# Public Sector Transparency Board Minutes

## January 2013

**TRANSPARENCY BOARD**

| Transparency Board Members: | Regular Attendees |
|---|---|
| Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office | Carol Tullo (TNA) |
| Minister for Civil Society , Nick Hurd | Glenn Preston (MoJ) |
| Professor Nigel Shadbolt | |
| Andrew Stott | |
| Dr Rufus Pollock | |
| Heather Savory | |
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| Apologies: | Officials |
|---|---|
| Sir Tim Berners-Lee | Paul Maltby ( Cabinet Office) |
| | Antonio Acuna (Cabinet Office) |
| | Etienne Pollard ( Government Digital Service, Presenting) |
| | Kitty von Bertele (Cabinet Office) |
| | Nick Morgan (Cabinet Office) |

## Welcome and introductions

Francis Maude opened the meeting and welcomed all the attendees

## Transparency and Open Data Programme Update

## Executive Director of Transparency, Paul Maltby , updated the board with progress of key transparency agenmda workstreams. Specifically he focussed on:

*Transparency and Open Data Written Ministerial Statement*

The next Written Ministerial Statement is expected to be laid in Parliament week commencing 24th February.

*Online consultation for FOIA Code of Practice (datasets)*

The consultation closed on 10th January and the domestic team is working analysing the responses,

*Open Data User Group prioritised datasets*

ODUG members are continuing to work on the benefits cases for the data requests put to the Data Strategy Board last month

*Shakespeare Review/Review of UK Public Sector Information*

Deloitte, who are undertaking the analytical piece for the Shakespeare Review, presented their findings so far and the methodology to government analysts

*Open Government Partnership and G8*

We continue to drive the programme of the Open Government Partnership as Lead Co-Chair, a role that we continue until October 2013. We held a successful Ministerial Steering Committee last month

## UK negotiating position on the European Commission's proposed amendments PSI Re-use Directive

Carol Tullo Director of Information at The National Archives (TNA) gave the Board an update on the latest negotiations since the last Transparency Board meeting.

Carol reported that the key updates were:

UK Government's position now harmonised regarding the proposed changes which were consistent with UK open data policy.

The Appraisal stage impact assessment was signed off and circulated to relevant Parliament and Cabinet Committees in December

The Irish Presidency of the EU had now begun until June 2013. Concluding the PSI Directive negotiations was one their top priorities.

The final wording on the re –use directive was expected to be agreed by the European parliament, Commission and Council in April on current timetable.  This includes the text around charging and circumstances where a public body is required to make a return to the Exchequer of its member state.

The Transparency Board were broadly content that previous issues such as charging had been brought to a successful conclusion. Going forward they hoped that free access to information would be assured and adequately enforced by the EU.

Carol reported that the robust enforcement was part of the Commission approach.

## Next steps for data.gov.uk within the gov.uk

Etienne Pollard from GDS set explained to the board the current thinking regarding <u>a possible</u> migration of content from data.gov.uk (DGU) to gov.uk.

He explained that the information and resource content section of DGU should move to the gov.uk platform. However, the current proposal was that the search engine aspect should still remain with the Cabinet Office. As this was the case with a number of other government arms length bodies.

The Transparency Board felt that they should have been consulted at earlier stages of development of this initiative. They also expressed strong views that if data.gov.uk was to maintain its worldwide status as a world class government data portal it must keep its current domain name, which GDS is suggesting could become data.services.gov.uk.   Specifically they insisted that DGU must stay as *the* place where citizens search for data and noted that a move to the gov.uk platform could have negative impact on the existing search capability of DGU.

This view was also backed up by the Minister who made it clear that not changing the branding of DGU was very important.

The head of data.gov.uk also backed this point and wanted clarification as whose financial jurisdiction the site would ultimately be under and wanted much more dialogue and partnership between GDS, DGUK, Cabinet Office and the Transparency Board in the months ahead if government is to truly maximize its digital assets.


## The case for an open national addressing dataset

Heather Savory Chair of the Open Data User Group (ODUG) discussed the case for releasing the National Address Dataset. The dataset is the most frequently requested item on data.gov.uk and much work had already progressed in establishing the case for its release.

Heather then presented with the Board with four recommendations as to how the address dataset could be opened and what the potential benefits might be.

There was agreement from the board members that there must be a clear strategy as to why releasing the dataset was important.  The board also supported Heather's view that in the event of the Royal Mail being privatised the Postcode Address File should not be placed into private ownership.

## Any other business

None.