

**Transparency – External Stakeholder Group  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Caxton House London**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Nigel Brough</b>	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Iain Sterland</b>	Senior Portfolio Analyst Boots
	<b>Peter Watson</b>	Corporate Management Information Citizens Advice
	<b>James Angel</b>	Senior Consultant Equifax
	<b>Ian Tait</b>	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
	<b>Mike Payne</b>	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
	<b>Martin Dillon</b>	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
	<b>Michelle Pickard</b>	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Rhys Farthing</b>	Child poverty Action Group
	<b>Lee Thomas</b>	Decision Analytics Manager EON
	<b>Paul Bivand</b>	Associate Director of Statistics & Analysis CESI
	<b>Richard Hopper</b>	MI Manager SERCO
	<b>Rachel Smith</b>	Centre for Cities

**Agenda item 1 – Welcome and Introduction**

Nigel Brough welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the external stakeholder group

The group agreed the minutes from the last meeting 20.9.13, [see link .pdf](#)

The following updates were provided on the outstanding action points:  
AP1 & 3 (20.9.12) – Due to the work on the role out of Universal Credit (UC) no decision has yet been received on the standard occupational classification (SOC) code. However, members were informed that potentially the codes may not be available at the start of UC

AP4 (20.9.12)– Information Governance & Security (IGS) should receive Personal Independence Payment (PIP) data by the end of June which will then provide a clearer picture of the data items available

AP5 (20.9.12) – The API software is not currently compatible with Stat-Xplore and isn't a showstopper. DWP have discussed feedback on the API with the product provider and there is potential to look at this over the medium / long term. Members confirmed as a data user this would be an aspiration they would want to get to

AP7 (20.9.12) – Vacancy stats will be covered later in the agenda

**Agenda item 2 – DWP's Official Statistics Consultation paper**

DWP's Official Statistics consultation paper and principles is currently out for consultation with comments to be provided by 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013, see [consultation paper](#)

Once all comments have been received DWP will provide a formal response on the RSS Stats UserNet website, [StatsUserNet](#)

### **Agenda item 3 – Specific benefits and Policies**

Nigel summarised the future changes in welfare benefits and the impact on IGS in respect of the statistical data we provide.

#### **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2013** - PIP will be going live with new claims in pathfinder offices based in the North West and North East of England.

**June 2013** – Will include all new claims nationally

**Autumn 2013** – Existing Disability Living Allowance(DLA) customers following re-assessment will start transferring to PIP

IGS will access PIP data by an atomic data store. The data models for the atomic data store will be built and ready for testing 26.4.13 with live PIP data being available early June 2013. Initial data releases may be ad-hoc statistics then followed up by a series of official statistics, possibly via Stat-Xplore. Details are still being firmed up.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- What key data fields will be available – Currently not known but we envisage it will include in / off flows as well as including claimant characteristics. Longer term aspiration is to provide Appeals data and comparisons with DLA (winners & losers) for those transferring from DLA to PIP.
- Will ethnicity and age of disabled person be included in the data fields? – the fields will include age and medical disease / disablement code etc. We will clarify the position regarding ethnicity

**AP9(20.3.13)- Ian Tait to check whether ethnicity will be included in the data fields for PIP?**

#### **2. Benefit Cap**

**April 2013** – Goes live in four pathfinder offices in London

**July 2013** – National rollout (Northern Ireland it will be October 2013)

Local Authorities (LA's) will be regularly providing the data to DWP. The data will be on an individual level and include additional details of the benefit cap being applied.

#### **3. Universal Credit**

**April 2013** – Goes live in one / two pathfinder offices in the North West. Will include new claims for a single person with some element of housing costs.

**October 2013** – Further rollout across pathfinder offices and the make up of new claims may change

**November 2013** – IGS will start receiving feeds for the UC system to develop the atomic data store. Depending on the data available and resources, initially we may produce monthly ad-hoc statistics in line with open data standards star rating system, followed by official statistics via Stat-Xplore. The longer term aim is to adopt a 'unified' approach to publication i.e providing analysis of individual benefits and a view across the benefit system. By the end of 2017 all legacy benefit claimants will have migrated across to UC.

The group discussed what evaluation there will be during rollout of the UC pathfinder offices. DWP will be evaluating the pilots by combining data from different sources, ranging from MI produced in the pathfinder offices to data collected externally.

