

Meeting 6  
City Hall, London  
29 July 2010**Attendees:**

Chris Ashford (Chair) (ONS, Census)  
Richard M Smith (ONS)  
Justin Hayes (CDU)  
Rob Dymond (CDU)  
Alan Lewis (SASPAC)  
Brendan Davis (ONS, Census)  
Paul Richards (ONS IM)  
James Crone (EDINA)  
Gee-Mei Cheung (ONS, Geography)  
Callum Foster (ONS)  
Andrew Sansom (ONS, NeSS)  
Oliver Duke-Williams (DFN)  
D'arcy Harmer-Manning (OS OpenSpace)

**Apologies:**

Vincent Moynihan (ONS)  
Mark Ireland (NOMIS)  
Cathryn Mcburney (NISRA)  
Rachel Moreton (DCLG)  
Sinclair Sutherland (NOMIS)  
Ed Turnball (GROS)  
Rob Collins (GROS)  
Bill Oates (WAG)  
Richard Elliot (NISRA)

**1. Minutes of last meeting and actions arising**

No revisions were made to the Group Terms of Reference. These will be amended and circulated prior to the next meeting to reflect the addition of new members of the Group.

A prior action concerned the need for methods to ensure consistency in the development of codelists and classifications. This was reiterated, with further emphasis on the requirement to develop UK-wide consistency. The approach and procedures to maintaining UK consistency and managing any divergence was questioned, with discussion of the possible role of the UKCC Harmonization Committee.

**Action:** Chris Ashford to investigate and report on who is the principal authority leading on these issues, the role of the UKCC Harmonization Committee, their progress and considerations to date, and the public/private status of any associated documentation.

**2. Review / Q&A of pre-reported updates from web services**

A summary of pre-prepared updates from members is available to download as a pdf file at

[http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswswgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG\\_meeting\\_6\\_member\\_summary\\_29\\_07\\_10.pdf](http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswswgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG_meeting_6_member_summary_29_07_10.pdf)

### **3. Review of ONS API progress / plans**

An update of recent WDP progress covered the successful completion of FR01, including testing of the API by NOMIS, and planning for the imminent FR03. Future deliveries relating to FR03 and FR04 were outlined as high level milestones included in presentation slides available at

[http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswswgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG\\_meeting\\_6\\_wdp\\_slides.ppt](http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswswgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG_meeting_6_wdp_slides.ppt)

To supplement recent progress in aligning the functional requirements of Census Outputs with those of WDP, further work is needed to enhance the current census non-functional requirements (NFRs) for web based dissemination service. These are key elements needed to ensure that the service is capable of meeting the performance requirements of users, and servicing the demand for access, availability, and support.

**Action:** All members operating a website with intent to provide data services accessing the API are asked to provide Chris Ashford with indications of their requirements. This might be based on performance criteria of their own websites and/or other services they access or supply, for example response times, download times, acceptable downtime.

A brief discussion also covered potential options for user registration for API access. Any registration runs counter to the initiative for open and public ease of access to data, and might prove to be a disincentive to users. NeSS have recently removed the registration components of their NDE service, and consequently no longer have the full potential to monitor and manage service usage. Other options to provide similar intelligence to support key users, such as provision of service via access key, were discussed, and might be addressed in the future.

### **4. Open source applications, Licensing, and the Public Data Transparency Principles**

The 'Public data transparency board and public data principles' were introduced as an indication the direction that wider government is moving in relation to public data, and formed the basis for discussion.

<http://data.gov.uk/blog/new-public-sector-transparency-board-and-public-data-transparency-principles>

In broad discussion of the high level draft principles, the group expressed general agreement with the themes of the public data principles, whilst noting that a number of points pose challenging conflicts with other guidelines and best practice already in operation.

The draft principles include a directive to publish data early and correct later. As an example, this runs counter to established official statistics codes of practice, and the RG's directive to publish the correct data first time, and avoid the need for corrections.

Members may also find useful the 'Underlying data publication version 0.4' which was recently made available by the COI for (time limited, and now expired) public comment.

<http://coi.gov.uk/blogs/digigov/draft-guidance/tg135-underlying-data-publication/>

The requirement from July 2010 for government departments and agencies to ensure that any information published includes the underlying data in an open standardized format presents a number of challenges. The COI guidance provided attempts to help identify data that should be released and to ensure that the data is easy to work with using common tools.

## 5. OS OpenSpace (Presented by D'arcy Harmer-Manning)

Following a comprehensive background on the free to access OS OpenSpace API

<http://openspace.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/openspace/>

there followed discussion of the service, it's applications, the expanding developer community, and the potential for ONS to consider features of the service in the future web strategy.

The importance of support for this type of API service was stressed. OS have seen great success in fostering an online developer community that encourages peer-to-peer support to supplement conventional documentation and FAQ responses.

Members are encouraged to visit the OpenSpace forum at

<https://openspace.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/openspaceforum/index.jspa>

**Action:** Callum Foster and Paul Richards to consider and confirm how aspects of the OpenSpace service may figure into the development of the future ONS web strategy.

## 6. Next meeting

The next CWSWG meeting will be held in November at City Hall, London. Details will be added to the website and forwarded to group members during in October.