**Open Data User Group - Agenda**

**24th meeting**

**13th May 2014, 9:30 - 12:30**

**Venue: 1 Horseguards Road, Room G23**

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Claudia Arney (CA) |
| Bob Barr (BB)2:30o | Sam Roberts (SR) |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) | Matt Lloyd (ML) |
| Alex Kafetz (AK) |  |
| Dominique Lazanski (DL) | **Observers** |
| Gesche Schmid (GSc) | Joel Gurin (JG) |
| Tom Smith (TS) |  |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GSo) | **Apologies** |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | Paul Fenton (PF) |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) | Paul Malyon (PM) |
|  | Harvey Lewis (HL) |
|  | Duncan Ross (DR) |
|  | Jemma Insall (JI) |
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**Agenda**

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Lead** |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update | HS |
| **2** | Data Request and Benefits Cases Review | JT |
| **3** | Relationship Manager Update | ML |
| **4** | Joel Gurin Open Data Discussion | JG |
| **5** | NII Project Terms of Reference Paper | ODUG |
| **6** | Public Data Group Update | CA |
| **7** | AOB | HS |

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| **Chair’s welcome and update*** The Chair recently met with the BIS Information Economy Team to discuss the government response to the Katalysis Report, which is due to be published soon.
* The Release of Data Fund process is progressing well, deadline for May bidding is the 14th.
* The Chair is meeting with the MRS Census and Geodemographics Group and engaging with their work.
* The outcome of the OPPSI Report has resulted in a recommendation that the Ordnance Survey issue interim pricing for the commercial use of HMLR INSPIRE Index Polygons to reflect that the dataset is not synonymous with the OS MasterMap product. The OS response is due soon.
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| **Data Requests/Benefits Cases*** The Open Data User Group (ODUG) Data Request Roadmap is soon to be updated.
* A backlog of requests checked against prepared business cases and new business cases will be developed. ODUG members will review open requests to identify new priorities.
* ODUG will be involved in the DGU data request refresh process to identify the core needs of users.
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| **Update from Cabinet Office Relationship Manager*** A response to Public Administration Select Committee Report (PASC) on Statistics and Open Data is currently being drafted; Cabinet Office and BIS are working together on this.
* The Environment Agency (EA) are looking to release as much of their data as possible as Open Data - SMEs will be very interested in the data. The LiDAR data that EA holds is of very high quality. Emergency planning procedures and neighbourhoods (specifically Redbridge) data is due for release.
* A refresh to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation dataset is due to begin; this would be especially interesting if used in conjunction with flood data.
* The Local Government Association (LGA) is running INSPIRE data workshops and this is helping to unlock local authority data.
* DECC have published their response to the consultation on the NEED database.
* There is much public push back to the use of personal data. ODUG suggested that a statement from the government on the agreed approach to the use of personal data would be timely to help unpick the recent media reports.
* Cabinet Office is working on preparations for a potential Data Sharing Bill – the communications around this also need to be closely managed to avoid public and media misinterpretation.
* Guidance around the quality of released data is required to help promote best practice.
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| **Joel Gurin Open Data Discussion**Joel Gurin is currently a senior advisor at GovLab, based at New York University he directs the Open Data 500 project and has recently authored *Open Data Now.* Joel discussed the Open Data landscape in the USA. * A ‘MiData’ initiative is currently underway in US – Smart Disclosure. This will create market comparison engines similar to those available in the UK. There is a lack of comparative engines in the US.
* GovLab’s work is focused on Governance improvement, for the Government, universities etc.
* The US Government opening up data leads to increased legitimacy and accountability.
* GovLab has designed a model for engagement between business, public interest groups and government agencies.
* The Open Data 500 study was prompted by the McKinsey report which valued open data at $3 trillion, coupled with the very small pool of case studies for open data use.
* The study looks at companies using government open data; these cut across all sectors and services and numbers will increase.
* The Open Data Compass shows an ecosystem of government open data mapping US Government agency data releases against companies making use of the data.
* There is a strong international interest in this mapping format.
* Joel outlined 3 forms of benefits that open data assists:
	+ Transparency about what government does
	+ Transparency about Government in a regulatory role
	+ Open Government data as a business resource/economic driver.

Joel and ODUG spoke about the differences in approach between the USA and the UK:* US Government sees data release exclusively as supply-side with very little thought to demand/quality assurance of data.
* There are data skills issues within federal US agencies, a lack of funding, and ambitious targets for data release.
* GovLab’s role is to help the US Government prioritise the top 10% of data that is useful to the public and focus on high-value data sets.
* There are 3 major barriers to US Government data being widely used:
	+ Licensing
	+ Sustainability
	+ Reliability
* In the UK, there is a demand led approach via the data Request mechanism. Individuals, voluntary sector and SMEs are primary consumers. Departments understand how roadmaps are developing and are able to respond to requests.
* ODUG acts as a go-between encouraging government to release data as representatives of the data user community.
* The UK Government is committed to multi-stakeholder approach – this is lacking in the US and is a hugely positive step in ensuring transparency is achieved.
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| **National Information Infrastructure (NII) Project Terms Of Reference*** The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) Paper was discussed.
* The work should result in an analysis based representation of datasets/core reference data as the underpinning platform of other datasets in the NII to illustrate how important data such as geospatial and addressing data etc is.
* The goal is to create a well-evidenced piece of work supported by the technical community, and data community.
* The NII from Government has not identified the core components of each dataset.
* Core reference data/metadata should be used starting from ‘what we need’ rather than what we know about.
* A dataset led approach means that useful areas where there is no visibility of available data are ignored.
* A potential blocker to the release of open data is the lack of benefit (real or perceived) to data holding agency.
* A thematic approach will be taken as this is a big task.
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| **Public Data Group Update**Claudia Arney presented to the group on the work of the Public Data Group (PDG) * The PDG consists of:
	+ Companies House
	+ Ordnance Survey
	+ The Met Office
	+ Land Registry
* PDG are not a management layer for organisations in the group – primarily deal with themes such as digitization etc.
* PDG has been running for 2 years.
* There is intent within the Trading Funds to become more open – however there are many cultural differences between the 4 trading funds that mean result in different outcomes.
* Communication and Transparency are current areas of focus for the group.
* The PDG are trying to get closer to how people are using data and how this could enable better delivery.
* Efforts are ongoing to identify datasets and set out roadmaps and be more predictable with commitments to dataset release.
* A ‘PDG Data Offer’ will be published soon – this commits to regular roadmap updates.
* Met Office has a larger inventory of data users as a result of the way that people use their data. Case studies could be subsequently raised from user inventories.
* ODUG asked for the opportunity to comment on the PDG Data Offer prior to its publication.
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| **AOB**APPSI Review* The Chair will draft a response to the questionnaire on behalf of the group and circulate for comment.

Forward Look* ODUG Forward Look has been circulated to the group - comments are to come to SR and the Chair. June and July meetings are tabled. The ODUG refresh process will take place across the summer, for the third years’ membership.
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