

Ordnance Survey pilot (Open Data Institute) involvement

The Steering Board agreed that the Open Data Institute (ODI) would provide independent scrutiny of the Ordnance Survey (OS) pilot. In the last parliament, the ODI explored the feasibility of creating an open address register without using address data that contained the intellectual property of Ordnance Survey and Royal Mail.

It was agreed that the ODI would sense-check the methodology being used by OS and scrutinise their findings. The ODI would bring increased credibility to the OS pilot and help to improve any decisions made by HMG based on its findings.

The Open Data Institute submitted the following proposal (see Annex) to the working group. The working group felt that the proposal did not meet HMG value for money requirements. The ODI were asked to review their proposal and reduce the cost of their services.

The ODI feel that they offer unrivalled specialist skills and knowledge in the open addressing space and that their proposal accurately reflects this.

Nevertheless, the ODI have offered to reduce their commercial charging terms on the condition that HMG allows the ODI to conduct their work in the open. Specifically, they would like to blog about their work and to openly publish a report of their findings.

The working group ([REDACTED] in Cabinet Office - [REDACTED]) have discussed this request. The feeling is that openly discussing the ODI role in the OS pilot could impact the sensitive commercial negotiations with Royal Mail.

As a result, it is felt that an alternative source of external scrutiny should be found - an organisation that is qualified and prepared to carry out such work, will meet HMG vfm requirements and that do not want to openly discuss their input.

The Steering Board is asked their opinion on whether it is appropriate for the ODI to be involved.

Annex:



23 June 2016

Proposal by: [REDACTED] Open Data Institute (ODI)

Client lead: [REDACTED] Cabinet Office (CO)

Proposal status: final

Executive Summary

Government are investigating the creation of an open address register. They are conducting a pilot project with Ordnance Survey (OS).

Cabinet Office and BIS have requested a review of OS's approach and work, prior to a contractual breakpoint, mid way through, and at the end of the project. The ODI will review OS's documentation, meet with government representatives and provide recommendations about the next stages of the work. In doing so, ODI will bring to bear our expert understanding of the legal, technical, practical and social requirements from open data

publication; the user needs for addressing; the market and use of address data, including internationally; the standards landscape around address data; and collaborative models for maintaining data infrastructure.

Ordnance Survey (OS) has also requested some assistance in understanding:

1. the 3rd party datasets that we explored (e.g. Companies House), what benefits we got from them, and the legal advice we were given on the use of these datasets, particularly around Royal Mail IP
2. at a technical level, what methodology we used to infer addresses between 'known' addresses

The ODI has expertise on the legal complexities around database rights and Crown Copyright, along with specific expertise on the different actors and processes involved in creating addresses, primarily based on conducting the Open Addresses project. The ODI will bring in [REDACTED] who worked with us on Open Addresses and has hands-on technical expertise on using openly available datasets to infer information about geographies, and in particular address data. The ODI will prepare for and visit Ordnance Survey for two workshops, and will write a report on the ODI's understanding of the legal situation for various datasets that contain addresses and could be used by the OS team.

Programme of work

Stage	Activities	Fee (ex VAT)
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<p>1. Workshop on legal use of address data</p>	<p>The ODI will meet in Southampton with the Ordnance Survey's Product Management, Licensing and Legal team to discuss the use of 3rd party data within an open address register. The ODI will make available existing summaries of the legal situation prior to the meeting, and will discuss the requirements for the report (see below) that Ordnance Survey need.</p> <p>This workshop will be attended by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>£ [REDACTED]</p>
<p>2. Workshop on inference of addresses</p>	<p>The ODI will meet in Southampton with the Ordnance Survey's technical team, provide a description of and answer questions about the available methodologies for inferring addresses. The ODI will include a briefing on quality issues identified with using these inference techniques on 3rd party datasets.</p> <p>This workshop will be attended by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>£ [REDACTED]</p>
<p>3. Report on legal use of address data</p>	<p>Based on experience with Open Addresses and the discussions at the workshop, the ODI will put together a brief report on the legal use of third party datasets containing address data that could be used as the basis for a decision</p>	<p>£ [REDACTED]</p>

	<p>by Ordnance Survey on whether or not to incorporate these datasets into any options for the open address register.</p> <p>The report will be written by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	
4. Project review	<p>The ODI will report to Cabinet Office and BIS following their workshops with Ordnance Survey, to help inform their decision about continuing the pilot project.</p> <p>If the pilot project continues, ODI will review documentation provided by OS about their approach, methodology and recommendations, and meet with officials from Cabinet Office and BIS to discuss. These reviews will occur at two points: mid way through and at the end of the project.</p> <p>The review will primarily be conducted by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	£ [REDACTED]
	TOTAL (including travel expenses)	£ [REDACTED] + VAT

Assumptions

- The workshops will be scheduled on the same day, within two weeks of receiving a PO number. We propose 12th, 13th or 14th July as the first available dates the ODI

team can be available.

- The report will be completed within two weeks of the workshop date, with the draft shared one week after the workshop date.
- OS will provide full documentation about their approach and methodology to the ODI team in a timely fashion, to enable review.

The ODI's credentials

The [Open Data Institute](#) was founded by Sir Tim Berners-Lee (inventor of the world wide web) and Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt (Principal of Jesus College, Oxford). It connects, equips and inspires people around the world to innovate with data.

The ODI offers advisory services, training, membership, research, policy, tools, standards and events centred around data and open innovation. It convenes a growing and collaborative global network of more than 1,400 [members](#), including international market leaders, [startups](#) and 27 global [Nodes](#) led by local experts from Rio to Riyadh.

Since its inception, the ODI has actively reached 1.88 million people worldwide, trained 3,600 people in open data and [unlocked over £44m in investments, contracts, sales and efficiencies](#) globally.



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