

DfT Transport Sector Transparency Board

Terms of Reference and Membership

Reporting to:	Simon Burns MP
Chaired by:	Steve Gooding, DfT DG Domestic
Permanent Members:	Christopher Muttukumaru, DfT General Counsel Nick Illsley, DfT Transport Direct Helen Morris, DfT Agency Liaison Tim Stamp, DfT Statistics Jessie Owen, DfT KIM Hannah John, DfT KIM David Coker, DfT Privacy Hazel Lee, Cabinet Office Andrew Stott, PSTB Jonathan Raper, Open Data Community Miles Gibson, No.10
Guest Members:	Transport industry and LA representatives (local transport, roads, air etc) Data users DfT modal representatives

Aim

To be the focal point for the Transparency agenda in the transport sector and to act as an effective advisory and challenge body to ensure that transparency principles are incorporated into the business as usual processes of the Department. To achieve the benefits of transparency for end-users of public services, for public sector professionals and for businesses. To assist the Department and its delivery partners to achieve their wider objectives. To enable growth creation through the release of open transport data and to facilitate exciting new user-focused services and applications.

Scope

The Board will steer policy and cultural change within the central Department and its Executive Agencies, and advise and influence as far as possible the Department's delivery partners and private sector relationships. This will where possible encompass Great Britain and Northern Ireland but will respect the views and policies of the Devolved Administrations.

Responsibilities

- Ensure that DfT's existing public commitments on transparency in the Business Plan and PM's letter are delivered and evaluate wider Business Plan objectives for further transparency deliverables

- Take a lead role in assessing and making recommendations on any further data releases and on the scope of data and services that should be included within future DfT Business Plans
- Lead by example and seek to encourage and influence delivery partners in the transport industry to apply transparency principles in their delivery of public services where possible, by helping them understand the benefits to their business of doing so, and managing the risks.
- Ensure appropriate data is published by both the central Department and where possible by delivery partners, to enable comparative performance, efficiency and value for money of public services, to enable taxpayers to make informed choices
- Assess the effectiveness of our open data commitments and to look at issues such as the balance between free and charged for data services, appropriate charging and licensing regimes and the affordability of new commitments
- Provide an open and balanced forum where Government, public bodies and public service data suppliers and the wider data user community can work together to embed Transparency throughout the transport sector
- Feed into and participate in wider cross-Government debate and policy development in this area, particularly in facilitating a better understanding of transport sector relationships and funding complexity, including coordinating the Department's response to the Open Data consultation
- Ensure all activities in this area are consistent with Better Regulation principles and reducing burdens on individuals and businesses, including acting as an effective gateway process to examine the Department's current and future data collection and holding activities both internally and its demands on delivery partners.

Approach

The Sector Board will, over the coming months, examine areas of the transport industry in turn, assessing the issues and developing an action plan on the way forward. The Board will work with data suppliers to identify any blockers or issues that preclude sharing their data and data users to understand the demand side for transport data.

The Board will consider the Transparency agenda under four broad headings:

- The effect on the public purse
- The imposition of any additional costs and burdens on the wider transport industry including operators and local government
- The likely impact on end-users of transport services
- The potential for the development on new, innovative user-facing services and the generation of growth across UK plc

The already established Transparency Working Group will take forward some of the actions agreed by the Sector Board and the Chair of the TWG will report progress to the Chair of the Sector Board.

The Sector Board will report progress regularly to the Department's Executive Committee/Board and Ministers and the Public Sector Transparency Board.

Success measures

- Meeting the transparency commitments already made within the proposed timescales
- Identifying new opportunities and data sets that can form part of this agenda, within the Dept and its delivery partners
- Championing the adoption of Transparency and Openness across DfT and the wider transport sector
- Identifying the key datasets that would be useful to the user community and the benefits that will accrue to real end-users of the transport network
- Balancing opportunity, cost, burdens and innovation in a manner that meets the wider Government objectives of deficit reduction, growth and localism