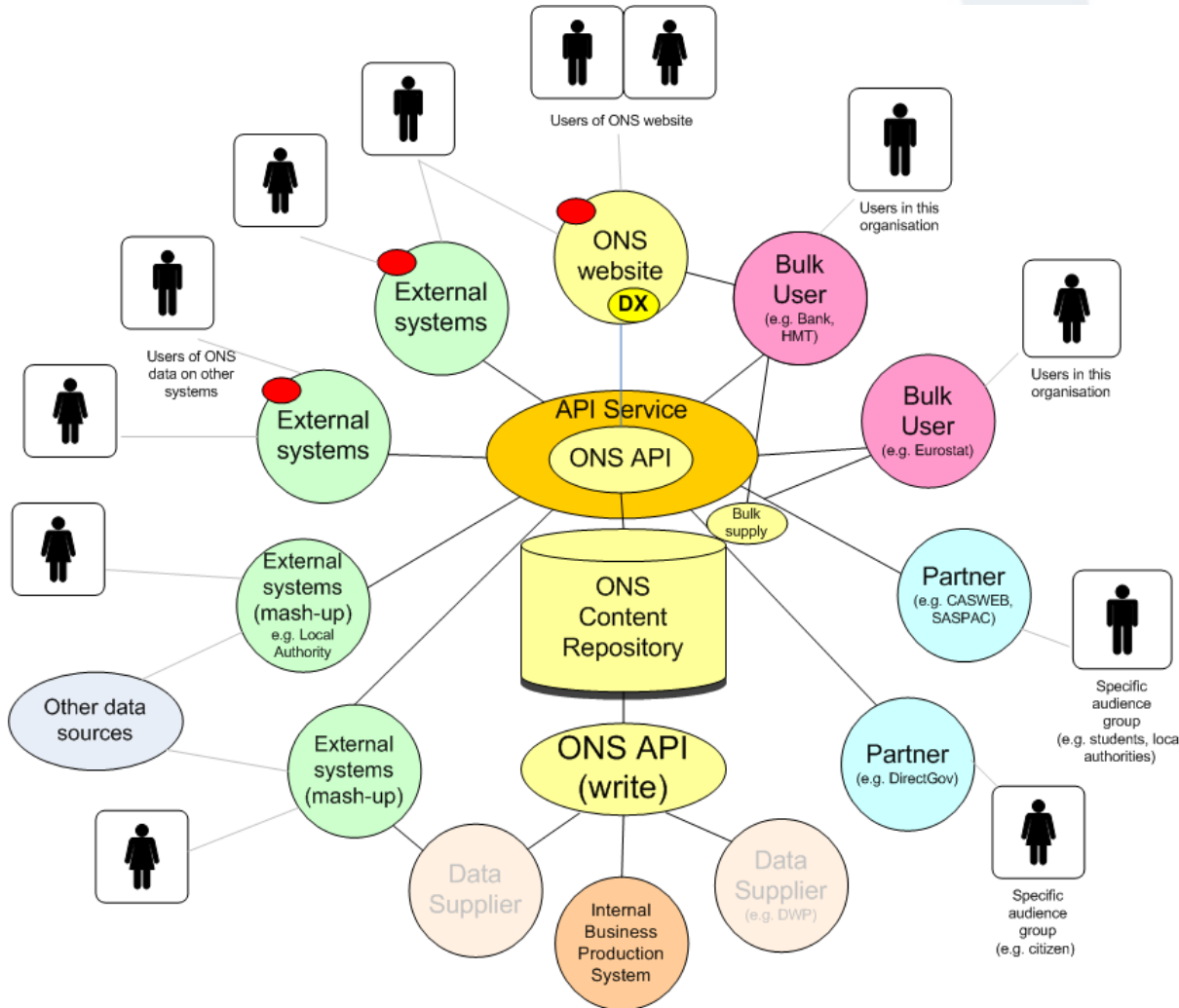Office for
National Statistics

Dissemination of ONS Data - Future Channels and Tools

Frankie Kay - Senior Project Manager
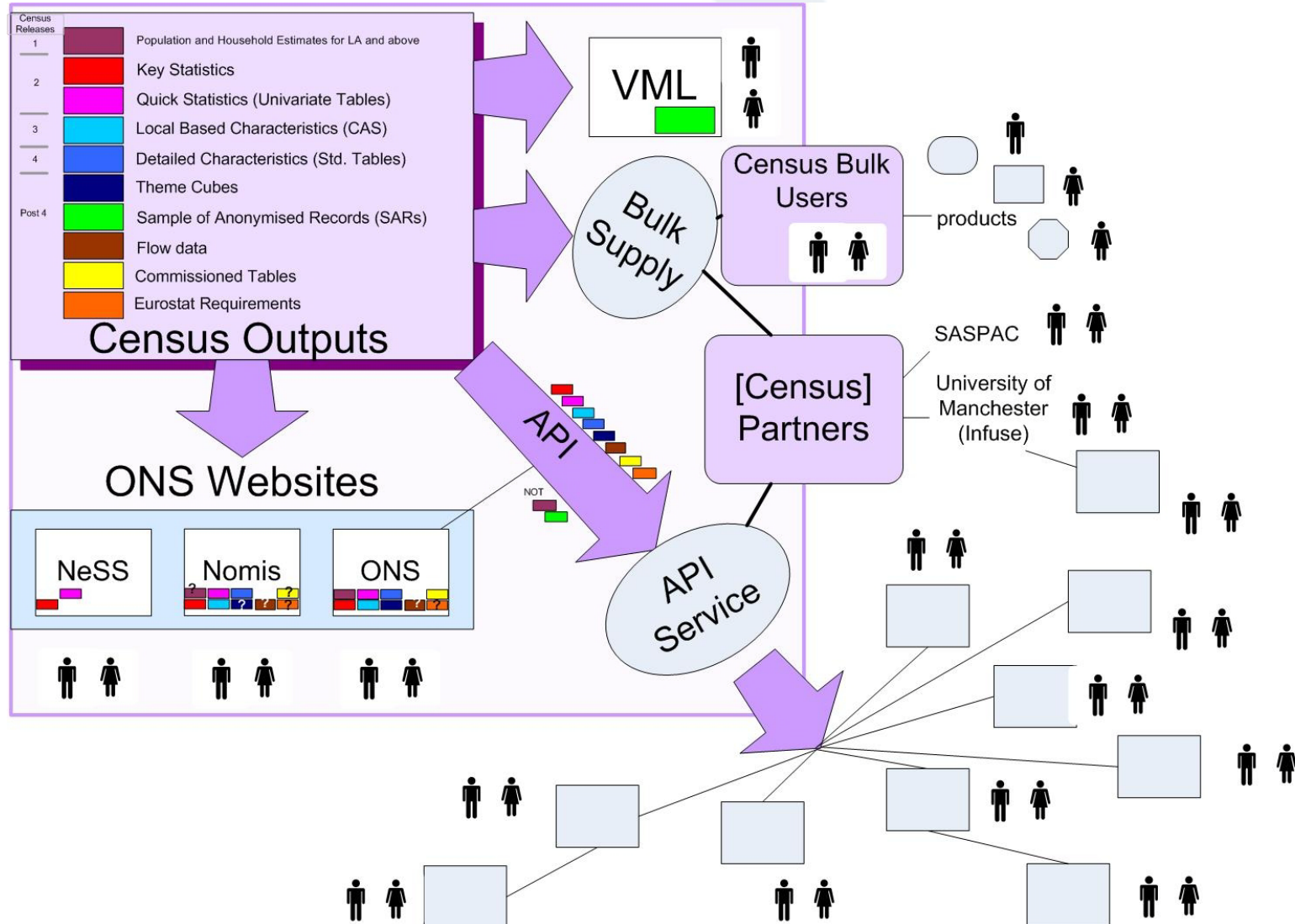
Callum Foster – Product Owner

Getting the data used
The big picture

- Extending the reach of ONS data

- Enabling and encouraging re-use

- Open data

- Deriving the full value from the data is a more 'public task'

- Understanding audiences and user needs

Census Outputs Dissemination - Channels

Census Outputs Dissemination -
Main ONS Website and API

- ## ONS Website
  - Main dissemination channel for all ONS outputs
  - Will be enhanced to provide additional search & navigation
  - A Data Explorer will be provided to allow on-line exploration of datasets

- ## ONS API
  - Will provide external organisations with direct access to ONS datasets to re-use on their own systems

Census Outputs Dissemination -
Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS)

- NeSS
  - A well established service to a range of users focused on small area statistics, initially with a focus on social exclusion
  - Provides a range of statistics from ONS and other government departments and allows analysis over space and time
  - Includes dynamic Neighbourhood Summaries that provide a 'pen picture' of a local areas using a range of statistics
  - Also has its own API (NeSS Data Exchange)

Census Outputs Dissemination - Nomis

- Nomis
  - Externally provided ONS website focused on Labour Market Statistics for local areas, along with range of other data
  - Users can:
    - Select by variable and geography
    - Download data as individual cells or full 'formatted' tables
    - create their own variables and custom areas (and share these with other users),
    - save regularly used selections
  - Also provides an API for Developers

