

DfT Transport Sector Transparency Board - Minutes

Great Minster House, London 1.30-4pm, Thursday 13 June 2013

Attendees: Steve Gooding, DG Domestic, DfT (Chair)
Prof. Jonathan Raper, CEO Placr
Andrew Stott, Public Sector Transparency Board
Nick Illsley, Transport Direct, DfT
Hannah John, Privacy Representative, DfT
Hazel Lee, Cabinet Office
Judith Corbyn, CAA
Graham French, CAA
Fazilat Dar, ORR
Abbas Lokat, Geoplace

Apologies: Christopher Muttukumaru, GCO SIRO, DfT
Miles Gibson, No 10
Tim Stamp, Statistics, DfT
Helen Morris, Driving Agency Sponsor, DfT

CAA update on consultation and new powers

1. The Board discussed a presentation from CAA, which provided an update on progress on their consultation and new powers. The consultation began on 31/5/13. They have undertaken some stakeholder sessions and have written to the Open Data Institute to engage them.

Action: NI to follow up with ODI

2. The Board discussed the Statement of Policy on publication of data, this allows publication in a number of ways including raw data for re-use. CAA said they must be mindful of their responsibility to balance the benefit of publication versus adverse effect. They would like help from the OD community to articulate the benefits of putting data in the public domain and how it can be re-used.
3. AS was concerned that the statement was not in line with Government policy, as it referred to some data being published as statistical metrics rather than raw data. He said it was not government policy to do a cost-benefit analysis of every data release. In terms of adverse effects he felt these could be categorised as i) direct costs of data collection ii) indirect costs iii) unintended consequences. CAA should have regard to i) but the presumption should be that most data already exists. The issue around iii) usually related to commercial confidentiality, but CAA should make sure they set a high threshold for this, not just “commercially disadvantageous” and not cover anything that could be observed by passengers.

4. The Board discussed ACL and the scope for including transparency principles as part of the forthcoming contract negotiation, and removing the ACL right to data reference from the contract.

Action: CAA to investigate and report back by end July

Geoplace

5. The Board discussed the lack of engagement from Geoplace on its call for the open release of ASD data. The Board felt it was a breach of the Public Sector Information Directive if public sector data is exclusively given to and held by one party.

Action: SG to write to OS raising concerns and highlighting the presumption that open data should be released for re-use by an open market

6. Geoplace is exploring options for the integration of ITN with NSG data, developing a business case over the next 3 months and looking for input on requirements and core data. The Board agreed that the SRN is the minimum core data but that ASD should be released too.

Action: NI to discuss Inspire with Geoplace

ORR update on consultation and NRE

7. ORR updated the Board on their consultation on real time data, which has had a lot of good responses and meetings with developers. They have asked NRE to get back to them this week and plan to publish conclusions next month.
8. JR set out his view that all sources of data available to NRE should be made commercially available – NRE make profit from exclusive provision of some data sets. Competitors in the open market can't provide an equivalent service because they are blocked from accessing certain core data.
9. In response, ORR said they felt that relationship building with NRE was better than taking a heavy handed approach. ORR's Statement of Determination includes more specification on statistics and greater transparency, and the ORR Board is meeting later in June to discuss the ORR Transparency Statement.
10. The Board discussed delay attribution and ORR said they were encouraging industry to release data on delay attribution. ORR has also done some data quality reports which they publish to evaluate the accuracy of the data.

Action: ORR to consider releasing the raw data on delay attribution

11. ORR is next publishing statistics on delay causes, occupational health, and a gap analysis on rail data provision of performance statistics.

Action: NI to check whether contracts require TOCs to publish performance statistics on their websites.

Feedback on Public Sector Transparency Board

12. AS and JR provided feedback from the recent PSTB, where it was evident that people were forming businesses and using open data, but that it was still much harder than it should be – there were issues with consistency, core reference data and data cut-off. The PSTB felt there was still more to do to help the OD community and to overcome resistance from trading funds, devolved administrations and public-private partnerships.

Action: DfT and Cabinet Office to consider issues with non transport bodies such as Trading Funds and also Devolved Assemblies

Shakespeare Review

13. NI updated the Board on the recently Government Response to the Shakespeare Review. He was concerned there were so many different open data initiatives running now, we need to make sure they are linked up. NI is setting up a group to look at Agency data, including MOT garage data, DVLA data and sharing arrangements across Departments and outside government.

Updates from the minutes

14. NI updated the Board on a few actions from the last minutes:

- i) the TSB will focus on journey planning at the September meeting
- ii) the Senior Traffic Commissioner has now agreed to a meeting
- iii) HS2 are resubmitting their data publication policy to their Board in 2 weeks

AOB

15. JR raised an issue in relation to the Scottish Roadworks Commissioner refusing to release roadworks data and how this could be escalated, since it was potentially a barrier to the delivery of Commonwealth Games travel initiatives.

Action: SG to write to David Middleton, Head of Transport Scotland

Date of next meeting

16. The next meeting is due to be held on 10 September.