

# The Transparency Agenda and Sector Boards

Tax Transparency Sector Board, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012

**Ed Parkes, Transparency Team, Cabinet  
Office**

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# TRANSPARENCY AGENDA

# The Coalition Government Transparency agenda has matured in a number of ways, delivering more than the initial commitments in the Coalition agreement and elaborating the benefits of Open Data and Transparency

- The initial motivations for Transparency commitments were focused on **accountability** with the aim to make the UK one of the most Transparent Governments
  - Highest paid Civil Servant Salaries
  - COINS database
  - Central Government Spending etc.
- With the launch of the Open Data Consultation in Summer 2011, and brought to fruition in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, the agenda has developed a clearer narrative linked to **economic growth**.
  - Weather data
  - Real time strategic Road Network data
  - Real time train timetable information etc.
- A focus on the importance of **core reference data** (such as maps) has resulted in a number of data rich organisations being brought together in the Public Data Group and releasing some of the largest amounts of this data.
  - This has also resulted in Departmental leadership of the Open Data agenda being taken on by BIS
- From being one of the founding members of the Open Government Partnership, the UK is now the co-chair, taking on the **global leadership** at a crucial time for the expanding partnership.

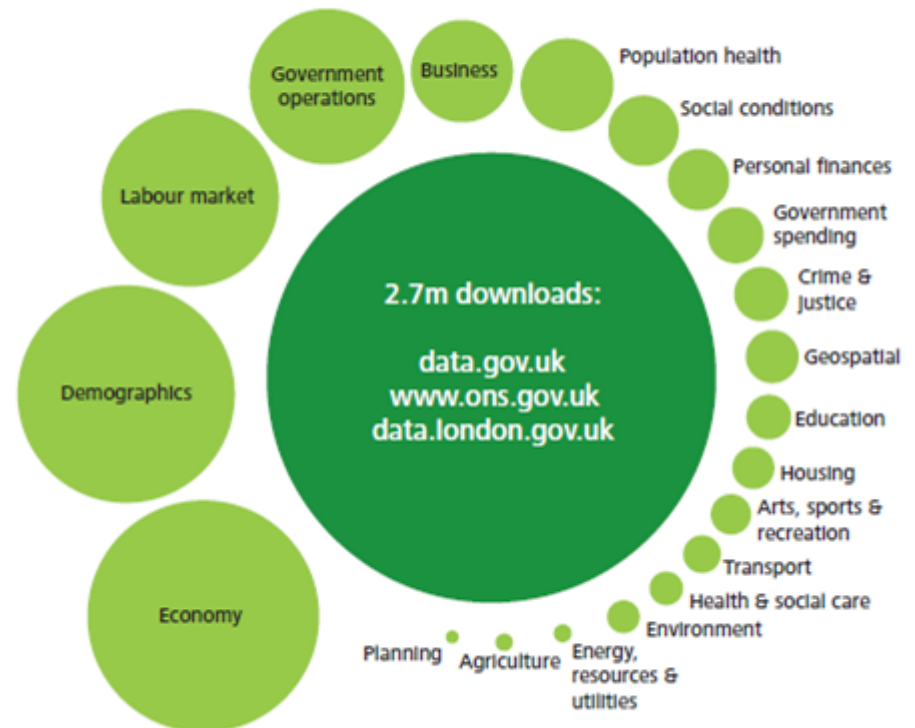
Current programme is highlighted as one of the key successes of the Coalition, although there are expectations for further delivery

# Over the period the number of datasets available has increased significantly and, since the latest refresh of Data.gov.uk, visitor numbers have also increased

- DGU is the UK's largest repository of 'Open Data'
  - DGU is a well recognised "brand" amongst the stakeholder community and the shop window for the Transparency agenda
  - Includes specific focus on Geographic Data (through UK Location Programme presence) and Linked Data support
  - Number of complex datasets including large weather data sets and links to real time transport information.
- Since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 Data.gov.uk had 1.683,069 unique visitors
  - Since upgrade of the site there has been a 75% increase in new visitors

Figure 4. What types of open government data are in demand?

