

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

**Attendees:**

Claudia Arney CA (Chair, Public Data Group)  
 Tim Moss (CEO, Companies House)  
 Ed Lester EL (CEO, Land Registry)  
 Neil Ackroyd NA (Acting Director General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey)  
 Nick Jobling NJ (Chief Financial Officer, Met Office)  
 Ceri Smith CS (Director, Shareholder Executive)

**Additional attendees:**

Iain Rolfe IR, ShEx PDG  
 Note take, ShEx PDG  
 John Dodds JD (Director, BIS Strategic Review)

**Apologies:**

John Hirst JH (CEO, Met Office)  
 Kirsty Pearce KP, ShEx PDG policy lead

**Agenda:**

1. <b>Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting</b> (5 minutes)	<b>Claudia Arney</b>
2. <b>Chair update</b> (10 minutes)	<b>Claudia Arney</b>
3. <b>Update on BIS Strategic Review</b> (45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on BIS Strategic Review</li> <li>• Followed by discussion</li> </ul>	<b>John Dodds</b>
4. <b>Update on Public Administration Select Committee and PDG Data Offer</b> (20 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Government response to PASC, BIS Open Data Strategy and PDG Data Offer</li> <li>• Discussion of Data Offer and wider positioning</li> </ul>	<b>Iain Rolfe</b>
5. <b>Update on Commercial Models Work</b> (25 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round table update of recent developments</li> <li>• Discussion of any emerging common themes</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>
6. <b>Discussion of options to improve PDG governance</b> (10 minutes)Round table discussion	<b>Claudia Arney/All</b>
7. <b>Conclusion / any other business</b> (5 minutes)	<b>Claudia Arney</b>

## **Note of discussion**

### **Item 1 Welcome, introductions and minutes from last meeting**

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

### **Item 2 Chair update**

2. CA noted that all the actions from the previous meeting were completed or in progress.
3. CA met Heather Savoury in March and attended an ODUG Board meeting to discuss the work of PDG. This was a constructive meeting, with several ODUG members stressing their appreciation of the PDG members.
4. CA also noted she attended the OS Developer Challenge and spoke at the Big Data event, at which 120 companies were in attendance, ranging from start-ups to big companies such as gsk and Experian. There has been a lot of follow-up and feedback following this event.
5. CS summarised a current issue affecting OS, where the Transparency Team in Cabinet Office have requested evidence for how licensing of OS data is problematic.
6. CA introduced John Dodds, the BIS Director who led the Strategic Review.

### **Item 3 Update on BIS Strategic Review**

7. JD noted the BIS Strategic Review reported to the Executive Board in December 2013 with 19 recommendations. The project has now moved forward into a delivery phase, and is known as 'The Future Shape of BIS' programme. This programme has brought together the Review recommendations and corporate services transformation.
8. Following some discussion, CA noted that a distinction needs to be made between policy and customers. Although policy is included within the Future Shape of BIS, CA noted the importance of the customers, especially for the Trading Funds, being able to feed into the proposals, especially on cross-departmental issues.

### **Item 4 Update on Public Administration Select Committee and PDG Data Offer**

9. IR provided an update on the status of the PDG Data Offer, which is due to be published on 30 June alongside the BIS Open Data Strategy and the Government Response to PASC.

10. IR noted all the documents are aligned, with the Government Response stating that charging has to be looked at on a case by case basis and that open data can have tax implications for the organisations involved. The BIS Data Offer helps to reposition the PDG alongside the Research Councils in protecting public data. It also suggests that charging is acceptable in certain circumstances. The PDG Data Offer goes into further detail on the Data the PDG members hold, including a closer look at what data is already available, the approach to charging, case studies and a forward look on upcoming events and data releases.
11. NJ noted that should the Met Office business case for a new supercomputer be approved, this will help to generate even more and better quality data.
12. CA highlighted the Data Offer should not be defensive, but is instead an opportunity to showcase the work of PDG and show support for the open data agenda.
13. TM suggested an alternative approach for the Data Offer, starting with the National Information Infrastructure and its importance for the open data and transparency, and showing how PDG supports this. He also suggested the document could be more thematic, including sections on data regarding location, land, companies and weather rather than on organisational boundaries.
14. EL commented the document appeared too technical for the general public. Through discussion, it was suggested detail on the datasets at each organisation could be listed in the annex to make the document less technical.
15. A discussion took place over the Data Offer's target audience. It was agreed that the document was aimed at the developer and open data community, who are trying to engage or use PDG data.
16. CS suggested the document should show PDG's strong support for open data, but also highlight the importance of sustainable data.

#### **Item 5 Update on Commercial Models work**

17. EL provided a brief update on the Land Registry commercial models work. He noted the absence of legislation needed for the change in commercial model in the Queen's speech and therefore concluded that anxieties regarding ownership are annulled for the moment.
18. TM provided an update on the Companies House position, noting the organisation will be staying a Trading Fund and wishes to make all data available freely. This is a widely stated intention, and once final agreement is reached, a formal announcement will be made. He added the IT systems would be changing to create a single service rather than separate filing and research systems.

19. NA noted OS recently attended PEX(A). The organisation continues its vesting programme to a GovCo with a completion date before the end of 2014. OS is also looking to grow the geospatial industry as a whole in conjunction with partners and is looking into the simplification of licensing.
20. NJ updated the Board on Met Office. The organisation is looking into commercial growth and whether vesting would impact this.
21. It was generally agreed that there was no significant common ground in processes as a result of the various different directions being pursued by the trading funds.
22. CA stated the importance of the PDG Board and group being efficient, with the benefits outweighing the costs in both time and effort. She noted a paper has therefore been commissioned, and will be presented to ShEx Board in September prior to being presented to the next PDG Board on 25 September.
  - **Action: ShEx PDG to prepare a paper for discussion on the options to improve PDG Governance for presentation at the ShEx Board and PDG Board in September.**

#### **Item 7 Conclusion / any other business**

23. CS reiterated the zero tolerance policy on off-payroll arrangements.
24. TM encouraged all members to feed through any comments or questions regarding the work on the BIS Strategic Review and the Future Shape of BIS to him to reflect at the Board meeting. EL added any questions in relation to the Governance workstream should be passed on to him.
25. CA informed the Board that Kirsty Pearce would be moving on from the Shareholder Executive in July to run BIS North-West. CA and the Board thanked Kirsty for her work on PDG. Leo Geddes will be joining on 21 July as Kirsty's replacement. He is currently in China working for the Foreign Office.