

Department for Work and Pensions – Transparency / Open Data

Welfare Sector Transparency Board – Progress Report

Date: 8 October 2015

This report is aligned to the department's published Open Data Strategy [see here](#) and provides a summary progress update on how DWP is meeting its Transparency / Open Data commitments. The report is split into the following key sections:

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Find out more about DWP's Transparency and Open Data agenda including stakeholder groups, strategy and case studies at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transparency-and-open-data>

Welfare Sector Transparency Board minutes can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/welfare-sector-transparency-board>

Engaging with key stakeholders & data users – Summary of DWP’s activities since the last meeting

This section illustrates how we are working with key stakeholders including data users to help inform what demand there is for our data and the priority users attach to the timing of its release. We are also using feedback from sources such as registered users on Stat-Xplore to data.gov.uk analytics to assess which datasets are most popular and to identify further improvements

Achievements / Work completed since the last meeting

(3.4.2) Anyone can use Stat-Xplore without registering but it now has over 3,600 registered users, creating over 2,400 bespoke tables across all of its databases each month. Of these bespoke tables around 37% relate to Housing Benefit, 16% for Benefit Sanctions, 16% for NINO registrations from overseas nationals, 15% for Universal Credit, 9% for Personal Independence Payment and 6% for Benefit Cap

(3.2.1) DWP Open Data Group meeting held 8.7.15 Outcomes from meeting are published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/welfare-sector-transparency-board-external-stakeholder-group>

(3.3.1) Youth Unemployment Hack Day- DWP have contributed to the pre-meeting discussions and identified datasets which will help inform the issue. The Cabinet Office Data Hack event is on 19th Oct with a focus on “using the data to develop new and innovative ways to connect young people who are NEET, or at risk of becoming NEET, with opportunities for employment, training and education. DWP will be attending

(3.4.7) DWP continue to meet all cross government publishing requirements, i.e spend data over 25k etc

(3.4.8) Universal Credit Digital service – now taking new claims to UC claimants in a limited area, with on going postcode area being expanded

Feedback from Data.gov.uk

No new feedback on DWP’s data set inventory

Most popular DWP datasets on DGU to the end of September 2015

- Organogram and staff pay data
- JSA claimants by ethnicity
- JSA Sanctions and disallowances
- JSA monthly claimant count
- Households Below Average Income

18 ODUG requests have been allocated to DWP on data.gov.uk (DGU) – currently only 1 outstanding

Key engagement activity

- Active engagement in cross data sharing legislation development to allow linking and sharing with academia and other researchers
- Stat-Xplore registered user feedback
- DWP’s External Data Sharing Advice Centre – continued engagement with OGDs to explore options for cross government data sharing
- Worked with a cross section of data owners as part of DWP representation on the Jobs Open Data challenge series and Youth Unemployment hack day

Forward Look

- *Next meeting of the DWP Open Data Group being arranged for end of 2015 / early 2016*
- *During 2015 release an updated version of Stat-Xplore which will include significant user and performance enhancements (as a result of feedback from registered users)*
- *Updating case studies on Transparency webpage following agreement of commitments in the Open Government National Action Plan(3) being developed*
- *Digital service – Phase 2 & 3 will see the service re-open with postcode area expansion*
- *Youth Unemployment hack day scheduled for 19th October 2015, includes DWP representatives*

Open Data / Transparency dataset commitments – Summary of DWP’s activities / data releases since the last meeting

This section illustrates how DWP is meeting its Transparency / Open Data commitments for releasing more datasets in an open and re-usable format. It covers DWP dataset releases identified as part of the National Information Infrastructure, other key datasets planned for release via Stat-Xplore as well as the development of a unified data format for future reporting of statistics

Achievements / Work completed since the last meeting

(4.1.13) Universal Credit Statistics – are now being released via Stat-Xplore from July 2015 on a monthly basis

(4.4.4) Developing an API for Stat-Xplore – All datasets contained in Stat-Xplore will be available by the API and ‘free’ for all registered users. API module has been developed and is currently being tested with a timetable for implementation being drawn up shortly

Interactive Maps for UC and PIP – UC interactive map has been developed and available on gov.uk. It shows UC caseloads and starters at Jobcentres rolled out. [see map](#) A map is also available for PIP by LA [see map](#)

NII Framework

- In preparation for the NII, trialled linking datasets contained in Stat-Xplore to DGU, starting with Benefit Cap
- Developing a DWP wide data sharing inventory and are considering how to combine this with our NII/IAI. Now implemented and part of business as usual

Building Capability - Data Visualisation - DWP and the Government Statistical Service have created and rolled out a best practice on data visualisation training, which has been delivered to a large number of analysts in DWP

Recent Statistical Releases

(4.4.5) Stat-Xplore releases – the following statistics are now being released on a routine quarterly basis (Feb / May / Aug/ Nov)

- Housing Benefit with spare room subsidy
- Registration of NII Nos allocated to overseas nationals
- JSA/ESA Sanctions data
- Benefit Cap
- PIP
- **(new)** Universal Credit from July 2015

(4.4.5) Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – Work Capability Assessments (WCA) – Latest publication was released 17th September 2015 [see here](#)

This publication includes data on the outcome of appeals up to June 2015. DWP plan to completely update the ESA WCA quarterly statistics to cover the entire lifecycle process, which is due to be completed by the end of 2015

Work Programme Statistics – latest release 17.9.15 including data being available by data visualisation tools providing cohort data and time series data [see here](#)

