**theguardian Public Leaders Network**

# Open data user group launches data request roadmap

Keep up to date with progress on open data releases



The Open Data User Group is publishing an interactive dashboard of every data request it has received to date on 15 March. Photograph: Alamy www.alamy.com

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I'm delighted that the [Open Data User Group](http://data.gov.uk/odug) is publishing on 15 March [an interactive dashboard](http://www.data.gov.uk/odug-roadmap) – the ODUG data request roadmap – showing all the data requests we have received since we launched the data request mechanism last September.

It is important that we are as transparent as possible about the work we are doing with the Cabinet Office and the [data strategy board](https://www.gov.uk/data-strategy-board) on the data requests we receive. We plan to publish regular updates to this dashboard as we work on releasing the requested data.

There has been a steady flow of requests since September, with more than 240 now submitted, many supported on [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk/) by additional comments from the data-user community.

We have already prioritised a number of requests for open data, including significant work focusing on an open national address dataset, which will include the postcode address file (PAF). [Analysis on this is under way](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/128772/bis-national-addressing-database-feasibility-review-scope.pdf) and a report is expected in early April. Meanwhile, we have called for historical data from the Met Office, Land Registry, Ordnance Survey and the VAT Register to be made open.

We have also identified a second tranche of data requests for ODUG members to focus on, including more Land Registry datasets, Charity Commission registers, DVLA bulk data and energy performance certificates. However, the balance of the data requests – where we are not building a specific high-priority benefits case – are not being left to languish, they are being progressed in other ways. In some cases, for example, the data may have been released already and the requester can be directed to it; in other cases, Cabinet Office officials are taking the requests forward directly with individual government departments.

The status now attached to each of the data requests on [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk/) will allow people to track the progress we are making. So far, 17 data requests have been fully resolved, resulting in the release of two new datasets. This is not as much progress as I had hoped we might have made by now and does not reflect the amount of work happening behind the scenes, but we are open and accountable for our results, so do keep an eye on the data request roadmap to check our improved progress over the next few months.

I am pleased that we are now able to achieve this level of transparency about the work under way to help release more open data, and I encourage everyone to keep posting their data requests and comments, which are helping us build the evidence base for the further release of open data

Heather Savory is chair of the open data user group.