

**Meeting 7**  
**City Hall, London**  
**12 November 2010****Attendees:**

Chris Ashford (Chair) (ONS, Census)  
Richard M Smith (ONS)  
Justin Hayes (CDU)  
Rob Dymond-Green (CDU)  
Will Simpson (CDU)  
Alan Lewis (SASPAC)  
Brendan Davis (ONS, Census)  
Paul Richards (ONS IM)  
James Crone (EDINA)  
Callum Foster (ONS)  
Steven Alder (ONS)  
Andrew Sansom (ONS, NeSS)  
D'arcy Harmer-Manning (OS OpenSpace)  
Mark Ireland (NOMIS)  
Rob Collins (GROS)  
David Flanders (JISC)

**Apologies:**

Cathryn Mcburney (NISRA)  
Rachel Moreton (DCLG)  
Sinclair Sutherland (NOMIS)  
Ed Turnball (GROS)  
Bill Oates (WAG)  
Richard Elliot (NISRA)  
Gee-Mei Cheung (ONS,  
Geography)  
Oliver Duke-Williams (DFN)

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

Chris Ashford reported on the action from the last meeting querying UK consistency in Output and underlying codelists and classifications, and the associated role of the UKCC Harmonization Committee. Output and related issues are not yet the focus of the UKCC, but Chris reported on the recent 2 day meeting between the three Census offices to begin to address the UK consistency commitments given in the RGs statement. The meeting scoped a new programme of work within ONS which will be dedicated to ensuring underlying consistency in the outputs of the three offices, and in developing the platform for any UK-wide output.

**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/cswsgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG\\_meeting\\_6\\_member\\_summary\\_12\\_11\\_10.pdf](http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswsgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG_meeting_6_member_summary_12_11_10.pdf)

**3. ONS Census update – 6 (5 ½) months before Census day**

Chris Ashford presented slides detailing a 2010 timeline of progress against major milestones, challenges faced and successes delivered.

This is available at

[http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswsgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG\\_update\\_slides\\_12\\_11\\_10.pdf](http://cswwg.wikidot.com/local--files/cswsgm:meetings-and-events/CWSWG_update_slides_12_11_10.pdf)

#### **4. Update on the next stage of ONS API testing**

Recent API updates to support explorable datasets have focused primarily on aspects identified as "must" requirements following the NOMIS testing of FR1. The main dataset exploration enhancements are scheduled for FR4.

External deployment of the API for the next stage of FR3 testing is taking place on a new web hosting platform. This FR3 API is a slightly updated version from FR1, and will be available for testing by NOMIS, SASPAC and CDU in the second half of November through December. The test datasets use 2001 data in a multidimensional form, sourced from CDU, at a high geographical level, to model a subset of potential 2011 dataset structure.

In addition to new query testing and FR1 regression testing, the testing partners will each be developing test applications for use in senior management presentations.

#### **5. Discussion of API related Non-Functional Requirements (NFRs)**

This item addressed an unanswered action from previous meetings. Discussion was deferred to correspondence and follow up at the next meeting.

Accurately assessing and accounting for non-functional requirements is a key element to ensure that the API service is capable of meeting the performance requirements of users, and servicing the demand for access, availability, and support.

In preparation for discussion at the next meeting, 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.

#### **6. JISC devCSI developer community presentation & discussion**

David Flanders introduced the activities of the JISC devSCI developer community (<http://devcsi.ukoln.ac.uk>) and covered some of the background of the community and practical experiences and best practices to engage developers and promote and encourage

Amid discussion, initiatives covered included those such as the Rewired State National Hack the Government day event hosted by the Guardian. The event invites developers to join in, develop and demonstrate the possibilities that exist for public data that is open and accessible.

Questions were raised as to the extent to which ONS has so far concentrated on an API which suits current known institutional users in preference to the vast informal developer base, and how moving forward outreach to these groups may be improved. Discussion included how ONS might host its own hack days, collaborate with other initiatives, and how best to time such engagement so as to have a suitably mature API available.

**Action:** Callum Foster, Chris Ashford, Paul Richards, Richard Smith to plan and agree an approach to engage API user communities to incorporate sufficient API compatibility and functionality to support mashup use, and ensure these needs are not discounted in favour of functionality to support known power users.

**7. Next meeting**

The next CWSWG meeting will be held 04 February at City Hall, London. Details will be added to the website and forwarded to group members during in January.