

**Meeting 6
City Hall, London****29 July 2010
10:30 – 15:30****Summary of members services updates and progress****ONS Census / WDP**

The current WDP programme is working towards a conclusion in May 2011 when it aims to deliver a new website to make the web the primary means of disseminating all ONS outputs. The May 2011 website will include a data explorer for interrogating multi-dimensional datasets and the API should be available to external users slightly earlier in 2011.

The first WDP functional release (FR1) was successfully deployed and tested in May. This involved a first cut API with limited functionality to demonstrate the end to end publishing process. Three test datasets populated with dummy data were made available through the API in a test environment. As part of the testing they were successfully accessed by NOMIS, who built a rudimentary web interface to execute queries and return and display the responses to 3 simple use cases.

Recent work has clarified differences in requirements between Census and WDP in terms of functionality and timing and availability of future iterations for the API for external testing.

A plan has been established to redeploy a test version of the FR1 API in the autumn for access and testing by SASPAC and MIMAS. This will use 2001 data at a high geographical level, sourced from MIMAS, in multi dimensional datasets that model a subset of Eurostat 2011 cubes, possibly with between 8 and 12 dimensions.

Similar testing may be expanded to a wider audience later in the year.

WDP will then launch a fully featured publicly accessible API which will be used to drive the new ONS website later this year. The same Census test data will be available, possibly supplemented to include some lower level geography.

The new ONS website including a data explorer is planned for launch in spring next year. All data and audited information from the current websites will be migrated into the new structure but most will exploit new presentation options. Some content will be affected by discontinued links, etc.

A programme of work is planned to develop the strategy of how this will be managed in the future, and Census is working very closely with the Web Development Programme to establish if the requirements are the same.

EDINA

At the last meeting we reported on the demonstrator that EDINA had built around the OGC WFS and Table Joining Service specification to integrate geographies and area based statistics and on separate work that was under way to explore Linked Data in relation to the

NSPD. We have now made the former demonstrator available to a wider user base. With regard to Linked Data and the NSPD, in light of wider developments and a desire not to duplicate work by others within the UK, focus has shifted away from the NSPD in particular to a wider investigation of the potential uses of Linked Data across the services that EDINA provide.

NeSS

NeSS continues to make minor enhancements to the web service. From June 29th the NeSS home page has been revamped. All the key items are still available. But in common with many websites nowadays, banners have been used to provide users with an easier way of getting to the information they want. There are new colours which match accessibility standards.

The next phase of enhancements to NeSS will be launched on 12th October. Key changes will be a new and more powerful search engine, and new MSOA summaries. There will also be further changes to the home page with changes to the order of geographies on the 'statistics by area' links.

Between September and December 2010, NeSS will be undergoing major IM upgrades - Oracle 11g and moving from AIX to Linux. This is in preparation to move to a new Web Outhost supplier in the New Year.

For those of you currently using NDE 1.2, you'll need to change to NDE 2 before version 1.2 is 'switched off' on 1 October 2010. Full details on how to do this, plus lots more NDE information is available at

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do;jessionid=ac1f930b30d68b65b6068a6845f580a2f96d0449be04?m=0&s=1279529735406&enc=1&page=nde.htm&nsjs=true&nsck=true&nssvg=false&nswid=917>

SASPAC

SASPAC have incorporated the NDE2 service into their 'Web Services Wizard' and this has been released to members for feedback as version 9.25. The team are working with users to help specify exactly what services SASPAC should provide in 2011 and the most suitable licensing approach. SASPAC are also going through a procurement exercise to determine suitable suppliers that will deliver these services/tools.

ONS Geography

• Ordnance Survey (OS) OpenData

On the 1st April 2010, just after the last CWSWG meeting, OS released a set of "free" products (known as OpenData) with no restrictions on re-use which were available to download on their website. This suite of products included Boundary-Line and Code-Point Open which have had an impact on the release of some ONSG products.

Output Area (OA) boundaries - The 2001 Census OA boundaries was previously restricted to researchers and non-commercial users only due to OS owning IPR in the underlying boundaries. As a result of the Boundary-Line product being released for free, Output Areas are now available to all users including commercial under OS OpenData licence terms.

NSPD Open: a royalty free National Statistics Postcode Directory product - With the release of free postcodes and 1metre grid references in the CodePoint Open product, ONSG have created a new product; the "NSPD Open" a royalty free product containing postcodes allocated to geographies only. ONSG will continue to produce a chargeable NSPD which will contain PAF fields (and royalties passed to Royal Mail) under the new Royal Mail licensing charges.

- **Dissemination of ONSG products**

OA boundaries – Unfortunately, ONS are currently not in a position technically to provide downloadable boundaries to users. As a result, ONSG are currently in discussions with OS with regards to them hosting the Census OA boundaries on the OpenData website for users to directly download. Progress is being made and we hope to see them on their website in the next few weeks.

NSPD Online – ONSG are still looking into the feasibility of allowing users to access the NSPD data online via the website.

- **INSPIRE**

The Location Council have now signed off the approval of the metadata profile GEMINI2 as the minimum metadata profile for delivering INSPIRE. The Metadata Working Group are now finalising some minor amendments to GEMINI2 to ensure that it meets requirements.

ONS have now joined the thematic working group for the Statistical Units and Population Distribution – Demography Data Specifications. This work consists of defining what a 'statistical unit' is and agreeing a data model for INSPIRE delivery.

The INSPIRE Conference took place in Krakow at the end of June and provided updated information on the progress of legislation, Implementing Rules and Data Specifications as well as looking at opportunities for the use of the data.

With the information from these developments, ONSG are now drawing up a list of requirements for the delivery of INSPIRE. This will mainly consist of evaluating what changes need to be made to metadata to make it INSPIRE compliant and to look at options for data publication either through ONSG systems, the web development programme or external hosting.

- **Policy**

The draft Geography Policy for National Statistics has been submitted to the GSS Regional Geography Committee for approval. The policy document focuses on the following key areas:

- Geographic referencing
- Use of building blocks
- Standard Area Measurements
- Minimising the impact of boundary change on statistics
- Naming and Coding of UK Statistical geographies
- Presentation order for statistical outputs
- Urban and Rural classification.