

# Department for Work and Pensions – Transparency / Open Data

## Welfare Sector Transparency Board – Progress Report

Date: 29 June 2017

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 it's 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) There are now 7024 registered users on Stat-Xplore (though there is a guest user option). As part of listening to feedback from registered users, we successfully completed an enhanced Stat-Xplore annual upgrade in December 2016. Stat-Xplore now includes an improved registration page, a user tour, map view option and mathematical derivations function.

In April 2016, Stat-Xplore was re-hosted onto a new server which, in addition to the back end upgrade in December, has contributed to improvements in both download times and the API functionality.

(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 continues to roll-out and is on track to being completed in June 2018.

The full Universal Credit service transition schedule for 2017 is published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>

DWP has also produced an interactive Data Visualisation tool which enables the public to see which offices have rolled-out to Full Service: <http://dwp-stats.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=1713828f61dc4c01a98eb9df1dcc5ab9>

DWP's Statistical publication templates were runner-up in Government Statistical Service Presentation and Dissemination Committee (GSS PDC) Awards, for helping make our information more accessible to all citizens.

### Most popular DWP datasets on data.gov.uk (DGU) overall to the end of June 2017

- Organogram and staff pay data
- JSA claimants by ethnicity
- Households Below Average Income
- Flexible Support Fund
- JSA monthly claimant count

### And in June 2017 itself:

- Tell Us Once
- Resource Management System
- NI Contributions and Qualifying Years
- Organogram and staff pay data
- Customer Information System
- Flexible Support Fund

No new requests have been allocated to DWP on DGU.

### Key engagement activity

- DWP's External Data Sharing Advice Centre – continued engagement with OGDs to explore options for cross government data sharing
- Stat-Xplore user survey – we contacted internal (DWP) users in February 2017 to gather feedback on the December 2016 upgrades

### Forward Look

- Continue to update Stat-Xplore, using feedback from registered users to make significant user and performance enhancements
- Universal Credit Digital service – will continue to expand
- Contribute as part of wider consultation group to the Digital Economy Act 2017 Codes of Practice
- Consider use of Stat-X User Logs to decide which publications to focus on

## 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 reporting of statistics.

### Achievements / Work completed since the last meeting

**(4.1.13) Universal Credit Households Statistics** – are now being released via Stat-Xplore from March 2017 on a six-monthly basis.

**(4.4.5) Decommissioning of the tabulation tool** – The process of moving legacy benefits off the tabulation tool and on to Stat-Xplore was completed in March 2017, and the tabulation tool was decommissioned. Some information is available via NOMIS until it is migrated onto Stat-Xplore.

**Stat-Xplore Upgrade**, including an upgrade to the back end system, general appearance, enhanced registration page, user tour and [derivations](#) plus:

**(4.4.4) Improvements to the Stat-Xplore API** – the API works much more efficiently; it also caches new requests to make the future retrieval of the same data much quicker

**(4.4.2) Stat-Xplore mapping** – a new feature which allows users to view results from geographical fields inside an interactive map

**Interactive data visualisations** – Work on disseminating statistics via interactive web based visualisations has continued, resulting in publication of interactive maps for UC (see page 2 above) and PIP  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics>.

### Examples of Recent Statistical Releases

**(4.4.5) New Stat-Xplore releases** – the following statistics are now also being released:

- Universal Credit Households from March 2017 (bi-annual)
- AA, DLA, CA, SP from February 2017; ESA from April 2017; IS/UC Sanctions from May 2017 (quarterly).

**(4.4.5) Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – Work Capability Assessments (WCA)** – Latest publication was released 9th March 2017 see [here](#). This publication includes data on the outcomes of WCA for ESA claims made before the end of June 2016, assessments which were completed up to end of September 2016 and appeal outcomes for ESA claims which started up to December 2015. Statistics on mandatory reconsideration registrations, outcomes & clearance times to Jan 2017 and more detailed cohort information.

### Key Engagement Activity

- External data users via WSTB & Open Data Group
- Stat-Xplore registered users and Data.Gov.UK data users
- The Stats User Net community
- Information Asset Community in DWP
- Cross Government Data Publishing Community
- Continued peer reviews and assistance for DWP colleagues who use our Statistical Release templates and publications

### Forward Look

- Quarterly Updates via Stat-Xplore for Benefit Cap, Reduction of Spare Room Subsidy, PIP, Foreign Worker National Insurance registrations
- Interactive map to be developed for ‘migrant workers’ datasets

## 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 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)** – The Department updated its release strategy in February 2016 stating its intention to release additional breakdowns as quality assurance of data from the source systems progresses during 2016.

