**Minutes of Open Data User Group 9th meeting**

**7 January 2013, 14:00-17:00**

6th Floor – Victoria Room, Oracle Corporation UK Ltd, One South Place, London, EC2M 2RB

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| **Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Tord Johnsen (Cabinet Office) (TJ) |
| Bob Barr (BB) | Paul Maltby (Cabinet Office) (PMa) |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) |  |
| Andrew Mackenzie (AM) | **Observers** |
| Dominique Lazanski (DL) | Ed Parkes (Cabinet Office) (EP) |
| Gesche Schmid (GS) |  |
| Paul Malyon (PM) | **Apologies** |
| Roger Taylor (RT) | Jennie Campbell (JC) |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) | Adam Tickell (AT) |
| Chris Royles (CR) | Mick Cory (MC) |
| Sarah Hitchcock (SH) | BIS observer |
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# Agenda

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| **Item** | **Description** |
| **1** | Chair’s welcome and update |
| **2** | Actions and minutes from last meeting |
| **3** | Update on benefits cases for published dataset requests |
| **4** | Update on CO FOI data-release guidelines consultation response |
| **5** | Update on data.gov.uk |
| **6** | Update on pipeline |
| **7** | Comms |
| **8** | KPI and Risk Register |
| **9** | A.O.B |

**Welcome and Updates**

1. The Chair updated the Group on recent activities:

* She thanked the Group for the work on getting the benefits cases published on data.gov.uk before Christmas
* She thanked for quick turn-around on response to the Improving local government transparency consultation
* She has had productive meetings with the National Archives and the Ordnance Survey

1. The new Director of Transparency in Cabinet Office, Paul Maltby, introduced himself to the Group, and sat in on most of the meeting.

**Actions and minutes**

1. The actions and minutes from last meeting were approved.

**Update on benefits cases for published dataset requests**

1. The five benefits cases put to the DSB were discussed in terms of how the work on strengthening the cases had progressed.

Addressing

1. The position on the Addressing benefits case was that it could be strengthened by clearly articulating what ODUG is asking for in terms of an Addressing product. This needs to be supported by evidence of why there is a need for this dataset for free, and who would benefit. Finally the update needs to put numbers to the benefits of such a release.
2. Members discussed alternative sources and approaches to arriving at these points. It also emerged that licensing restrictions often represent a greater obstacle to access for addressing data than charges.

Price Paid Information

1. On the benefits case for the historic Land Registry Price Paid Information the focus was to include more case studies that evidence both the demand and the benefits from releasing the historic archive.
2. A hack day for LR data was considered as a way of bringing out more case studies.

VAT register

1. On the VAT Register, ODUG is awaiting further information from relevant trade bodies.

Derived licensing

1. For the derived licensing, including Rights of Way and River Networks, the ODUG lead will over the coming week meet with relevant stakeholders, during which ODUG’s position on third party licensing will be clarified.
2. As an aside, it was agreed to initiate work on looking into flooding data from the Environment Agency.

Met Office Historic Weather Observations

1. Not covered at the meeting.

**Update on CO FOI data-release guidelines consultation response**

1. The Group discussed a draft response to the new Code of Practice. This identified that introducing a charging licence was made without a supporting case.
2. It was agreed to challenge the use of “reasonable return on investment” and “exceptional circumstances” when justifying application of charges to data releases. Neither definition was clear from the consultation.
3. It was also suggested that as these requirements would be new to local government, it means that it is difficult to predict the change in behaviour as these bodies for the first time will be able to make the case for charging licences for their data output. Consequently, it is difficult to estimate the potential burden on SMEs.
4. It was agreed to structure the response to highlight what is good and what is a problem, and describe why this is a problem; particularly for organisations outside the remit of the Open Data White Paper. The key point message is to emphasise the importance of OGL being the default position for releasing data. It was also agreed to request insight into the figures around revenue and cost of charging for data where the charged-for license is used.
5. ODUG members were keen to ensure that datasets should not be unreasonably charged-for and discussed ways in which the group could review what actually happened in the field.

**Update on data.gov.uk**

1. ODUG will receive an update on the development plan for work on data.gov.uk by 11 January.

**Update on pipeline**

1. There was a short presentation covering the requests received so far (161 as per 4 January) and how they have been classified. This was then put into the context of the other sources of data demand available to ODUG from the previous Unlocking Service and the departmental commitments in Open Data Strategies.
2. ODUG called for a clearer and more periodical update for how departments are delivering against the commitments in their Data Strategies.

**Comms**

1. It was noted that there was a desire for greater media activity from ODUG. One opportunity to do this would be to publish a six month review to highlight the work ODUG has done.
2. There was also a discussion about planning an ODUG event, and some dates and contents for this were considered.

**KPI and Risk Register**

1. The chair noted that the RISK level around metrics had been raised to red and that this was an extremely challenging area of work, not only within the group but across the community as a whole.

**A.O.B**

**Action list**

**Secretariat**

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| Circulate minutes and actions from ninth meeting |
| Publish note and actions from ninth meeting on data.gov.uk |
| Schedule series of meetings with 6-8 weeks interval |

**Collaboration Space**

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| Submit easy-to-read-and-understand case studies to collaboration space |
| Advise ODUG members on use of collaboration space |

**Benefits Case process**

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| ODUG to tweet out on a daily basis highlighting datasets which need better elaboration of benefits and making call to action for contribution by followers |
| ODUG to reach out to networks of entrepreneurs who may not be aware of the datasets but who may have very sound ideas of the benefits of release of the data e.g. TechCity and ODI |
| ODUG and TT to develop a stakeholder engagement plan for each of the benefits cases |
| Articulate specific ODUG requirements for a free and open addressing product |
| Engage with the Environment Agency about flooding data |
| Identify further cases studies to support Historic Price Paid Information benefits case |
| Contact Met data-user SMEs for input to benefits case |

**Data.gov.uk Workstream**

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| Development plan for ODUG landing page – *by 10 January* |
| ODUG members to comment on development plan |

**Open Data Roadmap Workstreams**

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| Work with OD community to define a set of principles for the release of open data |
| ODUG next paper on problems with the release and use of open data – to cover issues such as licensing, ease of finding datasets on data.gov.uk etc. |
| Obtain update on departments open data strategies deliveries |
| Prioitise new data requests through collaboration space mechanism |
| Allocate ODUG members to incoming data requests |
| Notify ODUG members about allocation of data requests |

**Metrics and Costs of Data Workstream**

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| ToR for workstream |

**Business Models and Barriers**

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| Consider existing signposting to data already released |

**Licensing Workstream**

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| Draft paper wuth overview of different licensing models – working with ODI |

**Communications Workstream**

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| Set up facility for sentiment monitoring for ODUG and provide a baseline assessment |
| ODUG Branding |
| Draw up and share key slides on ODUG |
| ODUG schedule of comms events |
| Stakeholder engagement plan |
| Key points to make about ODUG |
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| ODUG to develop own website for comms activities with link from data.gov.uk |
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| Read and contribute to ODUG Comms Plan |
| Develop plan for an ODUG event |

**Addressing Workstream**

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| ODUG Chair to write to Ofcom to set out community aspirations for content of report into Royal Mail PAF licensing costs |

**KPIs and Risk**

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| Review for next meeting |

**Other**

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| Redraft ODUG response to Code of Conduct consultation for Right to Data following comments from members – *by 9 January* |
| Members to comment on and approve redraft – *by 10 January* |