



Members meeting Minutes
18 February 2025

Attendees:

Robert Allinson, David Crack, Alan Gooden, David Alexander, David Park, Brendon Hogan, Colum Lyons, Jonathan Jensen, Mark O'Hara, Kat Allinson, Julie Dawson, Stefan Sosnowski, Nick Tegg, Robyn Gee, Jonathan Evans, Anton Zdziebaczok, Ben Pearse, Gus Morse, John Abbott, Emily Hyett, John Peart, Andrew Henderson, Rob Cooper

DSIT/OfDia update

- **John Peart (DSIT)** provided an update on efforts to enable digital verification services for the property sector to expedite house buying and selling. The Land Registry is involved in ongoing discussions.
- No further details to reveal at this stage, but there is an ongoing conversation about Practice Guide 81.

WK Wallet and Government Digital Service (GDS)

- A month ago, the WK Wallet announcement was made alongside the refreshed GDS initiative.
- John Peart refrained from commenting further, inviting questions for later discussion.

Gamma Trust Framework Implementation

- Efforts are underway to implement the Gamma Trust Framework and achieve certification for the upcoming version.
- **Challenges:** The UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) has raised concerns about the transparency of white labeling practices and practical implementation.
- Two potential solutions: halt white labeling or introduce rules to ensure safety. The government aims to regulate this process. John is reaching out to organizations involved in white labeling to discuss the matter.

Data Use and Access Bill Update

- **Second Reading:** The second reading of the Data Use and Access Bill was successful last week. The next stage is the committee stage, expected in the coming weeks.
- The bill's progress is crucial to enabling the use of digital verification services across various sectors (e.g., right to work, right to rent, DBS).
- **Expected Timeline:** The bill is expected to pass through Parliament by summer, creating a more robust framework for data use and digital verification services.

Market Insights Research

- The first phase of research on market insights for Digital Verification Service (DVS) providers has been published, revealing a £2 billion market with hundreds of providers.
- The market is projected to double in size over the next few years.
- The government is using this research internally to track the effects of its policies.

Digital Verification Services Register Update

- The Digital Verification Services Register is entering public beta soon.

- Organizations that are certified should confirm their placement on the register.
- A private beta link will be shared for previewing the system.
- **Note:** The current data on the system is still being cleaned for accuracy.

Identity Binding and DVS Requirements

- John emphasized the complexities of integrating existing products into alcohol purchasing use cases. Focus on ensuring identity binding, validation, and ensuring the DVS register is correctly maintained for transactions.
- Plans to test the technical aspects of these integrations with providers.
- The Home Office and DSIT teams are aligning to meet regulations and market needs, aiming to test and learn for effective solutions.

Data Portability and Trust Framework

- **DC's Question:** Asked if data portability will be maintained within the framework as the bill progresses through Parliament and whether GDS will comply with this standard.
- **John's Response:** Trust framework remains technology agnostic, with principles such as privacy, transparency, and interoperability. GDS and other providers will be held to the same standards.
- Ongoing consultations will clarify how data can be accessed, used, and transferred across systems.

Public Sector Codes and Government Wallet

- **NT's Question:** Raised concerns about whether GDS will be responsible for supplementary codes under the framework.
- **John's Response:** The framework will remain a generic standard, with supplementary codes potentially developed for specific use cases like alcohol. GDS' role will focus on certifying compliance, but public sector codes will likely vary depending on the use case.

Poacher and Gamekeeper Risk

- **DC's Concern:** Raised concerns about the potential conflict of interest due to the shared department between DSIT and GDS.
- **John's Clarification:** DSIT and GDS have clear lines separating rule-making and decision-making roles. Steps are in place to avoid conflict and ensure certifications and standards are met fairly.

GDS as Attribute Service Provider for Government

- **DA's Question:** Asked if GDS could become the attribute service provider for government data.
- **John's Response:** While theoretically possible, practical challenges arise due to political structures and diverse public sector entities. Government data may flow through systems like the proposed government wallet, but there are limits on integration, particularly for bodies outside central government.

White Labeling and Co-Branding

- **DC's Question:** Inquired about the role of white labelers and co-branding in the certification process.
- **John's Response:** The team is exploring how to manage white-labeling models. The focus is on ensuring transparency in certifications and compliance,

particularly for organizations offering end-to-end white-labeled services. The goal is to make the process clear and maintain UCAS recognition.

Questions and Discussions

- **David Alexander** inquired about research plans for attribute service providers, orchestration service providers, and holder services. John Peart clarified that while the current research primarily focuses on identity service providers (IDSP), future research will also include other sectors, with a focus on improving the methodology each year.
- **Julie Dawson** asked about the economic impact assessment for government programs, such as the One Login initiative. John Peart responded that while an economic impact assessment exists for the Digital Identity and Attributes Model, specific assessments for other programs (e.g., One Login, Gov UK Wallet) should be directed to GDS.
- **Ben (Yoti)** asked about the future engagement with the industry on these updates. John explained that GDS would lead a technical consultation on the Gov UK Wallet and how it interacts with the DVS sector. OffDia will support this process. He also noted that progress on new use cases is tied to the passage of the Data Use and Access Bill, and that more details on use cases, including alcohol and property, would be shared as they become available.

Action Items:

1. Organizations involved in white labeling to reach out to John Peart for further discussions.
2. Continue monitoring progress on the Data Use and Access Bill and its implications for DVS.
3. Follow up with GDS regarding Freedom of Information requests for impact assessments related to the Gov UK Wallet.
4. Await further updates on alcohol and property-related use cases.