**4. Pension Credit** will change to include housing costs. LA's will devise their own

systems to collate council tax data in England (Wales and Scotland may have different arrangements) and DWP have no plans for the data to be published nationally – this may be carried out by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

### 5. Universal Jobmatch

Universal Jobmatch replaced the Jobcentre Plus vacancy service in Autumn 2012. DWP statisticians carried out a consultation with users on the new MI tools which showed that users wanted data that provided:

- Improved geographical levels
- SOC codes
- Longer time series
- Cross tabulations
- Ability for users to produce their own tables (self service approach)

Feedback has been provided to the project to take forward.

### Agenda item 4 – Stat-Xplore

Mike Payne presented a progress update on the development of Stat-Xplore, [see link .ppt](#)

- **November 2012** - Phase 1 was launched with housing benefit data down to parliamentary constituency level, containing 12 million plus data cells.
- **February 2013** – Stat-Xplore housing benefit data updated. More than 3500 unique visitors including LA's, DWP, OGD's, external data users have accessed the tool, viewing an average of 10 pages and spending 14 minutes

Phase 2 will be launched 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and include additional features:

- Produce and publish
- Privacy protection – internal security accreditation has been approved
- Microdata
- Open Data standards
- Web based analysis

The Web's host system is in place and the initial data and structure has been agreed. A lot of work has been done on the metadata which puts the data into context for users. Phase 2 will provide data in a hierarchy down to a lower geographical level including Local Super Output Area (LSOA) level, and for example will provide individual year of age instead of age bands.

DWP will be encouraging and enabling user registration as this will provide useful feedback on activity and access, as well as benefiting data users who will be able to save tables previously done. Access to lower level data such as individual year of age will only be available to registered users.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- Will there be UK coverage or are we reliant on LA's providing the HB data – confirmed there was UK coverage via an existing data feed
- Will fraud and error data be reported on via Stat-Xplore, as specific caseload data at geographical levels in Stat-Xplore would be useful for Equifax – HB fraud and error data published monthly will not be integrated into Stat-Xplore

- If this software will be made available across government departments – Discussions have taken place at the Welfare Sector Transparency Board about the potential to introduce across government. It was agreed this would be revisited once fully up and running in DWP. The group also discussed the potential as a commercial product for example in Citizens Advice
- Mike Payne confirmed that we are still seeking feedback from users on Stat-Xplore as this will help us to set priorities on future data to include

#### **Next Steps**

- By the end of March Mike Payne will post the release date of Stat-Xplore phase 2 on RSS Stats UserNet and UK Stats Authority websites
- DWP will be developing a user guide for Stat-Xplore phase 2

#### **Agenda item 5 – Summary and Next Steps**

Members discussed how useful these sessions were, the value of making data available externally, and moving forward other areas of interest they would like to see included.

They agreed UC data was essential and the more available at a lower geographical level the better. For Citizen's Advice it will allow them to look at the impact of the policy changes on their customers both nationally and at community level. For Equifax, provides richer data for commercial products subject to privacy and disclosure. They agreed Stat-Xplore was key to meeting open data commitments by allowing better access and self service for data users

Moving forward members agreed it would be useful to:

- Include a session providing feedback and evaluation on the UC pathfinder  
**AP 10 (20.3.13) Martin / Michelle to identify and arrange for a UC representative to attend the next meeting**

- Expand the membership of the group to include more representatives from private sector companies and academia / research community and Local Authorities.

**AP11(20.3.13) Martin / Michelle to identify and approach potential new members for the next meeting**

The group agreed to meet on a quarterly basis rather than a six monthly basis. The next meeting is to be arranged for July 2013

#### **Agenda item 6 – AOB**

Martin Dillon provided a brief overview on the Open Data Institute (ODI) including their role and the ODI Immersion Programme, for more details see <http://www.theodi.org/about> . The ODI Immersion programme is a series of workshops which brings together data owners and data users with the first one being held on Crime and Justice, potentially followed by one on housing.

Members were informed a paper on electronic fit note will be issued with the minutes seeking their views on a number of questions about what fit note data would be useful, cross-tabs, frequency of publication etc. Comments to be sent to Tom Parry by close of business Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013