

OFE UK PSG
16th Meeting
14th September 2011
Home Office

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sam Roddick (SR)	Deloitte	Co-chairman
Qamar Yunus (QY)	Cabinet Office	Co-chairman
Denise McDonagh (DM)	Home Office	
Dominic Hartley (DH)	Home Office	
Linda Humphries (LH)	Cabinet Office	
Liam Maxwell (LM)	Cabinet Office	
Tariq Rashid (TR)	Cabinet Office	
Amanda Brock (AB)	Canonical	
Chris Francis (CF)	IBM	
Phil Scott-Lewis (PSL)	Redhat	
Graham Taylor (GMT)	OFE	
Alan Bell (ACB)	OFE	
Stuart Mackintosh (SM)	OpusVL	
Alasdair Mangham (AM)	LB Camden	
Basil Cousins (WBC)	OFE	Secretary

APOLOGIES

Robin Pape (RP)	Home Office	Host
Paul Vagg (PV)	Home Office	
Roger Maxwell (RM)	Home Office	
Mark O'Neil (M O'N)		
Jeff Nott (JN)	Alfresco	
Andrew Katz (AK)	Moorcrofts	
Bob Blatchford (RJB)	OFE	
Roger Marshall (RM)	Socitm	
Simon Godfrey (SM)	Oracle	
Charlotte Thornby (CT)	Oracle	

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
QY welcomed and introduced all present, particularly Denise McDonagh - IT Delivery Director, Home Office, Dominic Hartley - Head of Strategy and Architecture, Home Office and Liam Maxwell, Director -ICT Futures, Cabinet Office.
- 2) Minutes of 15th Meeting, 29th June 2011
Agreed.
- 3) Government Report
 1. Strategic ICT Implementation Plan
QY is finalising a Strategic ICT Implementation Plan embracing central government departments and service due to published for consultation in October.
 2. Organisation

QY and LH explained that responsibility for the individual activities in the implementation of the Government Strategic Plans was allocated to members of the CIO Delivery Board:

1. Home Office: Robin Pape: Implementation of Open Source Action Plan across UKG Government Departments led by RP as SRO. DM described the definition of a common OSS Infrastructure. HO also responsible for the selection and implementation of document format technical standards.
 2. HMRC: Phil Paving: Open Standards and Open Architectures. They will engage with fora and consortia.
 3. MoJ: Andy Nelson: SME relationships
 4. NHS: Katie Davis:
 5. MoD: John Taylor:
 6. DWP: Malcolm Whitehouse: .
3. Education in Openness
The importance of educating senior civil servants responsible for the selection, implementation and support of Open Standards and Open Source Solutions was stressed a number of times during the meeting. SM stressed the urgent need to counter the extensive misunderstandings and myths that surround Open Standards and Open Source. LM is leading initiatives in this area within Government.
4. Open Standards and Technology Framework
LH reported that there had been 970 responses to the consultation on the 270 standards currently included in the Government Catalogue of ICT standards. 141 added comment.

Awareness of ICT standards across Government was patchy to non-existent. More than 80% of those involved with ICT were either unaware of the importance of standards or totally ignored them.

LH stressed that it was important to counter the frequent assertion that Open Standards only apply to Open Source Software. Open Standards apply equally to Proprietary Solutions.

LH is working and consulting on the redefinition of the concept of Open Standards and the selection of a limited number of such standards for use across UKG ICT. This report is due out in October preceded by consultation. GMT stressed that PSG members could contribute to this consultation.

In parallel, an IPR Guidance Document was being developed – due out in 6 weeks.

CF noted that Eurim (a cross party forum) was working on a report on open standards.

LH would issue an invitation to join the OFE PSG workspace:

5. OSS Toolkit

TR stated that the main components of the OSS Toolkit would be mounted on the Government Public Website along with the LSE/TCO report. He is preparing a summary of its main conclusions which would be published shortly. Documents to be included would be:

1. Procurement Guidelines
2. Options Catalogue
3. Assessment Model
4. LSE/TCO Report and Summary

TR is refining the key points in the LSE/TCO Draft report for dissemination across Government. This will be completed shortly.

A Government Minister will sign off the papers.

TR requested that FAQ's should be prepared in advance for the public website – GSOE would be a primary source for them.

6. CESG.

It was reported that LM had met with CESG and discussed issues around Open Source software and the position of accreditation - something since clarified at Bristol City Council.

7. Risk Mitigation

LM described how we might find an insurance model that helped SMEs with the onerous liability insurance required by some government contracts.

4) Closer Collaboration

SR suggested closer collaboration between Government and the PSG in areas such as Government Procurement and SMEs. The thinking stage would be the ideal time for such collaboration. TR noted that there was contact between Amanda Brock and John Collington.

5) Government Open Solutions Advisory Forum and Website

AB reported that she had met M O'N and Harry Metcalfe on 20th July in Hercules House. It was agreed that the Shapado would be mounted and managed within UKG. However, there had been no progress over the Summer. It was unclear into which department M O'n and his activity had been placed. AB to re-contact and progress asap.

6) SI Forum and OSIG

QY reported that there had been little response from the SI's since the first meeting in June, 2011. Momentum had been lost. He planned to call the next meeting after the publication of key documents in October.

OSIG - A 2nd meeting would be called in October

7) SME

TR stated that an SME Forum had been set up in association with BCS at which TR, AB. SME issues are being handled by MoJ.

8) Transfer Summit, Oxford.

AB/TR reported on the successful meeting in Keble College, Oxford at which TR, AB, ACB and others spoke.

9) Government Seminar on Open Standards and Open Source

PSL proposed that the PSG should sponsor a Cabinet Office seminar on Open Standards and Open Source in November 2011 after the publication of the various policy papers.

ACTION: GMT/WBC/PSL

10) Summary and Conclusions

SR reviewed the development of the OFE UK Public Sector Group (PSG) from its inception in March 2009 to date. The PSG aims to develop initiatives to achieve the: Vision, mission and objectives of an open, competitive UK Government ICT market; Adoption of Open Standards by Central and Local Government; Implementation of Open Source Solutions, as documented in the UKG Action Plan. It has a balanced membership of UK Central and Local Government, Industry and Community representatives from leading Open Source Suppliers, some Local Authorities and senior consultants with a special interest in Open Standards and Open Source Software.

It was intended from the start to invite Central Government to participate and jointly chair the Group. 16 meetings have been held. OFE provides the Secretariat. Senior Cabinet Office staff have participated in 8 meetings from 15th March 2010.

The PSG is jointly chaired by Sam, Roddick, Deloitte and Qamay Yunus, Cabinet Office.

The UK Government is developing a considerable number of key initiatives in ICT overall as well as in Open Standards and Open Source. However, there is perceived to be loss of focus on achieving the aims of the original UKG Action Plan.

The 'raison d'etre' of the PSG is to support the key Open Standards/Open Source initiatives and to provide expertise, knowledge and experience.

SR stressed that the PSG should not devolve into a 'talk shop' and that its processes should be more formalised. He proposed that a limited number of working groups should be set to share expertise in specified subject areas, specifically

1. Procurement, with particular to SMEs;
2. Open Standards;

ACTION: Propose terms of reference and membership of Working Groups
QY/BMT/WBC

11) Next meeting: 17th Meeting, Wednesday 16th November 2011, Home Office, 1345 -1700

Basil Cousins
Secretary