

**30th meeting**

**15 December 2014, 10:00 – 13:00**

**Venue: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ODUG Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (HS)  ODUG Chair | Kam Marshall (KM)  ODUG Secretariat / Cabinet Office, Transparency Team |
| Bob Barr (BB)  Manchester Geomatics, University of Liverpool | Jemma Insall (JI)  Transparency Team |
| Charlie Boundy (CB)  BAE Systems Applied Intelligence | Hannah Peaker (HP)  Transparency Team |
| Simon Briscoe (SB)  PASC/FullFact | Liam Murphy (LM)  Transparency Team |
| Stuart Chalmers (SC)  Building Research Establishment |  |
| Hendrik Grothuis (HG)  Cambridge County Council | **Guest speaker** |
| Paul Hodgson (PH)  Greater London Authority | Kitty von Bertele (KvB)  Transparency Team |
| Nick Halliday (NH)  National Audit Office |  |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GS)  St George’s University of London |  |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT)  Flying Binary |  |
| Johanna Walker (JW)  Web Science Institute, Southampton | **Apologies** |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe)  Open Data Institute (ODI) | David Kane (DK)  National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) |
| Paul Malyon (PM)  Experian |  |
| Ian Makgill (IM)  Spendnetwork.com |  |

**Welcome and Chair’s update**

The Chair welcomed members to the 30th ODUG meeting and updated them on her recent activities including attendance at the KPMG Big Data and the Information for Government Transparency events.

The minutes to the previous meeting held on 14th November were formally approved by the ODUG members followed by a brief review of the action log.

**International Open Data Agenda**

KvB provided ODUG members with an overview of the International context of the Open Data agenda which is an essential part of the Transparency Team’s third objective ‘*Maintaining Britain’s global position as a leader on open data and transparency’*. The following points were noted:

* There is evidence to suggest that UK is a leader in the global open data leader index but the UK Government is by no means complacent in this capacity and will endeavour to maintain this position. Governments in other countries are developing their open data agendas at a very rapid pace.
* The agenda operates internationally on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) platform of which UK is a co-founder. The OGP provides a unique collaboration between civil society and member governments and currently consists of 65 countries who have made commitments to transparency and open government. Member countries must adopt a high-level Open Government Declaration which include commitments to various open government ideals i.e. to increase the availability of information about government activities; support and participate with networks outside government. The OGP provides a useful opportunity for linking governments and networks and sharing ideas on best practice.
* Whilst UK held the position of presidency of the G8 in 2012-13, Transparency was one of the three main strands. A key success here was the development of the Open Data Charter. The Charter includes the adoption of common principles; stating commitments and listing high value datasets that could be released. Under the Charter, all G8 countries have an Action Plan they need to adhere to.
* Similar principles have been applied to champion the open data agenda for the G20. The UK Government contributed with other countries in lobbying the Anti-corruption working group at the G20 to include adoption of open data principles in their workplan.
* The Open Contracting Partnership has recently been launched – also of international interest in regard to setting standards and advising people on how open contracting can be more transparent.

The following comments were noted from ODUG members:

* Although the UK is performing well on an international scale, further work needs to be done to maintain its position.
* There may be a misapprehension on the UK’s international status in the majority of Local Authorities.
* JW reported that the Web Science Institute has been funded to carry out a research project on the usability of open data in the UK and the finding will be presented at the Canadian Open Data Conference in May 2015.

**Local Open Data**

HP and JI introduced this item. Cabinet Office have spent time with a number of local authorities to understand the potential of local open data, in their experience.  For example, to improve public services, create economic/social growth or better inform citizen choice.  This engagement with local partners helps to inform the Transparency Team's understanding of the demand for and benefits of open data.  The team hopes that these visits are also beneficial for local partners by raising the visibility of successful and innovative projects. The group heard positive accounts of open data activity in Cambridge and Devon as well as an overview of the challenges faced by both Local Authorities.

The team is co-designing an event in March, with local partners, to be hosted in Whitehall and will update the group as plans progress.

**Review of ODUG NII paper**

The ODUG NII paper was near completion, the group provided and discussed comments with the Chair. The paper will be published soon.

The group discussed ways in which the document could be published and be promoted as widely as possible.

**Business Cases Review**

JT will be putting an extract of the data requests on the ODUG collaboration space next week to see comments from the group on potential business cases. Special thanks were expressed to JT and the DGUK team for their efforts on the technical migration of requests.

**Sector Boards update**

A volunteer from the ODUG was required to represent the group at the DCMS sector board meetings.

**COMMS**

A comms plan was circulated by NH, comments were sought from all the ODUG members.

HP informed the group that she had a calendar of events that she would share with members.

**AOB**

HG reported that the Open Data Camp was to take place on 21/23 February 2015.