# Public Data Group Board
## 2pm – 4pm, 18 March 2014
## BIS, 1 Victoria Street, London
## Published agenda, minutes and papers

**Attendees:**
Claudia Arney CA (Chair, Public Data Group)
Ed Lester EL (CEO, Land Registry)
Vanessa Lawrence VL (CEO, Ordnance Survey)
John Hirst JH (CEO, Met Office)
Ceri Smith CS (Director, Shareholder Executive)
Neil Hartley NH (Director of Corporate Services, Companies House)

**Additional attendees:**
Kirsty Pearce KP, ShEx PDG policy lead
Iain Rolfe IR, ShEx PDG
Note taker, ShEx PDG
Sonia Sousa SS, Head of Big Data Action Group, Big Innovation Centre

**Apologies:**
Tim Moss (CEO, Companies House)

**Agenda:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting** *(10 minutes)* | **Claudia Arney** |
| 2. | **Chair update** *(15 minutes)*<br>• *Update on Chair's activity.* | **Claudia Arney** |
| 3. | **Update on PDG Data Workstreams** *(40 minutes)*<br>• *Update on progress with actions arising from December Board.*<br>• *Followed by discussion.* | **Iain Rolfe** |
| 4. | **Presentation on the Trusted Data Accelerator** *(25 minutes)*<br>• *Presentation.*<br>• *Followed by questions.* | **Sonia Sousa** |
| 5. | **Discussion of future work** *(20 minutes)*<br>• *Discussion of merits of re-convening technical group or commissioning third party study.*<br>• *Discussion of merits of monitoring media coverage to report back at June board.* | **Claudia Arney** |
| 6. | **Conclusion / any other business** *(10 minutes)* | **Claudia Arney** |

**<u>Note of discussion</u>**

**<u>Item 1</u> Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting**

1. CA opened the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

**<u>Item 2</u> Chair update**

2. CA noted that all the actions from the previous meeting were completed or in progress.

3. In reference to the HR discussions that had taken place CS noted the ongoing interest from Jeremy Heywood in data scientists and skills clusters.

4. CA then provided an update on her correspondence with Michael Fallon, the updated PDG web page, ongoing work to improve the management of the Release of Data Fund and her planned meeting with Heather Savory and ODUG.

5. The publication of the Public Administration Select Committee was discussed. It was noted that although the report was not as problematic as it could have been a formal Government response would still needed to address difficult issues around charging for data, support for users and retention of data sets within the public sector. It was noted that the planned 'PDG Data Offer' and other PDG workstreams provided an excellent opportunity for PDG to support a robust response and be on the front foot.

6. CA and CS fed back from their meeting with Paul Maltby (Director for Open Data and Transparency at CO) on the 12$^{th}$. The meeting primarily involved a repeat of discussions around the need to ensure that open data releases are financially viable.

8. JH noted that Sir Mark Walport has a significant interest in increasing the use of data visualisations as part of work reviewing the support for civil contingencies. JH noted that MO is involved and is attending a meeting on this next Thursday.

**<u>Item 3</u> Update on PDG Data Workstreams**

9. IR explained that work has progressed considerably in taking forward the workstreams agreed at the December board. Further details on the exact status are noted in the annex to these minutes "Stock take and next steps". The following comments were noted:

On the LR/OS GeoVation Challenge, engagement with the Big Innovation Centre, Nesta and signposting support:
- There was broad support that these were worth pursuing [although see comments below on the Big Innovation Centre presentation]

- OS were interested in exploring the potential for scaling up the joint GeoVation challenge and connecting with BIS or other Government support for business to allow developers to turn ideas into businesses

## On work to explore status of IT collaboration and common HR issues:

- The current status was noted and it was agreed that the primary value around the HR work would be in informing central Government rather than as a PDG project.

## On the 'PDG Data Offer' in general:

- There was broad support for its usefulness as a publically released document.
- KP noted that offering a forward plan of the data releases and improvements and other activities was critical in offering support to developers and placing PDG on the front foot.
- JH suggested that it would be helpful to check what plans had already been developed within the trading funds.
- NH noted that it would be helpful to extend the offer to beyond 14/15 as CH would have bigger announcements in future years.
- EL noted that the value of releasing further data was uncertain and that there were costs associated with offering supporting activities and events.
- IR reiterated that the focus did not need to be on new activity but more effective co-ordination and communication of what was planned.

## On the ambitions within the Data Offer:

- JH noted that setting an ambition for 5* Linked Data was difficult and could have potentially significant costs associated with it. He noted that MO were already doing significant work around setting standards.
- There was a general discussion around the benefits of offering PDG Linked Data compared to waiting for specific need for certain sets to be linked. JH noted that the Integrated Transport and Weather Information Pilot  the MO was involved in had taken significant resources but was about delivering data in a specific manner for a specific need.
- There was broad support for work to develop a formal review of develop licences and to implement developer forums across PDG.