Home Office Updates:

1. Project Update (Rob Cooper):
 - **Scott's Absence:** No update from Scott, as he is on leave.
 - **Fraud and Impostering Insights:** Ongoing discussions and insights will be shared next month.
 - **Survey on Sector Volumes:** Survey on right to work, right to rent, and DBS checks is being finalized and will be distributed shortly.
 - **Next Working Group Meeting:** Set for March 11, 2025, for further discussions.

APPG Update (Andrew Henderson):

- **Meeting Date Confirmed:** The next APPG meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 3:00 PM for 90 minutes.
- **Agenda:** Introduction to the new chair and setting the scene for digital identity in the UK, with input from industry, academia, and other stakeholders.

Next Steps:

- John Peart will provide more details in the coming weeks on testing identity binding and validation.
- Further discussions on public sector codes and the evolving role of GDS in certification processes.

- Rob Cooper will finalize the survey for distribution soon and provide an update at the March meeting.
- David Crack thanked Andrew Henderson for his helpful input regarding engagement strategies at the political level and the APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group).
- Meeting on Digital ID – Details and Invitations
 - Andrew Henderson confirmed that the meeting will take place at #1 Parliament Street. Due to the small size of the room (28 seats), it will be a first-come, first-served basis, with some seats reserved for parliamentarians.
 - Alan Gooden offered to circulate meeting details to all members and gather interest for attendance.
 - David Crack highlighted the importance of political engagement moving forward and discussed potential sponsorship of the APPG to support these efforts.
- Engagement with Parliamentarians and Project Development
Andrew Henderson mentioned the need for engaging with parliamentarians and finding a champion for the digital ID cause. There is an ongoing project to raise the profile of digital ID in the UK, with possible involvement in a new initiative with Viscount Cameros to promote digital tools in recruitment.

DSIT Survey Feedback

- Alan Gooden shared that the DSIT survey feedback had been circulated, highlighting concerns about the survey's design and length, especially for smaller members. There was a discussion on improving future surveys for better engagement.
- David Alexander emphasized the importance of reducing friction and improving survey design, suggesting a pilot to test a more user-friendly format.
- Rob Cooper acknowledged the feedback and considered implementing changes based on suggestions, including providing a full survey copy before completing it.

Echo Group Update

- David Park reported that the Echo Group, focused on employment issues with the Home Office, had little relevance to identity matters in the latest meeting. However, he will circulate the meeting minutes.
- Alan Gooden reminded members that they could join any meeting if a specific issue arises, with both David Crack and Alan Gooden on the invite list.

SingPass Update

- David Crack shared an update on discussions with Singapore's government regarding potential collaboration on digital ID interoperability. He emphasized that Singapore prefers government-to-government engagement, but there is potential for exploration in the future.
- Julie Dawson inquired about the UK-Singapore bilateral partnership, which John Peart confirmed as ongoing but noted the need to focus on the broader recognition process for international systems.

7. Other Business

- John Peart clarified the technical aspects of cross-border interoperability and advised David Crack to consult Caroline Cockbol's team for further insights on enabling international systems for digital ID.

Next Steps:

- Andrew Henderson to provide more detailed information for meeting invitations.
- Alan Gooden to gather interest from members for meeting attendance.
- Further discussions on improving survey design and member engagement.
- David Crack to follow up on potential collaboration with Singapore regarding digital ID interoperability.

Any Other Business

1. Engagement with Population in Shopping Centres

- **David Crack:** Discussed the dynamic and exciting engagement with the population in shopping centers. He noted that parties involved were not expecting certain economic impacts but saw other unforeseen benefits. The introduction of digital identity for engaging with services disrupted the way parties went about their business, and the impact turned out to be more beneficial than expected.
- David Crack will reach out to see if these parties are open to sharing their experiences in a future general presentation.

2. Companies House Update

- **Alan Gooden:** Provided an update on Companies House's initiative to verify directors of companies. Companies House reached out for guidance on verifying overseas directors, with the belief that one login can cater to 98% of requirements. Alan and David gave a general briefing on possible verification solutions and emphasized the importance of following due diligence rules. Members to send any suggestions for Companies House to Alan for future discussions.

3. International Standards and Due Diligence

- **David Crack:** Emphasized the importance of Companies House following international standards, particularly regarding the validation of ultimate beneficial owners. He noted that identity verification alone is insufficient, and that Companies House should adhere to due diligence practices similar to those followed by banks.

4. KYC and AML Initiatives

- **David Alexander:** Suggested that Companies House cross-reference initiatives such as Know Your Business (KYB) and Know Your Directors (KYD), which are being run by industry working groups. These initiatives focus on identifying individuals with authority to act on behalf of a business.
- **David Crack:** Acknowledged the challenge of educating project teams not deeply involved in compliance and anti-money laundering. He stressed the importance of industry support in helping Companies House deliver effective solutions.

5. Collaboration with Industry

- **David Crack:** Encouraged members to send suggestions and observations to Alan Gooden for collating and feeding back to Companies House, as they were keen on maintaining an open dialogue.
- **Julie Dawson:** Requested a recap of previous surveys and materials for new joiners to catch up on missed information. Alan Gooden will address this after the meeting.
- **Meeting Adjourned at 1:02 PM.**