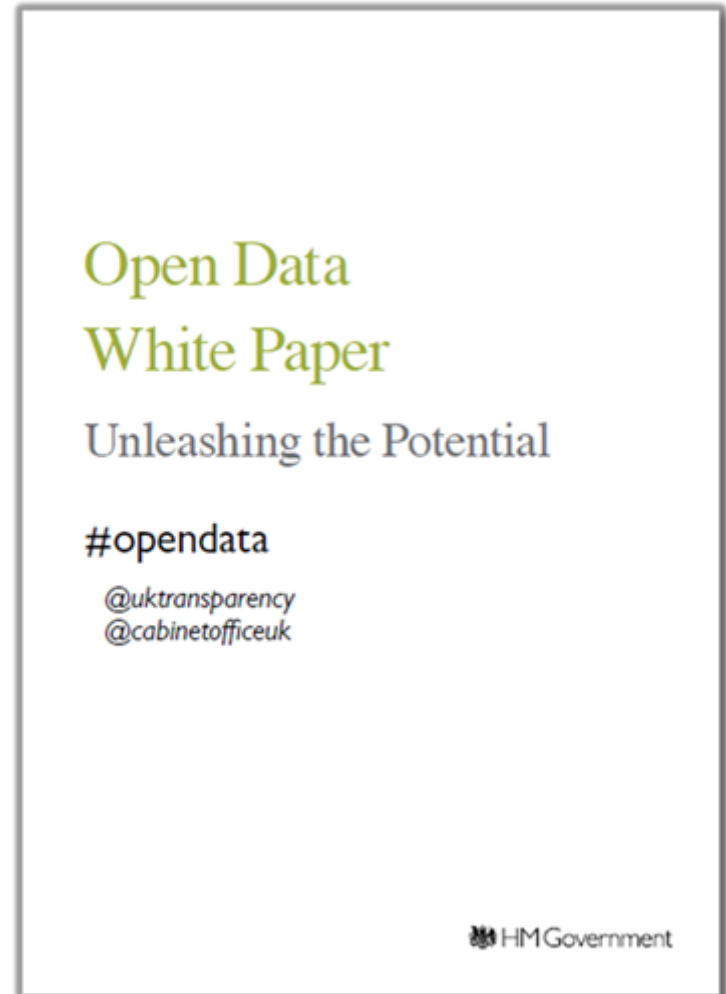
The current demand for open government data was measured by counting the number of download 'clicks' on data.gov.uk, www.ons.gov.uk and data.london.gov.uk. When compared with the central bubble in the diagram, the area of each surrounding bubble describes the number of downloads of datasets of that type.<sup>1</sup>



Source: data.gov.uk, www.ons.gov.uk, data.london.gov.uk, Deloitte LLP/ODI analysis

# The Open Data White Paper set an aspiration for Government “presumption to publish” and clear steps towards achieving this

- Launched in June 2012
- Narrative of White Paper focused on three main areas:
  - **Enhanced access** – ensuring there continued to be greater access to public data including through new Departmental Open Data Strategies
  - **Building trust** – ensuring there is public trust in the use of data through allowing open policy making and supporting privacy assessments
  - **Making smarter use of data** – highlighting that Government needs to ensure best use of data, including through data sharing
- Key commitments included:
  - Open Data Strategies and new TSBs
  - Crowd sourced wiki for section 45
  - Independent review of PSI



# Supply side, the Government is supporting users to identify which datasets they would like released and is also building the ecosystem to support new open data businesses