## On greater strategic engagement with Cabinet Office

- There was strong support for developing the Data.Gov.UK Publishers Group.
- The importance of staying pro-active regards CO engagement was noted.

## Item 4 Presentation on the Trusted Data Accelerator

10. SS gave a detailed presentation on the work of the Big Innovation Centre and their Trusted Data Accelerator.

11. JH noted that the MO had looked at a similar project previously but had been unable to operationalise it due to difficulties of allocating contributions. He invited SS to visit the Met Office to discuss their previous work. He also noted that that the project was the only one he was aware of that was seeking to work across industries.

12. There was a subsequent discussion around the role PDG could best play given that so much of their data was already available as open data. SS and IR clarified that the project was primarily seeking to engage with the expertise of PDG to obtain advice on how to best their data.

## Item 5 Discussion of future work

13. CA then suggested an open discussion on the possibility of future work for PDG and the prospect of either convening the 'technical group' again or commissioning consultants.

14. JH suggested reviewing the report produced as part of the original consultancy work when PDG was first created.

15. A wider discussion then took place with the general view being that PDG had been useful in creating links and sharing best practice across the 4 organisations but that these relationships had now been formed and each organisation had its own priorities.

16. CA concluded that while the existing workstreams were useful and should continue and that the possibility of including business support should be explored as part of the LR/OS GeoVation challenge a future PDG Board should discuss the future of PDG in its current form.

## Item 6 Conclusion / any other business

17. There was none.

# Item 3: Stock take and next steps of the actions agreed at the December PDG Board as of 14.3.14

| **Collaborating to maximise support for the developer community:** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Workstreams | Intended final output | Status |
| 1) Create a 'PDG Challenge' programme focused on ideas utilising multiple PDG data sets. | A joint LR/OS Geovation Challenge to take place in 14/15. | LR/OS confirmed and may form part of a 'building local resilience' challenge scheduled for the Autumn. |
| | PDG engagement (primarily data but with the potential for some limited support) with the Big Innovation Centre's 'Trusted Data Accelerator'. The Accelerator is basically a giant safe sandbox to test how data can be combined to produce practical benefits to business. The overarching area it will look at is business supply chains. | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed. Next steps are introductory meeting with the Big Innovation Centre. |
| | PDG support for the Energy and Environment Open Data Challenge (NESTA and the ODI) through attendance of 'meet ups' to explain and advice on data use. Potential for greater involvement in future challenges. | Future engagement under consideration. LR/ShEx attended Education event on 16th March. |
| 2) Offer 'pump priming' support to developers to enable them to grow ideas into products. | PDG members signpost support for developers by including on their web sites details of all the current support available for developers and start ups. | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed BIS mapping and confirming details of potential support with wider BIS, TSB, ODI, NESTA and others. |
| *New addition* | PDG take part in the Big Data event organised by the Science and Technology Facilities Council at the Rutherford Appleton Lab in Oxford to promote business use of public sector data. | CA/CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed |

**Exploring opportunities for collaboration to deliver efficiencies within PDG;**

| Workstreams | Intended final output | Status |
|---|---|---|
| 3) Assess the status of the previous IT work streams and identify those aspects worth continuing. | Confirmation that all work has been concluded but that a Huddle Group remains in use. | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed. |
| 4) Explore the possibility for greater co-operation in managing technical staff resource and /or skill shortfalls | A telecon discussion of HR leads and the results will be circulated to the PDG Board and will also feed into a wider cross Government project looking at managing the availability of data scientists across the public sector being run by the Government Office of Science. | Discussed with MO/OS HR leads and CH subsequently.<br><br>Arranging time for LR conversation.<br><br>ShEx drafting summary note for circulation to PDG and Government Office of Science. |

