Open Data Governance Board Meeting
Tuesday, 25 April 2017
Note of Meeting

Attendance: Emer Coleman (Chair), Dennis Jennings**,** Denis Parfenov, Sandra Collins, Cronan McNamara, Dietrich Rebholz, Sue Duke, Barry Lowry, Andrew O'Sullivan, Daithí Mac Síthigh

Apologies: Ashling Cunningham

Others: Fran Thompson, HSE, Eoin Darcy HSE, Dave Corley, Open Street Map Ireland

Secretariat: Evelyn O'Connor, Marian Beakey, Krystyna Pycinska-Taylor

A number of documents had been issued to the Board in advance of the meeting as follows:
- Note of meeting held on 1 February, 2017;
- Progress report;
- Draft Open Data Strategy 2017-2021 for observations.

In advance of the meeting commencing, Dennis Jennings advised the Board that he had an interest in a company that provided GDPR related products, and that this interest may give rise to potential conflicts of interest should GDPR matters be discussed. The Board agreed that should a potential conflict of interest arise he would be asked to leave the meeting.

The items on the agenda were discussed as set out below:

1. **Minutes of 1 February meeting.**
   The Minutes were taken as approved and it was noted that these have been published on the portal.

2. **Matters Arising from the last meeting**

   Progress Report
   The contents of the Progress Report circulated in advance of the meeting were taken as read. This included an example of progress being made across a number of public bodies in progressing the Open Data Initiative. These will be published on the portal.

   Engagement Fund
   An update on progress from the successful recipients was included in the Progress Report circulated.

   > **Action 1 (Secretariat)** Ensure note of meeting and progress report are published on the open data portal.

3. **Presentation by Dave Corley, Open Street Map Ireland**

   Dave Corley gave an overview of the Open Street Map project which is a free editable map being built by volunteers and released with an open content license. The project promotes new and interesting uses of this data and is supported by the Open Data Foundation - a 'not for profit' organisation.   In Ireland there are some 4,670 who have participated in editing Open Street Map Ireland (although 100 people account for nearly 90% of the data) with many community projects underway such as 'Townlands' project which maps some 65,000 townlands across the country. While welcoming the catalogue of data available on data.gov.ie Dave

outlined details of issues identified with some of the data on the portal such as quality and availability as well as some licencing issues which will be followed up on by the Open Data Team.

> **Action 2 (Secretariat)** Follow up with Dave Corley on issues raised in relation to data on data.gov.ie. (OSi, EPA, DCCAE in relation to Eircodes, etc.)

4. Presentation on HSE/Health Data

The availability of health data and the non-standardised approach to health data had been raised at the previous meeting. Fran Thompson, HSE had been invited to give a presentation to the Board on the availability of health open data.

He advised that the HSE has an Open Health Data policy in place and at present has 142 datasets available on the national portal as open data which includes NTPF data on hospital waiting lists. It was noted that health is currently the second most popular theme on data.gov.ie.

Fran outlined some of the challenges within the HSE such as lack of dedicated resources for open data and the sometimes disaggregated nature of HSE and corresponding datasets. Data protection issues are also a concern when deciding to publish data. Included in their next steps is the appointment of an Open Data Programme Manager and launch of a HSE Open Data portal which is a positive development.

Fran also advised that the National Health Identifier legislation had been passed but that it will still be a number of years before the programme will be fully operational. He also advised that it could be approximately 5-7 years from now to have real time information about Emergency Department (ED) waiting times accessible in open format as the real time data requires the full implementation of the ED solution. It was noted that this open data is currently available in Northern Ireland.

5. Any Other Business

Draft Open Data Strategy
It was noted that the draft Strategy must be submitted to the Secretary General, D/PER for his consideration and approval for onward submission to the Minister. The next step will then be circulation to government departments and for the Strategy to be submitted to Government for approval to publish it. It is proposed that there will be a short public consultation process prior to publication. It was noted that all responses to the consultation process will be published. Some further points raised by the Board were:
- The importance of open data being maintained (by public bodies) so that it can be dependable. This is of particular importance in the case of high value/high usage data.
- The need to build trust in relation to the collection of personal data. Data protection concerns at the point of collection of data is the issue and there is a need to build public awareness and trust when collecting personal data.
- Some specific text around actions in the draft Strategy on citizen engagement (Denis Parfenov) and maintenance of data (Daithi MacSithigh) to be agreed with the Secretariat.

> **Action 6 (Secretariat)**
> Arrange for Minister's approval for draft Strategy to be submitted to Government.
> Coordinate public consultation process.
> Secretariat to agrees some specific wording on actions in the Strategy with Denis Parfenov and Daithi Mac Sithigh

5.   **AOB**

a. Next meeting
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 5th July.

b. Copyright legislation
It was noted that a public consultation on digital deposits in the context of copyright legislation has been launched by the Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Sandra Collins will forward on the link to the Board for wider circulation. The closing date for receipt of submissions is Thursday 11th May 2017.

c. Anonymisation
It was agreed that discussion/presentation on anoymisation would be deferred until the next meeting

> **Action 7** Sandra Collins to circulate link to consultation of digital deposits

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Open Data Unit
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
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