

DfT Transport Sector Transparency Board - Minutes

Great Minster House, London 2-4pm 22 November 2012

Attendees: Steve Gooding, DG Domestic, DfT (Chair)
Andrew Stott, Public Sector Transparency Board
Prof. Jonathan Raper, CEO Placr
Nick Illsley, Transport Direct, DfT
Jessie Owen, Information Management, DfT
Hannah John, Privacy Representative, DfT
Aidan Naughton, VOSA
Tony Boucher, Roads, DfT
Graham French, CAA
Steve Howes, ATOC
Edward Welsh, ATOC
Gesche Schmid, LGA
Shane O'Neill ELGIN
Steven Brandwood Geoplace
Richard Mason Geoplace

Apologies: Christopher Muttukumar, GCO SIRO, DfT
Miles Gibson, No 10
Tim Stamp, Statistics, DfT
Helen Morris, Driving Agency Sponsor, DfT
Hazel Lee, Cabinet Office

Introduction

1. The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting, to provide an update and opportunity for discussion on:
 - CAA Update
 - Rail Fares Data
 - Roadworks Data
 - VOSA and DVLA Data
 - National Street Gazetteer
 - Written Ministerial Statement
2. It was noted that the Open Data Institute would be formally launched on 4 December.
3. It was noted that the ORR Open Data Conference is 10 December.
4. It was finally noted that the initial proposals for MiData from BIS do not include transport sector data but there would be a power to include sectors at a later date subject to the agreement of the appropriate Secretary of State.

CAA update

5. The Board was provided with a presentation by CAA. The Bill is proceeding well with Royal Assent expected in December. CAA is preparing to consult on the new data powers to clarify its policy principles and set some commitments for publication.

Action: NI to update DfT Plan to reflect new powers

Action: TSB to suggest data community users to inform the consultation

6. The Board discussed whether the new powers could be used to open up NATS and whether CAA could change their license obligations to require them to provide data

Action: CAA to discuss with Jonathan Moor, Aviation Director DfT

7. There was some concern that the CAA consultation timetable was too long and its remit unclear. The Board particularly did not want a long consultation to delay progress with data releases that could be made now or in the shorter term.

Action: TSB to write to CAA for clarification

Rail fares data

8. ATOC tabled a paper that updated the Board on the take-up of timetable data and also notified that the Train Operators had endorsed a proposal from Rail Settlement Plan that fares data would be published from Q1 2013.
9. The Board noted that this was a success story, with raw data being published straight from the fares database. ATOC expect other datasets to follow e.g. the routing guide, which defines permitted routes by ticket. They are developing a mapping/graphic application to display routes which will be made available once a data cleansing exercise is complete. A common list of station names will also be published.
10. ATOC were asked what the implications were for the accreditation process for ticket retailers and whether they would consider creating a new category of accredited information service provider.

Action: ATOC to consider changes to accreditation process

Action: DfT to talk to ATOC about fares & ticketing review

Roadworks & Streetworks

11. The Board noted that delivery of both commitments set out in the Open Data Strategy remained on target – access to ELGIN from April 2012, and

publishing information about accessing local roadworks data by December. There is a wide variety of how local authorities hold streetworks data so a list of LAs will be published showing where they hold it, with URLs where possible. 115 authorities are already live on ELGIN with a further 30 in the queue – 83% of all highway authorities

12. The Board queried what guarantees were in place to ensure that information currently freely available would remain so in future. Elgin assured that they were setting up a governance structure that would enable this.

Action: NI/ELGIN to provide note on governance structure

VOSA data

13. The Board noted that VOSA now have legal advice on whether they can release garage level MOT data – there are circumstances under which this data can be released but the Secretary of State has to understand the “reasonable cause”.
14. This is set out in section 46(5) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and regulation 29 of the Motor Vehicles (Tests) Regulation 1981. This could be addressed by secondary legislation but would have to be agreed by Ministers.
15. DfT and VOSA are drafting a response to the Motorists’ Forum on garage MOT service data, this commits to a public consultation exercise on what additional data motorists might be interested in if it were released.
16. The Board discussed various ideas such as inserting something in a relevant Bill to remove the clause, or devising a mechanism for approval of requests that meets the requirement.

Action: VOSA to draft note for Stephen Hammond MP and discuss with Steve Gooding

National Street Gazetteer and Addressing Data

17. The Board expressed concerns to Geoplace that Additional Street Data (ASD) that was previously freely available is now charged for, as part of the National Street Gazetteer (NSG). This is because use of the NSG requires a paid-for Ordnance Survey licence.
18. It was noted that textual ASD data could be of use and interest to some stakeholders even without specific mapping geometry and a way to maintain free access to this should be sought.

Action: Geoplace to talk to Ordnance Survey and local government partners about options for making ASD available without the need for an OS licence and report back to the TSB

AOB

19. The Board noted the update provided by DVLA regarding Open Data releases but noted that the last paragraph of page 2 was misleading as the Open Data Licence made clear that data was released without liability.

Action: NI to ensure that DVLA are made aware of the appropriate liability clauses within the Open Government Licence

Date of Next Meeting

20. It was agreed that the frequency of meetings for 2013 should be approximately each two months.

Action: DfT to arrange programme of meeting for 2013