Census Outputs Dissemination -
Bulk Supply & Virtual Microdata Library

- Bulk Supply
    - Will provide all tables from a given release on "Hard Media" (disc or hard drive)
    - Will be provided in XML format and are considering whether a csv format as well

- Virtual Microdata Lab
    - Will provide access to a range of SARS (Sample of Anonymised Records) products building on those produced in 2001
    - This provides access to a sample of unit level data which has been made anonymous
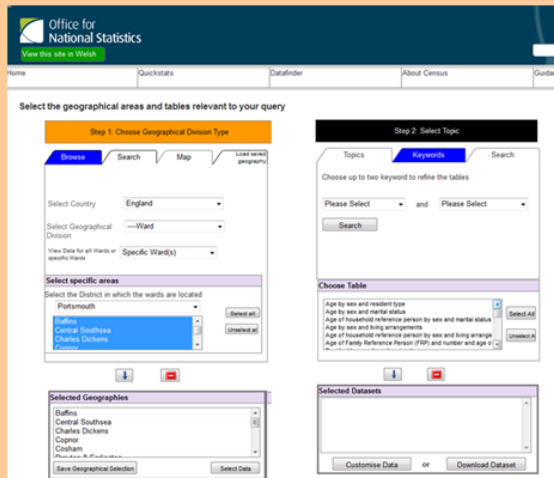
ONS Dissemination Tools

- ONS will be providing new tools accessible via their website to:
  - Maximise the use of Census and other ONS data
  - Provide an enhanced website to explore ONS statistics more effectively online
  - Open up direct access to ONS data for third parties to power their own websites and applications
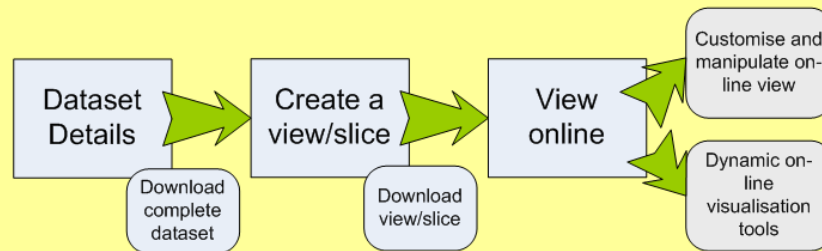 - Support the government's transparency policy

ONS Dissemination Tools –
Overview

ONS Dissemination Tools –
Data Explorer

- Data Explorer
  - The data explorer is an online facility to allow users to explore and interrogate datasets made available on the ONS Website

- ONS will be providing a Data Explorer with the following features
  - Navigate to and find datasets
  - Ability to select different levels of geography and geographic areas
  - Ability to filter on variables included in the dataset
  - Ability to view datasets via a browser based on user selections

ONS Dissemination Tools –
Application Programming Interface

- Application Programming Interface (API)
  - The API is a mechanism that enables one application to programmatically talk to another application. In this context it enables a third party application (e.g. a website) to programmatically discover and retrieve data from the ONS Content Repository.
- ONS will be providing an API Service with the following features
  - Registration
  - Blog
  - Forum
  - Gallery
  - Instructions and tutorials
  - Enablement tools

How Are We Going to Keep You Informed?

Type of activity	Channels include
Online	ONS website, ONS data dissemination community now available
ONS workshops	Stakeholder road shows (April), Quality assurance tutorials (June)
ONS advisory and working groups	Census advisory groups, web dissemination advisory group, API working group
ONS Newsletters	Census Newsletter, Census e alerts
3rd party meetings and workshops	Government Statistical Service (GSS), Departmental workshops, Royal Statistical Society (RSS) user forums, Market Research Society
3rd party conferences and exhibitions	RSS, Local authority research and information association (LARIA), British Society for Population Studies (BSPS), GSS Labour Market group
3rd party newsletters	LARIA, British Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (BURISA)
Publicity and media	Communications toolkit for stakeholders, case studies, news releases, etc

How Can You Get Involved?

- We have been showing a number of users of the ONS website draft versions of what our new pages and tools might look like so we can gather and incorporate feedback

- We will also be asking users to test the new online tools before they go live

- We will be providing a beta version of the API in the summer so organisations can't start experimenting

- If you are interested in getting involved in testing the changes to the website then please contact:
  - **Stephen.d.kay@ons.gsi.gov.uk**

- If you are interested in getting access to the beta API then please contact us:
  - **onsapi@ons.gsi.gov.uk**

Next Steps

- **Summer 12 -** beta version of the API will be available for interested parties to test and use

- **Autumn 12 -** pre-launch the ONS API Service to allow users to pre-register find out more about this new tool

- **Aligned with Census Release 2 –** launch of the ONS API and new Data Explorer to support the Census second release

Thank you

Any questions?