

Rail Delivery Group



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Rail Data Marketplace

Welcome to your round up of news related to the Rail Data Marketplace (RDM). If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, email us at raildatamarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com.

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Enabling Innovation

Further to our comment in the last newsletter on 'The direction of (rail data) travel' and the consistent narrative coming from Government and other sources about the future place of data sharing and open data, GBRTT Lead Director Anit Chandarana has written a really thought-provoking blog about how Great British Railways will enable innovation across the sector. He provides a great perspective of how he sees the 'guiding mind' principle being consistent with a strong role for the private sector in bringing innovation to the industry. He is a strong advocate of the power of open data, both to improve the passenger experience and also provide a whole-system view to those who deliver those services. It is worth a read (of course, we are bias as Anit gives RDM a name-check!).

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/great-british-railways-enabler-rail-innovation-gbrtt/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&utm_campaign=share_via

Programme Summary

Since the last newsletter, we have continued to develop the service and get it into a position where we can make it publicly available. That time is getting nearer! We now have 30 organisations registered as users, both publishing and consuming data. Our 'private beta' trial which has been running since January was meant as a time of learning for us, and I am grateful for the patience of our trial users who have helped us to spot areas where we can improve the user experience. It was probably inevitable that we would also encounter a number of minor technical hitches which comes with trying to publish a variety of data sources but, with our partners, we are working through these.

As well as usability improvements, we have been developing functionality to publish 'flat files' (the likes of .csv files) which are still widely used, and this functionality will be ready to roll out in June.

We hope that overcoming these technical hitches, along with publishing flat files, will allow a good variety of data products from different publishers to be available when we come to launch RDM including three data sources which aren't available anywhere else.

Our thanks to all of those who responded to our survey in the last newsletter about the use of publish / subscribe (event stream) data sources, which was informative as we head into the design phase for functionality which will allow us to publish these types of data. We are hoping to make these data sources available later in the summer.

Content Design

In preparation for RDM to become publicly available, we've been busy looking at feedback from our Private Beta users. It's important to collect feedback from real users who have tested the platform so we can develop content that meets their needs. This approach helps us to address any issues and clearly explain how the platform works. As part of the GDS assessment, we demonstrated how we've made design improvements by researching, developing, testing, updating then retesting our content.

We now have an 'About RDM' page that gives an overview of the platform and its benefits, objectives, and background. We've also developed new guidance to help users with tasks like becoming a data publisher and creating an API data source. All our guides, agreements and policies will be available in our 'Help and information' section so they're easy to find.

Our iterative content design process means the content on RDM is never 'done'. As we continue to develop the platform, we're always reviewing and updating existing content, as well as creating and testing new content in response to user needs. The platform includes the ability to provide feedback on the content, so we can continually improve.

And finally.....

We are delighted to have been shortlisted for the Rail Industry Association Innovation Award. These prestigious awards recognise contribution across the sector and the innovation category has some truly exceptional initiatives. We are thrilled to be included alongside these incredible advances in the industry. [2023 RISE Awards Innovation \(riagb.org.uk\)](https://riagb.org.uk)

If you are keen to find out more about the Rail Data Marketplace and what it looks like, then watch our short video [HERE](#).

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been great to (virtually) meet up with the TOC Open Data Champions. In an event organised by DfT and attended by GBRTT, we were able to talk about how RDM fits into DfT & GBR data strategies, our aspirations for the service and demonstrate what RDM looks like. We received lots of questions (always a good sign) and now have 3 TOCs registered on the platform, one of whom is on the cusp of being a publisher. The Train Operating Companies are such a vital part of the rail ecosystem, it was great to get them onboard.....and on that terrible pun, we will leave you until next time.