

MINUTES			
Title of Meeting:	DWP Open Data Group		
Date:	22.10.14	Time:	11.30 – 13.30
Attendees:	See attached list		
Apologies:	See attached list		

Agenda item 1 Introduction and Welcome

Nigel welcomed existing and new members to the fifth meeting of the Group. The group agreed the minutes from the last meeting in January 2014 and were updated on the following action points

APs 1,3 & 4 will be covered under agenda item 3

APs 17 & 18 had now been addressed and closed

AP12 – a written update on Universal Credit evaluation was provided at the meeting and covered under agenda item 3

Agenda item 2 – National Information Infrastructure (NII)

Antonio Acuna (Cabinet Office) provided an overview of the Government's plans to refresh the National Information Infrastructure (NII) following feedback from the open workshops they held in September 2014.

The proposal for the new NII will be based around a framework rather than a list of datasets and consist of 3 key elements:

- **Core referential data** - for example locations such as jobcentres
- **Soft referential data** – which jobcentres provide a specific service or maps to them
- **Core structural data** - metadata descriptors which improve accessibility and enable a connective infrastructure including data standards, vocabulary and coding

Over time these descriptive criteria should also apply to unpublished data.

Timetable – Cabinet Office will aim to publish the proposal for a phased NII framework by the end of December 2014 for consultation across departments and external data users. Following this they will work with selected departments to pilot this approach including case studies to demonstrate how it will be applied

AP19 (22.10.14) – cleared Members to contact Liam Murphy in Cabinet Office if they wish to participate in the development and consultation of the proposal

Jacqui Taylor provided an Open Data User Group (ODUG) perspective of the emerging NII proposition. ODUG are developing a future vision for a national data landscape which has been endorsed by Tim Berners-Lee. This started with how we as a society view data and included documenting the world of data we live in. This initiative has resulted in a more demand led approach which is helping drive the development for a new NII framework proposition. The Department of Health (DH) are currently conducting an exercise to scope how this new approach will work in practice

To help manage expectations the revised NII framework will be developed in phases. It will be defined initially by the department's top 5 core datasets, including key unpublished datasets for example if they contain personal data. For DWP, welfare reform benefits such as UC and PIP would be included and Stat-Xplore will put us in a good position for supporting the development of this new NII framework.

DWP raised concerns about the resource needed to provide descriptors for a wide range of large datasets. Antonio confirmed that Cabinet Office would work with departments to help with initially loading metadata and automating the process as much as possible.

Agenda item 3 – Progress update on DWP data releases

Nigel updated the group on the following statistical releases, emphasising recent work had been focused on the publication of Universal Credit official statistics.

Universal Credit (UC)

- UC statistics are now being published monthly to coincide with ONS Labour Market statistics. The statistics cover total caseload and starts on UC, with breakdowns by Jobcentre Plus, Local Authority, Parliamentary constituency, gender, age band and duration
- In October additional data was released covering 'claims made to UC' in the previous week. This provides a snapshot of the UC workload as not all claims made will go on to be accepted and paid
- New release planned for November 2014 would provide a time series of aggregated data identifying UC claimants who are employed or not in employment

As UC continues to rollout additional information will be provided for example the 'conditionality group' which reflect the claimant's reason for claiming benefit and the conditions placed on them to receive Universal Credit.

UC evaluation (AP 12)

Nigel updated the group on DWP's approach to the evaluation of UC in the 4 Pathfinder sites. This has included detailed research with UC claimants through quantitative surveys and in-depth qualitative research. Results from the first wave of the Pathfinder survey were published in November 2013. Further UC evaluation results including ad hoc statistics were published w/c 20.10.14 see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-at-work>

AP20 (22.10.14)– cleared - To issue to members the UC evaluation feedback, including latest release and links to the published interim results

AP21 (22.10.14) Government Digital by Default – To establish if any statistics are being released on which channel claimants use for UC benefit applications, i.e on-line, telephone, face-to-face at a Jobcentre etc

