

Transparency Board Minutes

4.02.2014

TRANSPARENCY BOARD

Transparency Board Members:	Officials (Regular Attendees):
Francis Maude Minister for the Cabinet Office	Paul Maltby Director, Open Data and Innovation Group, Cabinet Office
Simon Hughes Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties, Ministry of Justice	Chris Fleming Science Capability & Networks, GO-Science
Liam Maxwell Government Digital Service	Joanna Shayer Private Secretary, MCO, Cabinet Office
Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt , Open Data Institute	Carol Tullo Director, Information Policy and Services, The National Archives
Heather Savory , Open Data User Group	Malcolm Scott Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
Professor David Rhind , Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information	Nicola Calderhead Assistant Private Secretary, Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties, Ministry of Justice
Bill Roberts , SWIRRL	Paul Driver Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
Steve Thomas , Experian	Sam Roberts Transparency Team, Cabinet Office
Andrew Stott	Matt Brown Transparency Team, Cabinet Office
Dr Rufus Pollock Open Knowledge Foundation	Jemma Insall Transparency Team, Cabinet Office
Simon James Deputy Director, Information Rights and Devolution, Ministry of Justice	

Officials (Presenting):	
Scott Steedman Director of British Standards Institute	Gavin Starks CEO of Open Data Institute (ODI)
Oliver Buckley Deputy Director – Transparency Team, Cabinet Office	

Apologies:	
Prof. Sir Tim Berners-Lee Open Data Institute	Mike Bracken Government Digital Service
Sir Mark Walport Government Chief Scientific Advisor	Stephan Shakespeare YouGov
Matthew Hancock	Fiona Caldicott

Introductions

- The Chair welcomed the new Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties, Simon Hughes to his first meeting of the Transparency Board since succeeding Lord McNally.

Team Update on Priorities

- International and domestic agendas now sit with Ollie Buckley as Deputy Director of the Transparency Team.
- Ollie highlighted Transparency Team priorities for the coming year:
 1. Pushing on the next wave of Open Data:
 - Local government data – to release key datasets nationally, and identify local authority exemplars who would release open data via data.gov.uk.
 - Transparency in government contracts - look to introduce standard transparency clauses into central government contracts.
 - Maintain pressure to release priority datasets such as flood data, VAT register, CHIEF database of imports/exports, and any other geospatial data.
 2. Develop the National Information Infrastructure
 - Explore opportunities to create service level agreements between government and users of priority datasets that form the National Information Infrastructure to ensure timeliness of updates, a decreased number of broken links and quality of data.
 3. Leverage UK leadership internationally
 - Encourage take up of the Open Data Charter, and strategic expansion of the OGP.
 - Play an active role in OGP and advisory support to Indonesia and Mexico in future.
 - Develop strategic bilateral partnerships, including with international organisations such as the World Bank.
 4. Improve basic team processes:
 - Work with Departments to fix broken links on data.gov.uk.
 - Improve data request process.
 5. Develop a strategic, coherent approach to open data funding available across government by:
 - Collaborating with the Open Data User Group (ODUG) and BIS to make the most of the Release of Data Fund, Breakthrough Fund, Innovation Vouchers, and Challenge Prizes.

Points made in discussion

- Potential changes to the business models of Trading Funds meant that public ownership of their data was important.
- Further open data releases could include geological and long-term meteorological data.
- Links on Data.gov.uk should be fixed as a priority.
- **ACTION: Cabinet Office Transparency Team to develop plan for fixing broken links on data.gov.uk, and to examine potential for further data releases in the areas highlighted.**

Release of Data Fund Allocation

- The Chair of ODUG summarised the process, which identified and assessed bids for funding in the current financial year.
- ODUG members assessed the bids against four categories: IT infrastructure; capacity building; paying for data release where resource is a barrier; and research projects.
- ODUG and the Cabinet Office Transparency Team are working to develop clearer guidance to bidders for funding in the next financial year.
- Recommended bids presented to the Board for approval:
 - **Local Government Association Voucher Scheme** – Proposal to unlock open data from Local Authorities by offering open data training vouchers for one data set, and cash for three data sets. Proposal will allow local authority data to be made available.
 - **Leeds Data Mill** - Proposal for Leeds Council to create a hub for data to support citizens by making data about public services freely available. Funding for future stages will be reviewed in due course. Proposal will demonstrate what can be done at a city level with broad types of open data.
 - **Legislative Openness** –Proposal to make DWP legislative data downloadable as bulk data. Proposal will bring the UK in line with best practice on the Open Data Census. This proposal also feeds into the Parliamentary Counsel's Good Law agenda.
 - **Data Issue Tracker** – Proposal to implement a robust reporting mechanism into Data.gov.uk and other websites to allow issues with broken links to be reported and fixed. This proposal is expected to drive down data requests by 30%.
 - **Local Data Census** – Proposal is a survey of the availability of open data at local and city level across the UK. Project will allow analysis of available data sets and identification of areas lacking data.
 - **Open Data Training for civil servants** –ODI and Open Knowledge Foundation to provide data courses for civil servants. This proposal will improve skill levels at handling data within the Civil Service, and will contribute towards a culture change towards being open by default.
 - **Open data procurement training** – Proposal to develop a range of materials, training and support about open data for all those involved with public procurement. This is a key issue that needs to be addressed; this proposal is a solution to the current problems around the procurement of Open Data.
 - **Housing Big Data** – Proposal to create anonymised Open Data extracts of Housing Association Data. This will help inform the social housing sector and lead to significant benefits.
 - **Troubled Families Ecosystem** – Proposal to provide standards and a framework that facilitates data linking from citizens and third party sources. This proposal will deliver Open Data in a cross cutting policy area and should become a useful exemplar.
 - **Administration of Release of Data Fund** – Budget to fund resource to manage a light-touch but well structured governance process around the bid and funding process with open reporting.
- Cabinet Office team should retain financial oversight of projects and ensure that delivery follows best practice.
- All other bids will be revisited in the next financial year.
- **ACTION: All bids above have been approved, pending delivery plans and Cabinet Office sign-off.**
- **ACTION: Heather Savory, Paul Maltby and Ollie Buckley will have a further discussion around the detail Administration of Release of Data Fund bid to**

