

Public Sector Transparency Board Meeting

16 October 2014

Draft Minutes

Transparency Board Members:	
Francis Maude Minister for the Cabinet Office	Steve Thomas Experian
Carol Tullo Director, Information Policy and Services, The National Archives	Prof Sir Tim Berners-Lee Open Data Institute
Stephan Shakespeare YouGov	Professor David Rhind Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information
Heather Savory Open Data User Group	Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt Open Data Institute
Dr Rufus Pollock Open Knowledge Foundation	Andrew Stott Transparency and Digital Engagement Advisor
Harvey Lewis Deloitte	Bill Roberts SWIRRL

Officials (Presenting):	
Neil Ackroyd Acting Director General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey	Craig Lester Deputy Director, Shareholder Executive, BIS
Ian Nunn Chief Financial Officer, Ordnance Survey	Antonio Acuna Transparency Team
Jeni Tennison Open Data Institute	Oliver Buckley Transparency Team
Paul Maltby Transparency Team	

Apologies:	
Simon Hughes Minister of State, Justice	Mike Bracken Government Digital Service
Sir Mark Walport Government Chief Scientific Advisor	Dame Fiona Caldicott Chair of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
Liam Maxwell Government Digital Service	Ed Vaizey MP Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy

Welcome

The Minister for Cabinet Office (Chair) welcomed back the Public Sector Transparency Board following the membership refresh and welcomed Harvey Lewis as a new member. Apologies from absent members were noted.

Update from Transparency Team

The Deputy Director of Cabinet Office Transparency Team (COTT), Oliver Buckley highlighted the main areas of focus for the Transparency Team:

- Local Data Campaign: as a follow up of some of the funding activities through the Release of Data Fund and the Breakthrough Fund, a series of visits were being arranged to raise the profile and champion the work of reformers within a number of exemplar local authorities.
- Government Spend Data: improving how government publishes spend data was identified as a core area of interest for the Open Data community. Feedback from users highlighted improvements required in areas of format, quality and timeliness. COTT is working with other teams across government, which collect spend data, to establish 'quick wins' and further developments.
- Antonio Acuna reported on the progress of the second iteration of the National Information Infrastructure (NII). Following three workshops held with key stakeholders, a proposition paper was underway on a framework for the NII and to apply an understanding of the core reference data that government holds. The Board suggested that consultation on the NII was crucial so early sight of the proposed framework was important.

Business Engagement

Dr Harvey Lewis talked the Board through his thoughts on the need for better engagement with businesses around the open data agenda. Through conversations he is having, a strong message was emerging that awareness of open data was patchy with bigger businesses and government could do more to communicate this agenda.

Harvey updated the board on some of the other themes arising from these conversations, and in particular the messages that resonated with businesses when discussing data in general, and open data in particular.

Comments from the Board included:

- Particular consideration should be given to businesses that are contracted by government to provide public services.
- Progress on business engagement was very welcome, and the Board were enthusiastic about seeing these conversations continue at pace.

Ordnance Survey

The Chair reminded the Board that the work to look at making mapping data more readily available was commissioned by the Prime Minister, following flooding earlier this year and the successful 'floodhack' event which unfortunately took place without Ordnance Survey involvement.

The Acting Director General and Chief Executive for Ordnance Survey, Neil Ackroyd provided the Board with a progress update including:

- The activities OS had been involved in Open Innovation stage over the last year including GeoVation challenges and OS Open Data Masterclasses.
- Their forthcoming move to an Open Government Licence for all OS OpenData products.
- Plans to move to a 'presumption to release' for all public sector asset data which would mean that the majority of public sector asset data sets (assets such as buildings and facilities) created through the PSMA, could be available under an OGL.

- Extensions to the existing Developer Terms which already give developers access to all Ordnance Survey products as well providing further post commercialisation support.
- Creating an innovation centre through OS would directly support developers with releasing new value from data opportunities through new services and applications.

Discussion then centred on potential approaches by which Ordnance Survey could release more of its data as open data, and further liberalise derived data licensing restrictions. The Minister for the Cabinet Office asked that an advisory group made up of interested members of the Public Sector Transparency Board be created to work with Ordnance Survey to explore how its support for the Open Data agenda could be further enhanced.

Open Addresses

The Technical Director at the Open Data Institute, Jeni Tennison, briefed the board on the progress of the Open Addresses project which was funded through the Release of Data Fund in order to create an open address database and service using available open data, inference and crowdsourcing.

The board were in agreement that this project was a worthy initiative and formally approved £250,000 for the commencement of the beta phase which will develop the system further to include crowdsourcing of individual addresses and the availability of paid-for levels of service. The address database will always be available in full, for free, as open data.

Update on Open Data User Group strategy and Release of Data Fund (RoDF)

The Chair of the Open Data User Group (ODUG), Heather Savory informed the board that following the ODUG membership refresh, six previous ODUG members had been reappointed and eight new members had joined the group.

ODUG's strategic themes and priorities for the third year are to:

1. Continue to encourage open data delivery across government and the wider public sector, driven by the demand led data request mechanism on data.gov.uk.
2. Continue to provide advice on the further development of the National Information Infrastructure (NII), working closely with the Cabinet Office Transparency Team.
3. Follow-up and report on the progress of projects funded through the RoDF; also making recommendations for any remaining/new funding which becomes available.
4. Build on ODUG's previous work around Local Government Open Data.
5. Deliver on a more focussed strategic communications and community outreach plan.
6. Look in more detail and develop case studies and papers on thematic and topical Open Data issues in areas the group has not yet considered in detail. Themes will be decided by the group as the year progresses.

The board noted that with the exception of Troubled Families project, which is running slightly behind schedule, Tranche 1 of the RoDF has been delivered. Tranches 2 and 3 of the RoDF are in the process of being delivered.

Any other business

The Chair of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information (APPSI), David Rhind described nine principles developed by APPSI which should underpin how Government Public Sector Information Holders (PSIHs) operate in relation to the data and information for which they are custodians. The Board expressed their support for the principles, and hoped that they would be considered by PSIHs across the public sector.