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

- PIP statistics are being released quarterly from June 2014 via Stat-Xplore. The statistics include key information on new claims,

caseloads, by award rate, type, personal characteristics, medical conditions and local area

- From December 2014 PIP data will also include ICD ‘medical codes’
- We are currently exploring the potential for publishing ‘clearance times’ for PIP which may be included in the December release

Nigel confirmed that PIP will not be included in the DWP’s Tabtool which currently holds Disability Living Allowance (DLA) data, because over time these client groups will migrate to PIP, UC etc

Benefit Cap

- Now being routinely published on a quarterly basis via Stat-Xplore

ESA / JSA Sanctions

- By summer 2015 DWP will consider adding ‘UC sanctions’ to the existing ESA/JSA dataset or possibly publishing a separate release due to the complexity of the data - for example ‘mandatory reconsiderations’ which cut across all benefits. Publication timetables are still being explored including the potential for an ad –hoc release at the end of this year

ESA Work Capability Assessments

- DWP are reviewing the design of its ESA data publications with a focus on the lifecycle of ESA claims ie claim made, WCA assessment, mandatory reconsiderations, appeals etc. The re-design should be ready by next summer

The following two actions points were taken away relating to data releases:

AP22 Sanctions – Paul Bivand to email Nigel Brough to clarify if there are statistics on previous paper based adjudication decisions

AP23 Stat-Xplore – Nigel to check on progress with developing an API for Stat-Xplore and feedback to the group

Unified Publication Database

This database is already being used by other departments to feed into updated ‘indices of deprivation’. Stat-Xplore now has a working model of this unified database ready for internal QA shortly. Decisions are yet to be made on how and when we release the data, for example as a stand alone dataset or as a time series

Agenda item 4 – DWP’s progress on linking datasets

Nicky Tarry provided a session outlining DWP’s challenges and developments in data sharing and linking. Slides from the session can be viewed at : https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343003/wstb-presentation-100714.pdf

Nicky outlined the challenges involved in sharing and linking DWP data with Other Government Departments (OGDs) in a safe space solely for policy

analysis and evaluation purposes. He shared details of the progress admin data centres had already made and developments on the horizon particularly in relation to, data quality and standardisation so the outcomes are more valuable for accredited data users

The group welcomed the presentation and discussed:

- How this initiative sits across the wider government landscape for data sharing including specific NHS requirements.
- How this impacted on FOIs and PQs for linked data. It was confirmed that the FOI and PQ regimes were subject to their own cost thresholds and that this type of data sharing was designed for informing public policy developments though it may be made available to other data users.

Agenda item 5 – AOB

Fit Note Data – An update was provided to members at the meeting

Paul Bivand requested that wherever possible we try and avoid arranging meetings in the same week of major labour market statistical releases.

Future DWP Open Data Group meeting dates

- To be arranged for May 2015

DWP Open Data Group	
Attendees	
Nigel Brough (chair)	DWP Information Exploitation & Security (IES)
Nicholas Harper	Strategic Technical Account Manager Experian
Iain Sterland	Senior Portfolio Analyst Sainsburys
Jacqui Taylor	CEO FlyingBinary Ltd
Mark Nicholson	Equifax
Peter Watson	Corporate Management Information Citizens Advice
Paul Davidson	CIO Sedgemoor DC
Paul Bivand	Associate Director of Statistics & Analysis CESI
Liam Murphy	Cabinet Office
Antonio Acuna	Cabinet Office
Nicky Tarry	DWP Information Exploitation & Security (IES)
Martin Dillon	DWP Information Exploitation & Security (IES)
Michelle Pickard (secretariat)	DWP Information Exploitation & Security (IES)

Apologies	
Damian Carter	Innovation Coach Bromford
Richard Hopper	MI Manager SERCO
Peter Elias	Employment Research University of Warwick
Lee Thomas	Decision Analytics Manager EON
John O'Connell	Taxpayer's Alliance
Professor Robert Barr	Chairman Manchester Geomatics