

Department for Work and Pensions – Transparency / Open Data

Welfare Sector Transparency Board – Progress Report

Date: 10.07.2014

This report is aligned to the department's published Open Data Strategy [see here](#) and provides an overview of DWP's progress on meeting its Transparency / Open Data commitments. The report is split into the following key sections:

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Engaging with key stakeholders & data users – Summary of DWP’s activities since the last meeting

This section illustrates how we are working with key stakeholders including data users to help inform what demand there is for our data and the priority users attach for the timing of its release. We are also using feedback from sources such as registered users on Stat-Xplore to data.gov.uk analytics to assess how popular our data is and identify further improvements

Achievements / Work completed since the last meeting

DWP have updated and published the DWP Open Data Strategy in January. Please see the following link to the publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-strategy--3>

DWP Open Data Group (formerly External Stakeholder Group) met on 22.01.14. Meeting minutes as follows:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294155/dwp-open-data-group-minutes-14-01-22.pdf

Stat-Xplore now has over 1,750 registered users – the number of registered users has doubled since November 2013. Stat-Xplore contains data on Housing Benefit, JSA/ESA sanctions and National Insurance registrations for overseas nationals and PIP. Nearly 20,000 bespoke tables have been created and downloaded by users of Stat-Xplore.

Met all cross government publishing requirements for the quarterly written ministerial statement period QTR 3 and 4 2013/14.

Other recent releases

A range of DWP Business Plan transparency measures published and updated on 6 March which can be found [here](#)

Feedback from Data.gov.uk

No new feedback on DWP’s data set inventory

Most popular DWP datasets on DGU

- Organogram and staff pay data
- JSA sanctions and disallowances
- JSA claimants by ethnicity and monthly JSA claimant count
- Disability Living Allowance stats
- NINOs allocated to overseas
- Households Below Average Income

Received 8 ODUG requests - DWP is responding to these working in partnership with CO.

Updated DWP spend data and staff data with associated costs

Key engagement activity

- Active engagement in data sharing legislation development to allow linking and sharing with academic and other researchers
- Working with ESRC and admin data service on establishing the Admin Data Research Network
- Active involvement in UK anonymisation network, including development of guidance on disclosure risk management for record level data for release into the public domain or secure environments.
- Go-live of the External Data Sharing Advice Centre (EDSAC)

Forward Look

- *Next meeting of the expanded DWP Open Data Group - Summer 2014*
- *Further statistical updates to be released via Stat-Xplore i.e. benefit sanctions. NINOs to overseas nationals*
- *Universal Credit and PIP stats updates*
- *Gradual introduction of unified data format*
- *Maintenance and update of DWP’s contribution to the National Information Infrastructure*

Open Data / Transparency dataset commitments – Summary of DWP’s activities / data releases since the last meeting

This section illustrates how DWP is meeting its Transparency / Open Data commitments for releasing more datasets in an open and re-usable format. It covers DWP dataset releases identified as part of the National Information Infrastructure, other key datasets planned for release via Stat-Xplore as well as the development of a unified data format for future reporting of statistics

Achievements / Work completed since the last meeting

As part of its NII commitments, DWP has provided dates for the datasets it plans to publish. Additionally, it has made clear any reasons for non-publication where appropriate – mainly due to datasets containing personal or sensitive data.

DWP has worked with its information asset owner community to ensure it identifies appropriate existing and newly created datasets and add these to the information asset inventory and the NII. As part of this:

- DWP has a data quality policy for all staff involved in this area of DWP Business.
- DWP is increasing the accuracy of its data using its data governance strategy – covering management of all customer data and processes.
- The DWP data governance team are assisting business areas to improve their business processes and improve the quality of its customer data.
- In addition the Department's online tabulation tool "Stat-Xplore" now has almost 1800 registered users.

Recent Official Statistics releases

Universal Credit (UC)

Initial UC statistics were published on 3 December 2013 and are now released at same time as the ONS Labour Market Statistics. Developments to expand data and include it within the ONS Claimant Count.

Benefit Cap

Latest statistics released on 8th May. Now to be aligned with the main quarterly benefit statistics release.

Housing Benefit (Stat-Xplore)

First release via Stat-Xplore in May 2013; November 2013 publication included Reduction in the Spare Room Subsidy. Future releases aligned with main quarterly benefit statistics.

JSA/ESA sanctions (Stat-Xplore)

New regime sanctions statistics released in November 2013. Future releases aligned with main quarterly benefit statistics.

Employment and Support Allowance – Work Capability Assessments

Quarterly statistics now aligned to Ministry of Justice release date. Latest release on 12th June, with data up to March 2014.

National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations from overseas workers (Stat-Xplore)

Latest release on 22nd May for new registrations up to March 2014. “Focus On” article to add extra context to results for Romania and Bulgaria following lifting of work restrictions.

Work Programme

Quarterly – latest release June 19th.

Key engagements

External data users via WSTB, DWP Open Data Group, Stat-Xplore and Data.Gov.UK users
The Stats User Net community

Wider Activities – Summary of DWP’s activities since the last meeting

This section illustrates the wider activities DWP are undertaking to drive forward the transparency / open data agenda including the growth review measures, Universal Credit, Fit Note data outlined in the Autumn Statement 2011. It includes progress on DWP’s data sharing activities and continuing support to the Admin Data Task Force (ADTF) for wider welfare provision

Growth Review Measures

Universal Credit (UC)

Initial UC statistics were published on 3 December 2013 and updated on 22 January 2014 and thereafter monthly, aligned to the Labour Market Statistics release.

Fit Note data

Increasing volumes of the computer generated version are now being issued by GP practices (1.6m to June 13). GP’s IT systems can feed anonymised Fit Note data through Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) servers but there are still IT difficulties to overcome. The Project approached ODUG unsuccessfully in a bid to secure funding as part of the Opening Up Data funding process. This is a priority area for the Health and Wellbeing Directorate (HWD) and since the last meeting they have made progress concerning IT solutions. However, they are still examining ways of securing funding, specifically with DWP finance colleagues.

Unified Publication database

DWP has combined tax credit, housing benefit and Social Security benefits at assessment unit level for pre-UC roll-out (March 2013). A Stat-Xplore model has been developed to aid internal quality assurance prior to publication. We will be using the data for the new Indices of Deprivation and in future the range of information will be expanded so it forms a ‘data spine’ for most of our quarterly official statistics. It can show movements within the system, changes of ‘status’ for those in receipt of benefit/credits and other interventions eg: employment programmes or sanctions.

Data Sharing Activities (details in section 5 of refreshed Open Data Strategy)

Population census beyond 2011 –ONS Beyond 2011 Recommendations published in Spring 2014. Recommendation for online census supported by better use of administrative data by 2021.

Warm Home Discount – 1). Year 4 of WHD Scheme on track to automatically data match 1.16m customers to receive a rebate off their electricity bills. 2) working to expand the Energy Company Obligation matching to allow a greater number of customers to be automatically checked for qualifying benefits for energy saving installations.

Electoral Registration Transformation

Programme - DWP are currently in discussion with Cabinet Office around potential solutions for the expansion of the Individual Electoral Register service, with a view to piloting in early 2015.

Benefit Fraud Activities – DWP is participating in a pilot exercise to share details of known fraudsters across the banking, insurance, policing and welfare sectors to help combat multiple sector fraud.

Key Stakeholders

- *Analytical community*
- *Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)*
- *Across Government including HMRC, DECC, CO, Government Digital Service, Foreign & Commonwealth Office Services*
- *ONS*
- *Energy Suppliers*