**Universal Credit is now available in all Jobcentre Plus offices to single claimants** – It is being expanded across the country to include all claimant types via the full service. Statistics show at 11.06.17 there are **530,000** people claiming UC with an average of **11,000** claims per week made in the previous 4 week period.

### Digital Economy Act 2017

DWP was actively involved in development of data sharing clauses in the Digital Economy Bill which received Royal Assent on 27 April. [See here](#). The Act includes measures to allow greater data sharing for research purposes as recommended in 2012 by the Administrative Data Taskforce. DWP is now involved in development of the Codes of Practice which must be produced and agreed before the Act can be implemented.

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

#### Warm Home Discount Scheme (WHDS) working with BEIS:

Data matching has identified 1.4 million pensioner households automatically entitled to a rebate, with a future 76,000 potentially eligible when contacted, amounting to £196 million being paid in rebates for 2015/16. DWP also data matches benefit eligibility for the Affordable Warmth component of the ECO scheme; more than 700,000 vulnerable households have received assistance with our help since 2013.

#### Electoral Registration Transformation Programme (ERTP):

DWP has continued to successfully process records for the Individual Electoral Registration process, including the provision of an enhanced live service for the period 08 May to 22 May 2017 (final date for voter applications for the General Election on 08 June), processing in excess of 2,000,000 voter applications whilst reducing turnaround time.

**External Data Sharing Advice Centre (EDSAC):** Since its launch in 2014 it has dealt with 289 requests from OGD’s and external bodies including the ADRN. Currently supporting requests on:

- **National Health Service (NHS): Entitlement to health benefits:** new powers allow data sharing between DWP and NHS health care providers, allowing ‘real time’ checks to be done to validate entitlement to health benefits for customers in receipt of specified DWP benefits.
- **DfE: Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)** – EYPP is key to the early years improvement programme, providing additional funding for early years settings to improve the education provided for disadvantaged children aged 3 & 4 years. The checking of children’s eligibility against the criteria is essential for the successful delivery of this scheme.

### Key Engagement Activity

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

### Forward Look

**WHDS** – DWP are working with BEIS on plans to extend data sharing to an even wider range of households who are vulnerable to fuel poverty for Year 6 2016/17 of the scheme.

**EDSAC** – Work is ongoing with Water Company support/rebate schemes; N.Ireland Office move to digital electoral registration; Kings College evaluation of military service impact on post service employment; DfE proposals for additional targeted Disability Access Funding to support childcare providers make reasonable adjustments for disabled children.

**Proof of Concept for Benefit and Employment Analytical Service** - Data has been received for the first of these and data processing within DWP has begun.

## Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) update at June 2017

### Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE is continuing to regularly publish guidance, news and performance/statistical information on our website. Since our last update we have published the Hydrocarbon release dataset and the Asbestos License holder database on HSE's website. Plans to publish other datasets have been delayed as we are in the process of replacing our central case management system which will incorporate a number of our datasets. This work has commenced with a 2 year rolling programme of change anticipated.

We are also embarking on a significant business transformation programme in information management which will include our obligations under the open data strategy and working with our IAO's to review existing policies and procedures. This work will also be instrumental for our preparations for GDPR implementation in May 2018.

### The Pensions Regulator (TPR)

- We continually review our publication scheme to ensure we meet best practice;
- We continually review all data sets (as part of our 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 proactively published;
- We proactively publish FOI responses on the 'recently released information' pages on our website – typically this is done monthly or more frequently as required;
- Through regular internal updates we ensure that items of public interest are articulated to the business and, if relevant, included in external publications;
- We promote TPR's approach to being as transparent as possible through training and regular communications from the business. This approach is also highlighted to all new starters at the point of their induction.
- We proactively publish information whenever possible. The past year has seen the publication of two section 72 notices, the continued publication of section 89 reports and a much more transparent approach to enforcement and regulation;
- In line with updates made to the Equalities Act we are anticipating publishing a more comprehensive set of diversity data;
- We are also looking at publishing quarterly complaints statistics;
- When the General Data Protection Regulation comes into effect in May 2018 we'll be publishing information relating to our compliance as appropriate.