## Open Data User Group (ODUG)

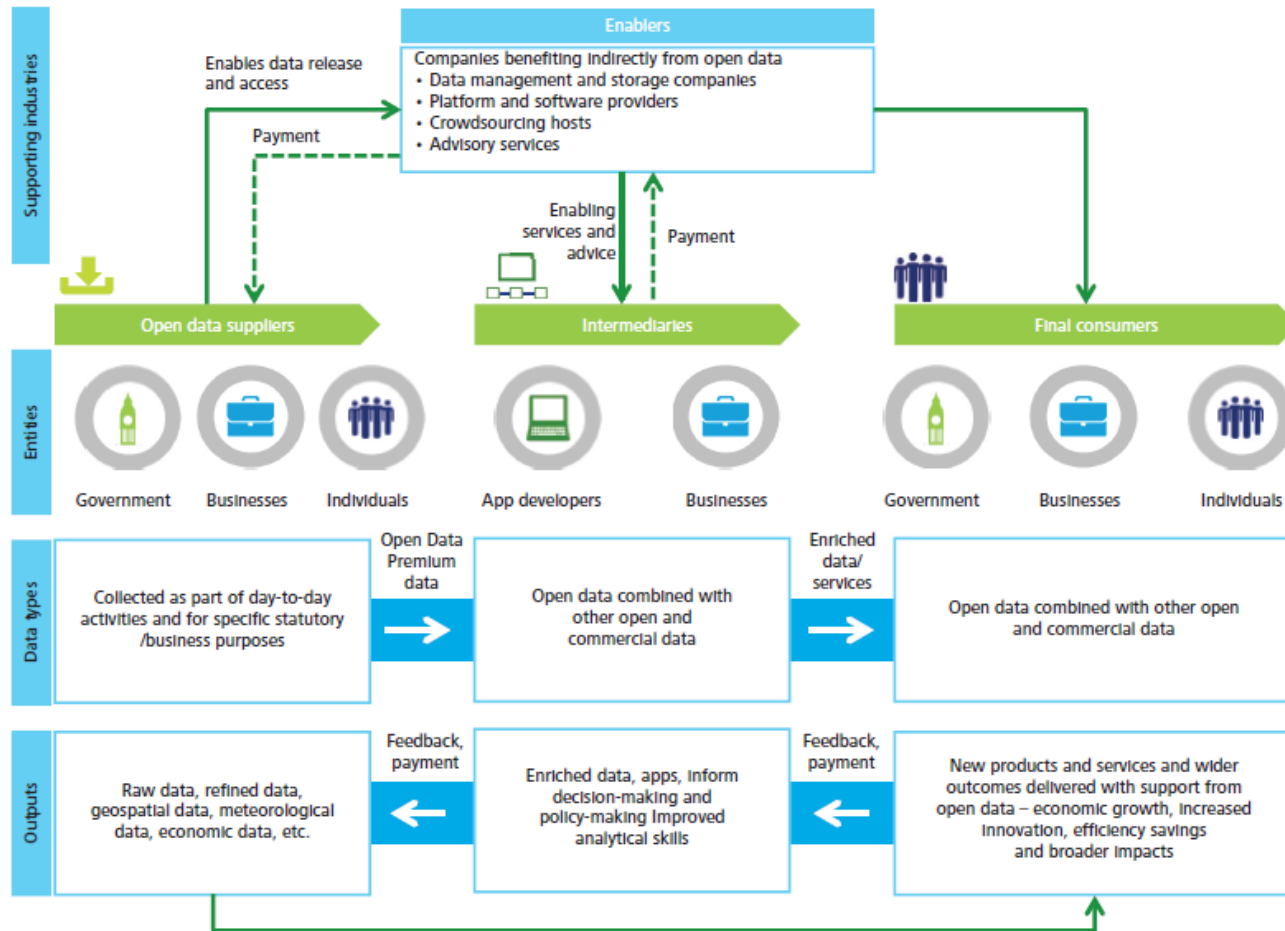
- ODUG will make recommendations on those data sets the community has identified as opportunities to release economic value
  - Represents data user/reuser community and enables developer engagement in both Open Data policy development and in holding Government to account.
  - Open Data User Group (ODUG) set up to advise Data Strategy Board (DSB) on public sector data that should be prioritised for release as open data, to the benefit of the UK.
- Heather Savory was appointed as Chair of the Open Data User Group.
  - Members have been appointed from a range of areas including SMEs, Technology, Academia etc.

## Open Data Institute (ODI)

- ODI will open its doors in Autumn with a focus on incubating and innovating through the exploitation of open data, working closely with departments and the private sector.
- There are four key work streams to the Open Data Institute:
  - Incubation and innovation in the private sector
  - Public Sector engagement and assistance
  - Training a new generation of Open Data Technologists
  - International engagement

# These interventions are beginning to develop an ecosystem of Open Data producers, intermediaries and end users

Figure 1. The emerging open data 'marketplace'



Source : Deloitte LLP/ODI

# Work has also been undertaken to develop a Right to Data and ensure Transparency is supported by existing access and re-use legislation however this has been difficult and has highlighted limits of agenda

## Freedom of Information

(access to information, inc. data)

- Amended FOIA (as per Coalition agreement) to make it easier for people to access & re-use datasets, **but we have embedded limitations.**
- Working on guidance to accompany this new section in FOIA:
  - Need to specify **licenses** – problematic given the disparate nature of charging for re-use in the UK
  - Need to make new **regulations** on charging for re-use
  - Overcome the implementation issue that the definition of datasets in the new legislation is **too narrow** for the purposes of the Presumption to Publish programme
  - Promoting transparency & open data as **complimentary** to FOIA, nudging the barriers

## Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations

(re-use of information, inc. data)

- The EU Directive is being revised to push Member States to free more data, but we do not have the evidence to support the EU & other MS.
- However, HMT and other departments are dependent on maintaining the charging regime set out in **Managing Public Money**
- Therefore we are working with TNA (who are leading negs) to ensure that any new position does not undermine Transparency agenda whilst ensuring HMT are content to support



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# SECTOR BOARDS

# Key challenge is to move from a niche, but high profile, agenda to embedding the use of Open Data and Transparency across the public sector, and wider economy