| Using the collective strength of PDG to develop a refined approach to Open Data with greater emphasis on understanding users and their use of Open Data: | | |
|---|---|---|
| Workstreams | Intended  final output | Status |
| 5) Create a 'PDG offer' on data – covering both Open and value added data | A PDG Data Offer document is published that sets out a summary of who the PDG members are, the data they hold, a rationale for the approach to charging and sets out a PDG Data Offer for 14/15 that includes commitments to: | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed text and approach. |
| | • Planned data releases | CH/LR/MO/OS all provided initial text.<br><br>Text potentially to be enhanced as plans confirmed. |
| | • An offer a core PDG Linked data set  (see below) | (see below) |
| | • Ensure that all PDG data sold commercially had a free trial version for developers | LR/MO/OS confirmed.<br><br>Not appropriate for CH. |
| | • To undertake an internal review (supported by the ODI) for December 2014 of options to make developer licences more developer friendly | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed in principle. OS retain right to differentiate if needed.<br><br>ShEx drafting ToR and discussing with ODI and other organisations. |
| 6) Create a common approach to using forums to | Set an ambition for each PDG member to have a data users forum with a PDG section (probably a sticky-ed thread) on each by 2015 | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| engage with users and create links through them across PDG. | to provide the potential for increased linkage. | |
| 7) Commit to progressing linking of core PDG data sets, up to 5* Linked Data where feasible (each data set fully linked to the other). | Set an ambition in the PDG Data Offer to provide a core Linked set of PDG data by Dec 2014 with a technical working group created to define and deliver it. | CH/LR/MO/OS confirmed in principle.<br><br>Working group being developed to indentify realistic target that would genuinely add value for December 2014 and approach to achieve it. |
| 8) Engage with Data.Gov.UK strategically as PDG to support optional registration to improve support to users, provide links to PDG forums and support and create space for themed data collections such as those relevant to Smart Cities. | A Data.Gov.UK Publisher Group would be created for those data experts who submit data to Data.Gov.UK (of which PDG members would be expected to be significant members) that supports the development of Data.Gov.UK including enhancing its usability by developers. This forum could be used to seek further enhancements to the functionality of the Data.Gov.UK site. | Cabinet Office have agreed to the creation of a data.gov.uk Publisher Group. Initial memberships and terms being developed.<br><br>Individual organisations are continuing to feed back comments. |
| | NII and Data.Gov.UK recognise quality of data available from PDG even though some requires registration. | BIS continuing to engage with CO to make NII and star system more reflective of true quality of data. |

# Item 3: Terms of Reference for Review of Public Data Group Developer Licences

**Introduction**

The Public Data Group (PDG) brings together four government trading funds - Companies House, Land Registry, Met Office and Ordnance Survey – that, alongside their other key functions, excel in the collection, management and distribution of vital data sets. Each of the four organisations performs a key public role and produces a wide range of nationally important data.

The Public Data Group's data is made available through a variety of channels and licences and includes both commercial agreements and the provision of Open Data. In addition, in order to avoid price deterring innovation data that is sold commercially is available in either a reduced format or for a limited time period for free.

There is a concern however that there is:
  a) popular perception that PDG licensing conditions are overly complex for developers or SMEs to effectively manage
  b) popular perception that all PDG licensing conditions are overly expensive for developers or SMEs

and that taken together these factors have the limted the commercial usage of  PDG data sets by developers or SMEs

**Purpose**

The aim of the review is to:

  1) Map existing PDG licences,
  2) Assess the perception of PDG licences in the developer community,
  3) Identify areas where licences can be either better communicated or adjusted to increase use and;
  4) Agree process for monitoring success of changes.

**Membership**

| Organisation | Lead |
|---|---|
| PDG | |
| Land Registry | |
| Met Office | |
| Ordnance Survey | |
| ShEx | |
| Cabinet Office | |
| Intellectual Property Office | |
| Open Data Institute | |
| Developer X | |
| Developer Y | |
| Developer Z | |
| Etc. | |

**Governance**

The PDG Board has commissioned this project. A ShEx secretariat will co-ordinate.

**Resources**

All members are expected to attend meetings and review papers. The ShEx secretariat will prepare all necessary papers with support from members as needed.

**Method**

The aims of the review will be met through the production of a series of discussion papers leading to a proposal to be put to the PDG Board. The decision of the Board will then be reflected in a document published on the PDG Gov.UK web page and reflected in amended licences as appropriate. The discussion papers will be presented at, and refined through, a series of meetings. Additional papers, surveys or other activities may be commissioned as part of these meetings.

**Process steps**

- 1st Meeting: Confirm ToR and identification of keys issues and questions
- ShEx to develop papers setting out key issues and refine with membership
- 2nd Meeting: Discussion of key issues and potential solutions
- ShEx to develop papers setting out potential solutions
- Final meeting: Discussion of preferred solution/actions
- ShEx to prepare proposal, confirm membership agreement and submit to PDG Board in September 2014
- Publication of response before December 2014.

**Confidentiality**

For the purpose of facilitating an open discussion all discussions will be considered under Chatham House rules and all documentation should not be disclosed outside of the membership of the group. A publically released document will be produced as a conclusion to the process.

**Key Terms**

'Developer' – any unsalaried individual or group seeking to use data to create new software

'Developer licence' – a licence designed to enable short term commercial usage at low or nominal cost

**Background**

Further background on the Public Data Group can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/policy-advisory-groups/public-data-group

Details of the 2012 study of the Public Data Group's approach to charging can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approach-to-charging