Key Engagement Activity

- External data users via WSTB, DWP Open Data Group,
- Stat-Xplore registered users and Data.Gov.UK data users
- The Stats User Net community
- Information Asset Community in DWP

Forward Look

- API for Stat-Xplore – implementation timetable being drawn up
- Quarterly Updates via Stat-Xplore for Benefit Cap, Reduction of Spare Room Subsidy, PIP, Work Programme, Foreign Worker National Insurance registrations
- Interactive map to be developed for ‘migrant workers’ datasets
- Work Programme data to be released via Stat-Xplore by end of 2015
- Legacy benefits to be moved to Stat-Xplore by March 2016
- Data visualisation tool – rolled out to other releases, UC, PIP and Statistical Summaries
- Data Sharing Inventory – Evaluation report due end of October 15

Wider Activities – Summary of DWP’s activities since the last meeting

This section illustrates the wider activities DWP are undertaking to drive forward the transparency / open data agenda including the growth review measures, Universal Credit, Fit Note data outlined in the Autumn Statement 2011. It includes progress on DWP’s data sharing activities and continuing support to the Admin Data Task Force (ADTF) for wider welfare provision

Growth Review Measures

(5.1.1) Universal Credit (UC) – UC statistics being issued on a monthly basis, includes breakdowns of those ‘in employment’ or ‘unemployed’ From July 15 data is available by Stat-Xplore.as well as interactive maps to show caseloads and starters at Jobcentre Plus level

UC continues to be rolled out across Jobcentres – As at 21.9.15 there are 24 more Jobcentres rolled out delivering UC. Statistics show at 13.8.15 there are 110,000 people claiming UC with an average of 5,656 claims made in the previous 4 week period

(5.2.1) Fit Note data

Funding has been secured to take this forward, for set up and running costs. The fit note data will be gathered and produced by Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). Data will include the number of fit notes issued, diagnosis (high level), gender, whether they are fit for work, sick absence durations

Early indications are data should start being available early in the new year

(5.3.1 & 5.3.2) Linking welfare datasets / Opening up DWP data for wider public policy making

– DWP are working with charities to explore a proof of concept for a Benefit and Employment Analytical Service (data lab). Will help DWP and charities understand what works at improving peoples lives relating to benefits and employment.

Data Sharing Activities (details in section 5 of refreshed Open Data Strategy)

Warm Home Discount Scheme working with DECC – In the fifth year of this scheme (2015-16) the number of energy suppliers we are working with for data matching has increased to 11 (started with the big 6) Data matching has identified 1.3 million customers automatically entitled to a rebate.

DWP data matches benefit eligibility for the Affordable Warmth component of the ECO scheme and more than 400,000 vulnerable households have received assistance with our help since 2013.

Electoral Registration Transformation Programme (ERTP) –DWP has now successfully processed over 10 million records for the Individual Electoral Registration process, with a daily live running cost of less than 1p per record and verification rate of 93.6%. DWP aim to return the data match results to IER within 6 hours

External Data Sharing Advice Centre (EDSAC) – since it’s launch in 2014 it has dealt with 200 requests from OGD’s and external bodies including the ADRN.

Key Engagement Activity

- DWP’s analytical community
- Across Government including HMRC, DECC, DEFRA, CO, Government Digital Service, Foreign & Commonwealth Office Services
- Energy Suppliers
- HSCIC
- Admin Data Research Network

Forward Look

- WHDS – working with DECC on plans to extend data share to a wider range of households vulnerable to fuel poverty. Announcements will be in November 15 spending review
- UC continues being rolled out nationally
- ERTP - DWP is working with CO to improve IER further through the use of several pilots to account for different scenarios, nationality, 14/15 year olds, votes for life
- Fit Note data starting to be published early in the New Year

Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) update at October 2015

Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE continues to demonstrate open data compliance by publishing guidance; news and statistical information on our website. These include:-

- HSE and HMRC working together for you - growing your business – a live webinar delivered jointly by the Health and Safety Executive and HMRC. Find answers to typical questions for growing businesses on health and safety and taking on new employees
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/events/webinar.htm>
- Major Hazard Safety Performance Indicators in Great Britain's Onshore Gas and Pipelines Industry – Annual Report 2013/14
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pipelines/annual-report13-14.pdf> This report presents a broad range of safety performance indicators (SPIs) from across Great Britain's gas transmission, distribution and other hazardous pipelines sectors.
- Annual Offshore Safety Statistics and Regulatory Activity Annual Report 2014/15) - this annual report provides details of offshore accidents, dangerous occurrences and ill health reported to HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and HSE's regulatory activity - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/statistics/hsr1415.pdf>

HSE Information Asset Inventory:-

- We have reviewed and updated the IA Inventory and work is progressing to develop a strategy for HSE to prioritise and publish its remaining unpublished datasets. Workshops are currently being held with IAOs across the organisation to develop a common framework for decision making.

The Pensions Regulator (TPR)

- We continue to review our publication scheme to ensure we meet best practice
- We continue to review all data sets (as part of the regular review of the information asset register) to establish if there are any that can be published: most datasets include restricted information under the Pensions Act 2004 and therefore cannot be made public but limited disclosure of information which does not include restricted information and/or personal data under DPA will be published.
- Proactively publishing FOI responses on recently released pages on website
- Ensuring that items of public interest (ie. Subject of FOI requests) are articulated to the business and they are encouraged to include in external publications.
- Promoting TPR's approach to being as transparent as possible through training and regular communications from the business.