now begun. JTe will be a Director of Open Addresses Ltd. Three non-Executive Directors and two project leads have been contracted to take the work forward. The alpha phase is progressing with the use of only one data source, namely, the Companies House data.  This phase is due to close at the end of November with a website which contains a page for locality, street, addresses, etc.

JTe will be reporting on Open Addressing at the next Public Sector Transparency Board meeting.

**AOB**

The Chair thanked members for a productive meeting. The next meeting will be held on 14/11/14.