**Open Data User Group - Agenda**

**25th meeting**

**13th May 2014, 14:00 – 17:00**

**Venue: 1 Horseguards Road, Room G19**

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| **ODUG Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (Chair) (HS) | Sam Roberts (SR) |
| Bob Barr (BB)  2:30o | Krisztina Katona (KK) |
|  | Suzanne Ter-Minassian (ST) |
| Alex Kafetz (AK) | Sukhcharn Boora (SB) |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GSo) |  |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT) | **Observers/Presenters** |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) | Kieran Dent (Bank of England) |
|  | Jeremy Leake (Bank of England) |
| Gesche Schmid (GSc) | Julie Williams (Traveline) |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) |  |
| Paul Malyon (PM) | **Apologies** |
| Harvey Lewis (HL) | Harvey Lewis |
| Duncan Ross (DR) | Tom Smith |
|  | Dominique Lazanski (DL) |
|  | Paul Fenton (PF) |

**Chair’s welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 25th meeting of the Open Data User Group, which has now been running over two years.

**Chair Update/Release of Data Fund**

The Chair gave an overview of the three project proposals discussed by the Transparency Board:

* Flood Data; the Board discussed bringing forward the release of the flood dataset from March 2015 due to its importance and value.
* Open Addressing; funding was agreed for this project.
* Public access to births, deaths and marriages; there are currently various issues around private data but the Transparency Board’s view was that this project was an increase to the existing index.

Tranche 2 of the Release of Data Fund totals at £637,800. There is capacity for further spending in Tranche 3.

The Chair updated on recent events she had attended:

* An ESRC workshop on Public views on using government administrative data for research.
* A Data Sharing OPM plenary meeting.
* The Launch of the Web Science Institute.

The Chair formally thanked the group for their input on the NII work.

An update was given on an OPSI complaint.

**Data Requests/Benefits Cases**

* Refreshing data requests on data.gov.uk was still pending with a view to meet with DGU and action next week. The group will be updated via email before the next meeting.

**Update from Cabinet Office Relationship Managers**

* CO Transparency Team are working closely with the Transparency Board and the Environment Agency on the release of Flood data and engaging with departments on other important datasets.
* Concerns were raised regarding the Department for Education’s (DfE) use of an API. These concerns will be passed directly to DfE.

**Traveline Data – presentation by Julie Williams, CEO**

* Traveline’s objective is to promote public transport passenger growth and enable the delivery of high quality mobility information across a mix of channels in a way that represents best value to their stakeholders.
* Traveline is split up into 12 regions with using their respective datasets. The dataset is 13 GB; one of the challenges is to simplify the data.
* Some of the political challenges that Traveline have to consider to Open Data:
  + Why should organisations give their data away for free?
  + The data is commercially sensitive.
  + How do they fund the provision of open data?
* Traveline will be launching their UK Journey Planner in September this year. They are also intending to expand their data to include accessible travel data.
* The UK Journey Planner would be a valuable recommendation for NII.

**SME Credit Discussion - Kieran Dent and Jeremy Leake (Bank of England)**

* In the Financial Stability Report November 2013, the Bank announced that it would consider the case for a national credit register of the sort that exists elsewhere in the EU. A credit register is a low level database of individual commercial loans above a normal threshold in the economy. Bank of England envisages potential benefits for credit providers, policy makers and the public.
* 16 of the 28 EU member states have or are developing a central credit register (CCR). In the UK the sharing of credit data is well established, but there could be improvements.
* The report is very much a discussion paper not a consultation. A paper has been published in May, the consultation runs until end of August. The BoE will then publish a summary and consider whether another consultation is required.
* The SME Credit proposal will be discussed further amongst the ODUG and views will be fed in throughout the consultation process.

**NII Progress Update**

* A paper has been drafted setting out what core national information looked like.
* The description was tested using the Health COFOG characteristics. Core data could be defined to achieve six high level benefits:
* Government Deflection – i.e. putting preventative measures in place.
* Better investment decisions – i.e. if one was to look up a postcode they would be able to extract required data of the area, e.g. unemployment information, planning applications etc.
* Personal intelligence – Citizen can set its own performance targets.
* Connected Government – i.e. getting data on travel disruptions.
* Quality of life (UK level).
* Mitigating disruption and continuity plans – how emergency services coped in certain disasters.
* The axiom *‘collect it once, store it one place and use it many times’* is central to the ethos behind the NII refresh.
* The six benefits are to be sub-referenced defining what each one means. There was also a suggestion of including the latitude prize. HS informed that a Data Analyst would assist if needed.
* There is an ongoing debate of the access of public record data and ODUG are keen to resolve it.

**AOB**

* The GP Benefits Case is due to be published. This is a long awaited dataset because there was a huge demand for it from staff, patients and public.