

**Minutes of the 29th ODUG meeting**

**14 November 2014**

**Venue: 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ**

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| **ODUG Attendees** | **Officials** |
| Heather Savory (HS) ODUG Chair | Kam Marshall (KM) ODUG Secretariat / Cabinet Office |
| Charlie Boundy (CB) BAE Systems Applied Intelligence | Jemma Insall (JI)Transparency Team |
| Simon Briscoe (SB) PASC/FullFact | Lizetta Lyster (LL)Transparency Team |
| Stuart Chalmers (SC) Building Research Establishment  | Suzanne Ter-Minassian (ST)Transparency Team |
| Hendrik Grothuis (HG)Cambridge County Council | Hannah Peaker (HP)Transparency Team |
| Paul Hodgson (PH)Greater London Authority | Antonio Acuna (AA)Transparency Team |
| Nick Halliday (NH)National Audit Office |  |
| Jacqui Taylor (JT)Flying Binary | **Guests** |
| David Kane (DK)National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) | John Pullinger (JP)National Statistician, UK Statistics Authority, ONS |
| Ian Makgill (IM) Spendnetwork.com | Bob Bailey (BB)Thompson Reuter |
| Paul Malyon (PM)Experian | **Apologies** |
| Jeni Tennison (JTe) Open Data Institute (ODI) | Johanna Walker Web Science Institute, Southampton |
| Giuseppe Sollazzo (GS)St George’s University of London | Bob Barr Manchester Geomatics, University of Liverpool |

**Welcome and Chair’s update**

The Chair welcomed the group to the 29th ODUG meeting and apologies were noted from Bob Barr and Johanna Walker. Updates from the Chair included:

* Public Sector Transparency Board meeting on 16 October
* Open Addressing senior level meeting
* Future Cities Catapult – Local Open Data discussion
* ODI Summit
* Big Data Analytics conference
* Policy Exchange meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2014 were formally approved. The action log was reviewed and noted.

**ODUG thought piece on the NII**

Some members of ODUG presented an early draft of a thought piece on the NII.  ODUG are also feeding in to an open policy exercise that COTT are currently running to draft the NII technical implementation document.  ODUG reassured COTT that they would continue to contribute to the NII open policy process to ensure that the two documents were complementary and reflective of the open data community’s views.  Where the COTT paper focuses on technical implementation, the ODUG paper provides a greater emphasis on the impact and importance of the NII for the public.

CB provided an overview of the ODUG NII paper, the following points were noted:

* ODUG needs to articulate the objective of their paper, and agree definitions and shared understanding for what is meant by jargon terms surrounding the NII.
* Comparisons; there will be narrative of countries that have done similar initiatives to the NII.
* The importance of Core Reference Data to underpin the value which can be derived from the NII.
* The need for strong governance should be highlighted
* Key highlights, principles and priorities.
* Risks

Members of the group made the following suggestions to the draft paper:

* Inclusion of accounting and Local Authority code lists
* Useful to have more clarity in the paper around the governance of the NII. Who decides on the list and maintains it?
* A glossary of terms to be included.

**National Statistician, John Pullinger – UK Statistics Authority**

The group heard an interesting perspective of how the relationship between information and power has shifted dramatically over the last century particularly since the Internet revolution. In the initial four months in his role, JP has noticed that there is great demand for data but that people’s ability to consume data needs development. The supply is uneven but improving. JP suggested that there were three groups of problems that need to be tackled to ensure success in improving the use of open data:

1. Prosperity; giving access to data that is relevant to our economy’s success.
2. Government; how to assist Government to make wise data choices with existing limited resources.
3. Citizens; presenting data **usefully** for the citizen.

JP explained that his job role allowed an element of reconceptualising the work of the Office of National Statistics, in this capacity he believed that there was an opportunity to thoroughly explore what information is actually required - information which improves the economy and public policy. JP is recruiting a Director General of Data Capability in ONS with a cross-government role on data capability.

**Chief Information Architect, Bob Bailey – Thomson Reuters**

[Thomson Reuters](http://thomsonreuters.com/site/data-identifiers/) and the Open Data Institute had recently published a white paper: [*Enhancing open data with identifiers*](http://theodi.org/guides/data-identifiers-white-paper)*.* Bob Bailey was invited to talk to ODUG members about how identifiers can be used to create extra value in open data.

BB outlined the factors which constitute information identity as a distinct discipline i.e: identity represents agreement on meaning of a reference; successful agreement on identity depends on the needs of the community involved; no absolutely correct scheme; need to stand relative to other schemes. BB also described the *Identity versus Identifier* mechanism, i.e: *Identity* is information intended to pick out an individual topic or entity; An *Identifier* is a token representing that information; *Identifier schemes* package up the management of identity, the syntax and use of the identifier and the method for assignment of one to the other.

ODUG members heard useful information on: common issues; ‘monetising’ data; and, publisher rules of thumb.

**Data Request**

COTT presented the internal, civil service process map associated with data requests and explained the significant work currently spent on communicating consistent and coherent guidance to practitioners involved in the process at all stages.  This includes guidelines for regularity of update to the notes field of the data request to ensure that the requestor is kept abreast of progress effectively, in acknowledgment of ODUG’s frustration regarding this issue.

**Business Cases Review**

Discussions around the data request extract were commencing between JS and the DGUK team.

**Sector Boards**

Amendments were noted on the table of representation for sector boards.

**Comms Plan**

The Chair thanked IM for all ODUG document placed on Github but suggested that all documents should be thoroughly checked before it goes live.

NH and SB noted comments on the Comms plan and sought formal agreement for the independent ODUG website.

The group will agree a set of blogs to be published on DGUK.

HP introduced herself to the group and informed them that she had an element of comms responsibility in the Transparency Team and offered to assist in any part of the ODUG comms plan if they required it.

**AOB**

JTe referred to the consultation that was run by OPSI on the transposition of the EU PSI directive. The ODUG response advised that there should be a binding mechanism when complaints were made in relation to not being able to access public sector information. ODI and ODUG have been engaging with COTT. JTe suggested that pressure through blogging may help.

The Chair asked members if they had access to the Charities Commission data that should have recently been released. It was raised that the data was released on CDs but data was not yet retrievable in bulk form on-line.

PH updated ODUG members on the London Data Store. The CKAN platform has been updated and it is encouraging 33 Local Authorities to work together enabling a London wide set of datasets and standards.

PM and JT attended an HMRC Open Data roundtable on their recent consultation. A few concerns were noted and further work needs to be done on the ‘opt out’ issue, but a positive attitude towards the outcome was anticipated.

HG informed ODUG members on an Open Data Camp event taking place in Winchester in February 2015.

SC informed the group that he will be representing ODUG on an upcoming Construction Data panel meeting.