

DWP Open Data Group minutes			
Title of Meeting:	DWP Open Data Group		
Date:	22.1.14	Time:	11.30 – 14.00
Attendees:	See attached list		
Apologies:	See attached list		

Agenda item 1 Introduction and Welcome

Nigel welcomed existing and new members to the fourth meeting of the Group. Before turning to outstanding action points (APs). Nigel advised that APs 1, 3 and 4 would be covered under agenda item 4 and that AP10 had been addressed and cleared, a representative from Universal Credit would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Group. Additionally it was agreed that all remaining outstanding APs: 11, 12, 15 and 16 are addressed by today's agenda or otherwise closed.

Agenda item 2 – Policy simulation and forecasting modelling in DWP

James Rees provided an overview of the work of the Department's Model Development Division (MDD). A copy of James' presentation is attached to this meeting note.

Following James' presentation the following points were made in Group discussion:

- Jacqui Taylor (JT) – advised that her organisation were currently working in partnership with another Government Department on a new policy development database tool derived from web based interactions citizens. JT advised that once results were known, it may be possible to share some information with DWP's MDD. **It was agreed that an AP should be taken for Nigel and JT to discuss next steps bilaterally.**
- Richard Hopper (RH) – suggested increasing 5% modelling sample sets would increase accuracy of outcomes. Nigel and James explained that the standard 5% data sample was historical. It represented a statistically valid sample so increasing the sample size may not necessarily improve the quality of modelling. However, work was currently under way to identify improved software with the aim of improving both quality and speed.

Agenda item 3 – External members interest in DWP data

At the last meeting members agreed to provide a summary of their roles and interests in DWP data. There followed a brief verbal update from Group members in attendance, a précis of which is attached to this meeting note.

Agenda item 4 – Progress Update on DWP data releases – including Personal Independence Payment and Stat-Xplore

Nigel updated the group regarding the following areas:

Universal Credit (UC)

- Initial UC statistics were published on 3rd December 2013 and updated

on 22 January 2014 and thereafter monthly, aligned to the Labour Market Statistics release.

- Current official statistics address early volumes of existing UC claims covering five offices areas, with a few breakdowns of the main characteristics and are relatively straightforward. For future releases, the priority is to develop a split between in-work and out-of-work cases.

Benefit Cap

- The next statistics publication in this area is due for release in early February 2014. These will include for the first time off-flows from the cap and the reason for no longer being subject to the benefit cap.
- From May 2014, these statistics will be published on a quarterly basis via Stat-Xplore.

Housing Benefit

- Reduction in the Spare Room Subsidy statistics were published in November 2013 and more will be released in February 2014, as part of the Housing Benefit statistics.

Benefit sanctions

- Following the initial release of new regime sanctions statistics in November 2013, a further update is due in February 2014. These will be released via Stat-Xplore.

Employment and Support Allowance – Work Capability Assessments

- Latest Work Capability Assessment (WCA) quarterly statistics were published on 22 January 2014.
- This release will be followed in mid-March 2014 with publication of additional data which will include information regarding appeals data.
- From March 2014, publication of quarterly WCA stats will be brought in line with the timing of appeals stats released by the Ministry of Justice.
- From June 2014, it is planned to review the statistics and release via Stat-Xplore.

National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations from overseas workers

- Cross Government stats on this issue are released quarterly in partnership with the Office for National Statistics and the Home Office.
- The next release is due in February 2014 and will include registrations data up to December 2013.
- A further release on 22 May 2014, will include new registrations up to March 2014 so will include information on the recent 2014 EU Rumania/Bulgaria accession changes. These statistics will be released via Stat-Xplore.
- The August release will continue to include information relating to benefit claiming by nationality (based on nationality when first registering for a NINo).

Personal independence Payment (PIP)

- No data yet available however, an adhoc statistical release is due in February 2014.

- Regular quarterly stats with then be released from May 2014 via Stat-Xplore.

Work Programme

- Regular quarterly stats are now produced routinely, with the next due for release in March 2014.
- There are currently no plans to replace the current tabulation tools for these with a Stat-Xplore version.

Unified Customer database (probably to be renamed Unified Publication Database)

- DWP has combined tax credit, housing benefit and Social Security benefits at a benefit unit level for pre-UC roll-out.
- Work is progressing and an initial set of this unified data will be released via Stat-Xplore, probably in May 2014.

Following Nigel's update the following points were made in Group discussion:

- RH queried the capacity of Stat-Xplore as releases via this route were being ramped up. Nigel confirmed that it is robust and that there was work ongoing to improve navigation tools on the system to improve the user experience.

Agenda item 5 – Fit Note Data

Ann Newman and Helen Clements updated the Group on Fit Note (FN) data transfer issues. The FN replaced the Doctor's traditional medical certificate in 2010 and by spring this year virtually all GP practices in England can issue electronic FNs. Increasing volumes of this computer generated version are now being issued (1.6m to June 13). GP's IT systems can feed anonymised FN data through Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) servers but the functionality to do this is 'switched off'.

If we can overcome iT and funding challenges HSCIC can supply anonymised data to DWP and it may be possible for DWP to publish aggregate FN data via Stat-Xplore.. JT advised that the Open Data User Group may be able to offer support here. **It was agreed that an AP should be taken for Helen and JT to discuss next steps and potential options on a bilateral basis - (AP18 22.1.14).**

Agenda item 6 – AOB

None.

Future DWP Open Data Group meeting dates

- To be arranged for late May / early June 2014

DWP Open Data Group	
Attendees	
Nigel Brough (chair)	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
Nicholas Harper	Strategic Technical Account Manager Experian
Richard Hopper	MI Manager SERCO
Talja Cebolo	Senior analyst SERCO
Professor Robert Barr	Chairman Manchester Geomatics
Jacqui Taylor	CEO FlyingBinary Ltd
Anju Jain	Equifax
James Rees	DWP Strategy and Analytical Division
Helen Clements	DWP Health and Well-being Directorate
Ann Newman	DWP Health and Well-being Directorate
Martin Dillon	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
Andy Vickers (secretariat)	DWP Information Governance & Security (IGS)
Apologies	
Paul Taylor	Innovation Coach Bromford
Paul Bivand	Associate Director of Statistics & Analysis CESI
Richard Hopper	MI Manager SERCO
James Angel	Analytics & Solutions Division Equifax
Rachel Smith	Centre for Cities
Peter Elias	Employment Research University of Warwick
Lee Thomas	Decision Analytics Manager EON
Paul Davidson	CIO Sedgemoor DC
John O'Connell	Taxpayer's Alliance
Iain Sterland	Senior Portfolio Analyst Sainsburys
Peter Watson	Corporate Management Information Citizens Advice