

Public Sector Transparency Board Minutes

21 November 2012

TRANSPARENCY BOARD

Transparency Board Members:	Regular Attendees
Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office	Carol Tullo (TNA)
Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd	Glenn Preston (MoJ)
Minister for Skills, Matthew Hancock	
Professor Nigel Shadbolt	
Sir Tim Berners-Lee	
Andrew Stott	
Dr Rufus Pollock	
Heather Savory	

Apologies:	Officials
	Gavin Starks (ODI)
	Sophia Oliver (Cabinet Office)
	Farah Ahmed (Cabinet Office)
	Antonio Acuna (Cabinet Office)
	Kitty von Bertele (Cabinet Office)
	Nick Morgan (Cabinet Office)

Welcome and introductions

Francis Maude opened the meeting and welcomed all the attendees.

Current progress made by Open Data Institute

Gavin Starks, Chief Executive Officer of the Open Data Institute (ODI) discussed the progress the ODI had made so far. To begin with talked about the significance of open data and how the ODI had a key role to play in helping data releases reach their potential.

He explained to the group how the ODI had already been linking up with many members of the open data community and it had ran a number of successful hack days related to Health and Mi data.

Other achievements

- ODI working with a number of local start up businesses to help them use data releases to their own advantage.
- Research project with Deloitte on the Economic Impact of Open Data underway, and he hoped to be able to provide an update soon.

He also remarked that the work ODI was already starting to attract positive international attention in showcasing itself as an open data initiative global first.

The progress of the ODI was strongly welcomed by the board, they emphasised that the work so far complimented the core principle of the 'push' of public data. The board also added that doing more work on costs and benefits of open data would be essential in the months ahead.

UK negotiating position on the European Commission's proposed amendments PSI Re-use Directive

Carol Tullo Director of Information at The National Archives (TNA) gave the Board an update on the latest negotiations with the European Commission and Member States regarding for the revision to the PSI Directive.

By way of back ground Carol explained that in December 2011 – The European Commission published proposal to amend the PSI Directive. The key changes focussed around

Marginal cost pricing

Mandatory licensing

Extension to museums, libraries and archives

Independent regulator with binding powers

Machine readable formats

All of these changes were broadly in line with keeping with UK Transparency and Public Sector information policies.

TNA had been leading the government negotiations with the commission. Carol discussed with the group the issues that had arisen in securing a shared government negotiating position. Overall progress was good and the adoption of final text in Europe – expected early-mid 2013.

In the view of the Transparency Board, the changes proposed by the Commission were very much in line with the UK Transparency and Open Data policies already announced and embodied in the Public Data Principles and the recent White Paper - although in some areas, including cultural bodies and trading funds, there was of course still work to be done in the UK to ensure conformance with the UK's own aspirations. The Transparency Board urged the Government to be seen to be backing the proposals and to give strong leadership towards change in the Council - the proposals created an opportunity for the UK to lead the push for more open data across Europe and to exploit the direct benefit offered to UK business and innovation from EU-wide change.

The Minister and board members noted the progress Carol had made in securing a robust negotiating commission and asked to be kept up to date with the latest developments.

Data Strategy Board (DSB) ideas

Matthew Hancock, Minister for Skills at the department for Business Innovation and Skills talked to this item.

The Minister provided a brief overview of potential open data initiatives that the DSB could develop which included the DSB Breakthrough Fund, Data Vouchers, Open Data Competitions and upgrading of Ordnance Survey Open Data products.

Some of these initiatives would be formally announced at the Ministerial opening of the ODI on 4 December.

The transparency board noted the strong links between the DSB and the wider open data agenda and discussed the value of working collaboratively in the months ahead.

Shakespeare Review of PSI

This was presented by Stephan Shakespeare, Chair of the Data Strategy Board.

Stephan gave a breakdown of the Shakespeare review of PSI which started on 22 October.

Specifically he mentioned that key elements of the review would focus around where data releases could be linked to economic growth and addressing privacy concerns linked to the disclosure of data.

Stephan also advised that he wanted to seek views from a wide audience on this issue and would be launching a survey based consultation very shortly.

The members discussed other elements that they thought should be in the review such as promoting skills and training in using data and there was discussion that the ODI could play a role on this.

What the government is doing to establish a Midata program

Nigel Shadbolt talked about this item; he remarked that the Midata initiative was a joint venture between the department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Behavioural Insights Team.

He noted that the agenda was about giving consumers power over their consumer data that had been collected by suppliers of goods and services.

He remarked that now over 20 organisations had signed up to the Midata agenda and that the government had recently published a response to the Midata consultation.

Regarding the response Nigel talked about how the government has now decided to proceed with its plan to legislate for a power to impose a duty on businesses which collect this kind of data, but initially look at a few specific sectors.

The Midata program was well received by the Board and they asked to be kept up to date with latest developments.

Open Government Partnership Forum

Sophia Oliver, Deputy Director, Transparency Team discussed that Now the UK co-chairmanship period of the OGP is underway it was important to set up an independent forum to that can help shape initiatives related to the UK Co-chairmanship that could suitably engage with the civil society sector.

The T – Board members were asked to consider an independent chair for this initiative.

AoB

None.