Public Sector Transparency Board Meeting
15th January 2015,
Room 215, 70 Whitehall

Transparency Board Members:	
Francis Maude **Minister for the Cabinet Office**	**Steve Thomas** **Experian**
Carol Tullo **Director, Information Policy and Services, The National Archives**	**Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee** **Open Data Institute**
Heather Savory **Open Data User Group**	**Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt** **Open Data Institute**
Dr Rufus Pollock **Open Knowledge Foundation**	**Andrew Stott** **Transparency and Digital Engagement Advisor**
Harvey Lewis **Deloitte**	**Professor David Rhind** **Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information**

Officials:	
Ceri Smith **Director, Public Data Group**	**Claudia Arney** **Chair, Public Data Group**
Rob Molan **Head of Knowledge and Information Management at Department for Work and Pensions**	**John Sheridan** **Head of Legislation Services, The National Archives**
Paul Maltby **Director of Open Data and Government Innovation, Cabinet Office**	**Ollie Buckley** **Deputy Director, Transparency Team, Cabinet Office**

Kitty von Bertele Transparency Team, Cabinet Office	Antonio Acuna Transparency Team, Cabinet Office

Apologies:	
Simon Hughes MP Minister of State, Justice	Ed Vaizey MP Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy
Sir Mark Walport Government Chief Scientific Advisor	Dame Fiona Caldicott Chair of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
Liam Maxwell Government Digital Service	Mike Bracken Government Digital Service
Stephan Shakespeare YouGov	Rufus Pollock Open Knowledge Foundation
Bill Roberts SWIRRL	

Welcome

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Chair) welcomed back the Public Sector Transparency Board (PSTB). Apologies from absent members were noted.

Update from Transparency Team

Ollie Buckley, Deputy Director of the Cabinet Office Transparency Team highlighted the main areas of focus for the Transparency Team:

Ollie updated the Board on the second iteration of the National Information Infrastructure (NII), which will be published in beta form in March with data from three exemplar departments.

The Transparency Team continues its engagement with local government and using open data to provide better and more efficient public services. There are series of local open data events over the next few months culminating in a Whitehall based workshop and networking event. The Whitehall event will involve local government leaders and open data practitioners as well as members of the PSTB and ODUG.

The Team continues its work to improve the publication of spend data. There have been discussions with Howard Orme, Director General (Finance and Commercial) at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to deliver an exemplar process of enriched spend data. Work is ongoing to improve the publication of data from outsourced public data providers.

The National Action Plan (NAP) will go to consultation shortly. There will be a planning session with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and a number of nominated countries.

Update from John Sheridan, Head of Legislation Services, The National Archives

John updated board members that The National Archives are creating a list of all legislation as a new core reference dataset. This seeks to remedy the fact that there is no comprehensive, or open, dataset of all legislation enacted in the UK.

The National Archives have been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as part of the 'Big Data for Law' project to open up more legislation data for use. The National Archives have been applying 'big data' technologies to legislation, counting citations and adding levels of modularity to the statute book for the first time.

The Chair commented that the work being conducted by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel has useful overlap in terms of objectives and technology.

Update from Ceri Smith, Director, Public Data Group

Ceri updated the Board on the 'Open Data package' that had been submitted to Members in advance:

- There will be an alpha version of OS Streetview Plus available at the end of March.
- In response to user feedback, OS have refined and updated the mapping layers of this product.
- OS will also be releasing a new gazetteer dataset with an increased level of precision on the existing offer and a new open generalised river network aligned to other open data products.
- Work is ongoing to change Ordnance Survey's licensing terms, moving to an Open Government License (OGL) for their open data products and a new presumption to publish that will mean that the vast majority of public sector data

sets will be able to be quickly and easily released as open data. This is a positive step that will remove frictional costs.

- OS are creating a permanent innovation hub in London to support their geovation work.
- OS requested assistance to better make the case for the economic benefits of further open data release.
- OS continue to generate alternative sources of income that will afford the release of more open data.

Ceri confirmed that OS data will remain as Crown copyright after they vest as a GovCo. Ceri confirmed that the OS board cannot make decisions on the ownership of OS data. This will require Crown authority.

Comments from the board included:

- Members welcomed the Open Data package but expressed disappointment that a number of other OS products were not being made openly available.
- It is important to define what the presumption to publish means in practice and what OS data will continue to be restricted.
- It should be made explicit what OS products can be made open and the impact of their release.
- The Open Data Institute could be usefully involved in the Innovation Hub.
- It is important to consider the business model for the trading funds, the most beneficial choice of licensing terms and the nature of their service-generated expenditure.

Update from Claudia Arney, Chair, Public Data Group

Claudia updated the board on the open data work of the other trading funds including the Met Office's high performance computer. Claudia explained that in addition to the data sets already released PDG were continuing to explore ways to increase awareness and usage of their data. PDG was shortly about to launch a survey exercise to better understand how their data was being used and what they could do to improve access.

A question was asked whether the Met Office had met their commitments to release data relating to the public weather service as per the Autumn Statement 2011 announcement. It was confirmed after the Board that Met Office had been providing this data through their DataPoint service since 2012.

The work of Companies House was well received by the board, in particular how it is helping to connect spend and contracts reporting.

Update from Rob Molan, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Rob Molan updated the board on a number of open data projects at DWP.

DWP are now publishing aggregate data routinely for wider reuse via a new on-line tabulation tool called Stat-Xplore. It contains record level data that gives users significant flexibility to create their own analyses and the tool aggregates the outputs to prevent any disclosure of personal information. It now has over 2600 registered users.

Stat-Xplore is being used to make available key welfare reform datasets including housing benefit, registration of National Insurance Numbers to overseas nationals, benefit sanctions, Personal Independence Payments and benefits cap data. Universal Credit data is being published monthly as official statistics and will be included in Stat-Xplore later this year.

DWP are supporting the Office of National Statistics to deliver the Electoral Reform Programme by matching DWP records with electoral registers to streamline individual electoral registration

DWP are collaborating with the NHS Health and Social Care Information System to extract and publish aggregate electronic fit note data from English GP practices to highlight geographical variations.

Comments from the board included:

The board welcomed the open data work of DWP. The board requested that DWP incorporate an API in to their Stat-Xplore product.

Update from Heather Savory, Chair of the Open Data User Group (ODUG)

Heather Savory updated the board on ODUG's National Information Infrastructure (NII) paper.

- The paper will be published in the next couple of weeks.
- It is an accessible document, suitable for all to read, that strategically looks at our key national data.

- The paper is divided into three main sections; why the NII is important, what the proposed NII architecture looks like and how public sector data holders can tackle the challenges of structuring their data for inclusion in the NII.
- The NII posits an underlying platform of core reference data (universal data to connect between datasets), through subject data (identifiers applicable to multiple datasets but not all) to thematic data (data to describe services such as health, transport and education).

Ollie Buckley welcomed ODUG's NII paper. Ollie explained that the Cabinet Office National Information Infrastructure paper will be published in March.

Comments from the board included:

Members welcomed the ODUG NII paper and felt it was complementary to the Cabinet Office facilitated NII.

Any other business:

Harvey Lewis updated the board on the Snacks and Sips event being held at TechUK 27th January. The event is being organised by Harvey and members of the Cabinet Office Transparency Team. The event promotes engagement between private sector data leaders and data champions from the public sector.

The Chair thanked Harvey for the update.

Nigel Shadbolt updated the board on the alpha launch of Open Addresses. Open Addresses seeks to create an open address list for the UK.

The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked members for their attendance. The next meeting is March 24th 2015, 1 Horse Guards Road.