finalise where this will sit in relation to the Cabinet Office Transparency Team.

ODI Performance Update

- Gavin Starks gave an update on the Open Data Institute's Year One performance. ODI had:
 - Trained over 230 people from 11 countries.
 - Extended substantially in conjunction with Open Knowledge Foundation and the World Bank.
 - Exceeded all Investor metrics.
 - Signed up 50 corporate members.
 - Created 35 jobs in their incubated start-up companies.
 - Funded £500k worth of research projects.
 - Unlocked £16m of value in Open Data.
 - Tripled targets and reach over this year.
 - Delivered a successful ODI Summit.
 - Awarded 600 Open Data Certificates.
 - Reached over 300,000 unique individuals.
 - Delivered a PR reach of over 30m worldwide, including USA and Asia.
- Next year, the ODI hope to:
 - Grow membership, forge partnerships with leading universities and research groups, expand grant and philanthropic funding and scale training.
 - Increase ODI nodes worldwide (by the end of February there are expected to be one in every continent).
 - Develop key tools and services to facilitate open data publication, consumption, and collaboration.
 - Grow the evidence base to demonstrate the value of open data.
 - Expand Open Data Certificates around the world.
 - Deliver on commitments with the World Bank, Open Knowledge Foundation and Web Foundation.
 - Continue to test and iterate models, accelerate international development and increase funding to the open data landscape.

Points made in discussion

- The success of the ODI underlines that Open Data is not just about government data, but a wider opportunity in the private sector (referencing the McKinsey report).
- There is service potential to consumers around transparent pricing and increased efficiencies, this market has not yet developed, as big business has not moved in yet. In future it is likely that there will be many smaller companies in this space, rather than few large ones.

Private Sector Task Force

- Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed. The Task Force will look at how to improve engagement on the Open Data agenda by bigger businesses.

Points made in discussion

- Task Force will complement the work of other groups and organisations with an interest in this area such as Deloitte, Experian and Swirrl.
- Group to focus on the asks which business has of government, rather than on corporate transparency, which may make some business reluctant to engage.
- **ACTION: Cabinet Office Transparency Team to seek nominations for membership of the group and to schedule first meeting.**

BSI Presentation on Standards

- Dr. Scott Steedman presented on the work of BSI in Open Standards.
 - BSI see standards used by business and industry as falling under three broad classifications, bringing value to organisations and businesses in different ways:
 - Technical Specifications
 - Business Processes
 - Framework standards around Codes and Practices
 - Current work on Smart City standards for BIS is addressing the vocabulary of smart cities and frameworks for smart cities strategies; further standards are in preparation.
 - BIM standards and Smart City standards are examples of free standards.

Points made in discussion

- BSI [Standards](#) carry charges to recover the cost of development, however some [Publicly Accessible Specifications](#), which are sponsored fast-track standards developed according to guidelines set out by BSI, are available for free. There is a challenge in reconciling royalties with open approaches to standards which have FRAND provision, making them free and unrestricted.
- Standards development processes are open and participation in committees is free of charge, however there could be more options for consumers to influence standards.
- BSI specifically supports groups often referred to as 'weaker' stakeholders, such as consumers and environmental organizations.
- BSI has a Consumer and Public Interest Network (CPIN) to support the involvement of consumers and other public interests.
- BSI employs staff to manage the involvement and coordinate priority-setting and hosts a strategic committee, the Consumer and Public Interest Strategic Advisory Committee (CPISAC) and has a team of volunteers giving expert input into committees in priority areas.
- BSI is supportive of the work of Cabinet Office Transparency Team and will continue its dialogue about how the national standards body can help deliver Government's policy objectives in this area.

Any Other Business

- Open Data Day will take place on the 22nd February. The Open Knowledge Foundation are running several Open Data Day events in the UK including one in London. This presents a great opportunity to coordinate with government communications activity and for the Cabinet Office Transparency team to connect with the broader open data community.
- The Chair would like to ensure future meetings return to the format of inviting departments to attend, and present to the Board on their work in this area.
- A series of case studies will be made available through Data.gov.uk, demonstrating how Open Data can be used and showing its economic value.