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- Challenge is to ensure same pace of activity is kept up but ultimate win is for Departments to incorporate agenda into their day-to-day priorities.
  - A governance and delivery structure across government has been developed which incorporates both user insight and individual Department accountability and shows promise.
- The **Public Sector Transparency Board** is the high profile advisory group (inc. Tim Berners-Lee), which informs and challenge Government's Transparency agenda.
  - Chaired by Minister for the Cabinet Office
  - Privacy appointee to the Transparency Board and Privacy appointees to Sector Panels
- **Transparency Sector Boards** were set up to replicate model on a Departmental basis and to ensure that outside insight drove specific transparency commitments
  - Chaired by, and/or, reporting to Ministers. Members include internal and external representation.
  - Privacy expert soon to be appointed to every Board
  - So far there are Transparency Sector Boards for Health and Social Care, Welfare, Social Mobility, Transport, Local Public Data Panel, Location Council, Criminal Justice
  - There will a number starting Research Transparency Sector Panel, Tax (starting Autumn 2012) and International (to be announced November 2012)

## In addition a number of arrangements have been made to drive the delivery of Transparency at a cross-departmental and official level

- The Transparency Team run a number of cross-departmental officials groups to embed delivery and share best practise
  - **Senior Officials Group** - Communication channel to inform/involve Transparency Champions across Whitehall and devolved administrations on Open Data policy development
  - **Transparency Practitioners' Group** - Working group set up for Transparency to communicate information to data publishers and enable them to share feedback and best practice across Whitehall.
  - **ALBs Transparency Network** - Forum for sharing information and getting feedback from this important (often data rich) stakeholder group.
- In addition, the **Data Strategy Board** (DSB) hosted in BIS has been set up to drive specific delivery of data from the Public Data Group (PDG) trading funds.
  - PDG includes Land Registry, Ordnance Survey, Companies House, Met Office.
- The DSB is chaired by Stephan Shakespeare and has members from business, including Experian and SMEs
  - Jointly reports to Francis Maude (CO) and Matthew Hancock (BIS)
- The DSB is supported by a Government Officials Forum and also by a number of customer groups advising on specific data contracts
  - Geographic Information Customer Group
  - Public Weather Service Customer Group
  - Open Data User Group

# Departments are also held to account through quarterly Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament and an annual public report

- Minister for the Cabinet Office will write a Quarterly Written Ministerial Statement regarding delivery against public data principles
  - First published on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012
- There will also be an annual public report, providing a more comprehensive review of the scale of dept. ambition and their delivery
- In addition, a small number of commitments monitored as part of the Growth Review Implementation by BIS/HMT.
  - These updates go to Growth Cabinet meetings and, with exception of Budget publications, are a internal only.

Department	PM Letter May 2010	PM Letter July 2011	Open Data Strategy commitments	Openness Scoring
BIS	Delayed	Delayed	On Track	55%
CO	Delayed	Delayed	On Track	49%
DCLG	Met	Met	On Track	5%
DECC	Serious Delay	Serious Delay	On Track	35%
DEFRA	Serious Delay	Serious Delay	Met	44%
DCMS	Delayed	Delayed	Met	60%
DIID	Met	Met	On Track	77%
DfE	Met	Met	Met	88%
DfT	Met	Met	Delayed	51%
DH	Met	Met	Met	40%
DWP	Met	Met	On Track	40%
FOO	Serious Delay	Unlikely to be met in full	On Track	60%
HMRC	Met	Met	On Track	18%
HMT	Serious Delay	Met	Met	95%
HO	Met	Met	Serious Delay	56%
MoD	Delayed	Met	Delayed	47%
MoJ	Met	Met	Delayed	66%

Key for Departmental Returns Table: Datasets release	
Met	All commitments have been met
On Track	All commitments are on schedule to be met by times specified
Delayed	Some (less than 20%) commitments are unlikely to be met within a month of the deadline
Serious Delay	More than 20% of the commitments are unlikely to be met within a month of the deadline, or some commitments are unlikely to be met within one quarter of the deadline
Unlikely to be met in full	Some commitments are unlikely to be met at all

Calculation for openness scoring category
As defined in the Open Data White Paper and subject to online analytical tool on <a href="http://data.gov.uk">data.gov.uk</a>

# Tax Transparency Sector Board will oversee development of Transparency agenda in HMRC, including Open Data Strategy

- The primary purpose of the Tax Transparency Sector Board will be to:
  - Drive the Departmental transparency agenda and the release of HMRC information in line with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation
  - Inform and advise HMRC's Open Data Strategy, serving as a focal point to direct requests for data and improving the Department's understanding of the value and use of tax information to the broader benefit of the UK

## Challenges for the Tax Transparency Sector Board

### Governance

- Set in place appropriate Governance within the department
- Set up working relationship with Social Mobility Sector Board / other related groups

### Workplan

- Identifying a vision for Transparency in HMRC (including how to work with legal restraints)
- Develop further Open Data commitments in ODS and work with DGU
- Credibly take forward requests for data from outside stakeholder groups / consultation