CPG MINUTES

Title: Digital Rights and Democracy

Date: 17-02-22

Location: Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Sarah Murphy MS – Chair Member of the Senedd (SM)

Jim Killock – Secretariat, Open Rights Group (JK)

Mike Hedges MS (MH)

Samuel Kurtz MS (SK)

Rhys ap owen MS (RAO)

Jack Sergeant MS (JS)

Rhys Taylor (on behalf of Jane Dodds MS) (RT)

Ryland Doyle (RD)

Dan Rose (DR)

Silkie Carlo (SC)

Cadi Clidd (CC)

Cate Hopkins (CH)

Chris Were (CW)

David Clubb, Afallen (DC)

Ed Bridges (EB)

Myles Lewando (ML)

Pippa King (PK)

Joe Seddon - (JS)

A Howells-Hughes (AHH)

Jen Pearson, Defend Digital Me (JP)

Leena Farhaart (LF)

Will Henson (WH)

Summary of Meeting

Agenda, Notes and Actions

1. Welcome introductions

SM opens meeting with welcome and invites attendees and guests to introduce themselves. Notes that the CPG has come at a critical time and that we are in a digital crisis. SM hands to JK.

2. Apologies

JK notes that he has received no apologies and asks if anyone else has received any.

3. Appointment of Officer

JK notes that as Secretariat the CPG needs to appoint Chair and has the option to appoint Vice Chair if desired. JK asks for nominations, RAO nominates SM as Plaid Cymru representative, SK s Conservative representative seconds and JK passes the motion. JK asks whether there are any nominations for VC to which there are no nominations.

4. Agreement of Terms of Reference (TOR)

Papers including the Terms of Reference are shared virtually, JK asks whether there are any objections to the TOR, to which no objections are made. JK confirms that the TOR are agreed.

5. Digital Rights and Democracy in Wales (JK, Open Rights Group)

JK gives background overview of the work of Open Rights Group and states that if digital rights are to be taken with the severity it deserves then Members of the Senedd need to take imitative. JK states that we are in a dangerous and difficult moment and that political attention is needed. JK identifies 5 key areas that data rights and democracy should be explored:

(i) Healthcare in Wales

(ii) Education in Wales

(iii) Economy, particularly the gig economy

(iv) Benefits and welfare

(v) Policing

6. 'Why Wales Should Embrace Free and Open Source Software'

DC presents Afallen open-source paper and signals that Wales presents an interesting test for open sourcing, particularly in the education sector. DC notes that Wales could pilot schemes that may be difficult to do in other locations and this presents an opportunity for Wales to pilot new digital schemes,

SM mentions Data Nation Project as a interesting topic area for discussion. SM opens meeting for discussion on future of CPG and other potential topic areas for discussion. JP introduces work of Defend Digital Me and suggests exploring digital providers in schools, minority rigts and the need to be proactive around the upcoming data protection act.

Action 1. SM to work on campaign to ban biometric data in schools' and bring to the attention of CPG.

Action 2. SM to work on event targeted at young people and their rights – work with the youth parliament.

ML brings into focus the importance of education, specifically the accessibility aspect of open source and how it can help with forms of discrimination, particularly from big companies. ML calls on the CPG to promote FOSS and better privacy in schools and education.

Action 3. SM to bring Fair Phone and privacy to the attention of the Senedd Commission.

CH discusses work with trade unions and the public sector. CH highlights that people think that they cannot challenge data practices occurring in workplaces and that this should be worked on so that a more transparent system is in place for data collection and surveillance. EB highlights his experience with South Wales Police and calls the CPG to invite them to discuss what has changed since his successful case against them.

Action 4. Ask South Wales Police to attend CPG meeting based around policing and data.

C addresses a wider issue around the lack of awareness of digital rights and that everyday people default to big corporations rather than turning to FOSS. C concludes that there is a missing dialogue about digital rights – labelling this surveillance realism. SM agrees that digital litracy is a cause for concern and highlights the lack of awareness at decision making level and Welsh Government. SM stresses that the CPG should be used to inform Ministers and those who can legislate, as well as the Research Team and Civil Service. JS states that we need to look at EU commerce laws, protect the rights we have lost since Brexit and challenge companies such as Facebook and Twitter on free speech. JS states that it will be interesting to see how UK responds and legislates on these issues for both induvial and businesses.

Action 5. CPG to produce a Programme of sessions on topics included in minutes. Relevant Minister to be invited to attend the sessions.

SM mentions potential to work with WG including Social Partnership and procurement Bill, E-proscribing inquiry on ESJ Committee. JK states that Wales needs high standard data protection for procurement and this must be reflected in legislation.

Action 6. JK to ask societies and organisations to produce shoer papers on different topic areas to collate information for CPG.

JK states that the CPG has the opportunity to be a "change making forum".

Action 7. JK to create forum for CPG participants to communicate and share information with one another.

SM closes the meeting by stating that they will send the details of the next meeting when they are finalised. SM stresses that CPG needs to work together as we are already living with the effects of data and that this is not an abstract notion – this is people's lives.

MEETING CLOSEs