

THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



**Summary Report of the meeting of the EURIM Data Sharing Subgroup
1000 – 1200 hours, 21 April 2006, Room 'O' Portcullis House, Westminster**

Chair: Jerry Fishenden (Microsoft); Rapporteur: Dave Wright (EURIM)

1. Introduction and Aims

1.1 The purpose of the meeting was primarily to plan for the Showcase event for MPs on data sharing, to be held in the Attlee Suite on 22 June. The remit for this stems from the request to organise Ministerial meetings and Parliamentary briefings on Transformational Government, Information Government and E-Crime/Security (notwithstanding that industry players are expected to express/deliver their co-operation in anticipation of ministerial statements).

1.2 There are currently 13 confirmed contributors, who are planning stalls to demonstrate examples of successful data sharing across organisational boundaries - the key being to inform parliamentarians that their constituents will be better served by the joined-up TG agenda, and that the industry can deliver. Other organisations may also wish to contribute.

1.4 A digital copy of the floor plan of the Attlee Suite would be distributed by email to contributors by Dave Wright, and Graeme Holdaway would help with the allocation of pitches. A visit to the Attlee Suite with Graeme confirmed that sufficient floor space, socket provision, bandwidth and other facilities would be available for all contributors. The sole exception was a requirement for a secure wireless connection, which might be hampered by the materials used in the construction of Portcullis House.

2. Planning the Showcase

2.1 It was agreed that the target audience of parliamentarians, researchers and senior civil servants would want to learn about what had actually been achieved in public sector data sharing schemes; intending contributors should therefore demonstrate successful, practical, operational examples of such schemes, including where these are collaborative with the private sector.

2.2 It was also agreed that there should be a thematic organisation of the Showcase stalls, so that the audience would be exposed to consistent messages in particular sections, and could more easily choose their preferred topics of interest, and access a balanced view where messages differed. Visitors would also be better able to discriminate between options and different applications used in different circumstances. A poster or screen listing the key messages of the exhibits would be created.

2.3 The invitation to attend the Showcase should include a generic description of what the stall would be demonstrating, and their associated key messages. It might also include a labelled plan of the stall locations, and examples of questions that visitors might wish to put. The distribution of sockets allows for the establishment of stalls 2 metres apart, with broadband connections available for Internet connections (no video streaming had been requested by contributors so far. Previously, 18 stalls had been staffed in the Attlee Suite, and 16 MB of bandwidth should be available..

2.4 Contributors were invited to list all their requirements for furniture and bandwidth etc. by email to Dave Wright. Stall locations would be decided by exhibitors' stated preferences aligned to a thematic plan; DW would attempt to arbitrate any disputes! Exhibitors who wished to test-run their demonstration in the Attlee suite should also contact DW, who would be available most weeks on a Friday, which was the best day for Graeme Holdaway.

2.4 Decisions on catering costs would also have to be made and covered by the participants; DW would email contributors inviting their comments as to what should be budgeted and how this should

be allocated to participants. DW would also enquire about rules on photography in the Attlee Suite – it might be useful for MPs to have ‘photo-opportunities’ alongside systems that are already serving their constituents well. In addition to a general calling notice and postings for MPs, DW would also select target groups for invitations to the event, and we might consider name badges for those who respond positively to the invitation.

3. Recent developments

3.1 The new UK Identity and Passport Service (to be referred to as IPS, *not* UKIPS) replaced the Passport Service after the ID Cards Act received the Royal Assent on 31 March. According to the current rollout schedule, compulsory ID card registration is set to commence on passport renewal from 2008. Anyone who renews a passport will be put on the national ID database - but will not now be forced to have an ID card until 2010, instead of 2008.

(DW: The compromise agreed in Parliament delays any compulsory move to carrying ID cards until after an election - making it "just acceptable" to the Tories who would scrap them).

3.2 HO had been involved in tortuous negotiations with potential suppliers, and had undertaken market soundings, but formal procurement had not yet started. It was agreed that there was no direct action required by the EURIM ID Cards Subgroup, at least until information was available that Home Office planned to move on secondary legislation. At present, we have no information on the schedules for procurement or secondary legislation.

3.3 A recent workshop organised by Kable (Leadership in Government IT Forum, 19 April 2006 - One Great George Street, London), primarily attended by civil servants, discussed the issues of liabilities versus Crown immunity. A number of Government departments are now signing up to corporate standards body Twist and digital trust network IdenTrust, and having to accept contractual liability, as they are not able to claim Crown immunity. This may be continued in preference to ID cards and NIR, where the private sector is cheaper and liability is accepted.

3.4 It may be useful for EURIM to organise a round table on the business models (including liability models) in the private sector and within financial services for identity sharing and management because some of these are based on rather different prices, values and costs than have been assumed in recent discussions related to public sector identity systems. It was agreed to send an exploratory email to members and selected organisations, including credit reference agencies and local authorities, for a meeting focusing on the issues of business models and liabilities. This would target departmental planners looking at future plans for identity management whether with public or private sector partners, where negotiations and decisions must be made in the context of shared services and the Transformational Government agenda.

3.5 It has been said that the only way the ID card can succeed is if citizens benefit directly from easier access to both Government and commercial services, but for commercial services to rely on public sector files the liability issues have to be addressed. However, the largest potential users of the national ID card are the banks (who issue ID cards in Sweden). The banks need to know the risk profiles so that they can quantify their liabilities for regulatory authorities. The risks then need to be insured because HMG is unlikely to accept liability.

3.6 Reports have referred to HO plans to cleanse the NINO database. Could this lead to trusted intermediaries in the private sector contracting directly as suppliers of a NIR-based identity service to the market? Would this therefore produce an intermediary between IPS and its database, and if so, what does this mean in terms of liability?

3.7 Responses to an email circulated to the Group on the issue of shared services and cross-border interoperability at EU level suggested that an exercise might be worthwhile because of concerns over the likelihood of unworkable rules. However, there was more interest in sorting the UK dimension first. A meeting has now been arranged for Thursday 18 May, 1000-1200 hours, in Room 'N', Portcullis House, Westminster focussing on the UK issues of Interoperability with respect to the current and potential role of eGIF within the Transformational Government agenda (shared systems and services as well as data and identity). DW invited John Wailing (eGU/Cabinet Office) to address the group; JW had replied asking for more information. **(Update: JW has accepted the invitation).**

4. Date of Next Meeting

4.1 The date of the next meeting is 18 May, focusing on interoperability/eGIF.