

## UK Open Contracting: National Action Plan Updates - Digest November 2017

UK Open Government National Action Plan 2016-18: Open Contracting Commitment	
<b>Commitment title</b>	To implement the Open contracting Data Standard in the Crown Commercial Service's operations by October 2016; We will also begin applying this approach to major infrastructure projects, starting with High Speed Two, and rolling out OCDS across government thereafter.
<b>Lead department(s)</b>	Crown Commercial Service

**September 2017:** The UK was the first G7 country to commit to the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) for contracts administered by a central purchasing authority.

In July 2016 we established a UK Open Contracting Steering group to provide external stakeholders with a forum to oversee our Open Contracting commitment. In September 2016 we set up a showcase and learning project with the Open Contracting Partnership.

Since November 2016, Crown Commercial Service data from Contracts Finder has been published in the OCDS format as both a daily snapshot on data.gov.uk and a public interface allowing search of the Contracts Finder database and download in the Open Contracting Data Standard format. This means that the UK Government met the target established in May 2016. We have gone further by extending publication to all the data published on Contracts Finder.

In 2017 our implantation of OCDS has been evaluated by the OCDS Helpdesk and we are implementing improvements to Contracts Finder to reflect their findings.

We are founder members of the Contracting 5 (Colombia, France, Mexico, UK and Ukraine) and plan to share our learning with them and others at Open Contracting 2017 in November 2017. We believe that this collaboration positions the UK as a global leader in open government.

Recent feedback from the Open Contracting Partnership was;  
"Crown Commercial Service has taken on an ambitious and important task. Within a relatively short time, major progress has been achieved to publish daily open data based on the Open Contracting Data Standard. While there is still work to be done to improve quality and completeness of information, the strong focus of the team on user needs, stakeholder engagement bodes well for 2017 and beyond."

**November 2017:** We've made significant progress since the last update:

Corporate identifiers for Buyers, based on system identifiers, implemented on all Contracts Finders notices (24/11/2017). Discovery commenced for upgrading to use UK registers list on GOV.UK. Corporate identifiers enabled for suppliers on Contracts Finder Award notices (24/11/2017) based on UK Companies House number and UK Charity registers.

Supply chain notices for contractors to the public sector enabled (31/08/2017). Public commitment for central government to improving visibility of opportunities available to SMEs by requiring suppliers to advertise their subcontracting opportunities on Contracts Finder so SMEs

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can bid. (11/10/2017).

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/small-firms-benefitted-from-over-12-billion-of-government-spending>)

Further assessment of latest implementation of OCDS on Contracts Finder by the Open Contracting Partnership (OCDS Helpdesk) planned to include both technical and qualitative aspects.

Increases in all Contracts Finder usage stats,

- 76,466 visitors in October 2017. Over 800,000 calendar YTD
- 784,7171 page views in October 2017 (7.5m calendar YTD) the vast majority for search
- 32,794 registered supplier users, 63.3% are from organisations registered as SMEs,
- Approximately 100,000 email alerts issues per week.

Positive feedback from SME panel reported in Parliamentary Questions.

Successful workshop showcased use of Contracts Finder OCDS data with two public sector and two private sector use cases reviewed (15/11/2017). Central government dashboard (Contracts and Spend Insight Engine – CaSIE) released in Beta to 7 commercial function in seven departments (27/10/2017) combining Contracts Finder award and spend data to improve commercial management. Data warehouse and visualisation tool prototyped for compliance using publically available tools (Google) CCS working closely with OCDS Helpdesk (31/08/2017).

UK developed a template for Contracting 5 (Colombia, France, Mexico, UK and Ukraine) to complete providing a summary of their Open Contracting implementations. To be shared at next C5 meeting (30/11/2017). The common factors and unique characteristics of each implementation provide insights for other countries adopting Open Contracting.

First draft of mid-term review of UK Showcase and Learning project completed and shared with civil society stakeholders at the UK Open Contracting Steering Group (15/11/2017).

We continue to work closely with the Open Contracting Partnership, the focus for 2018 will be on sharing learning and engaging with a wider audience. Case studies, coordinated communications and a stakeholder event are planned for the first half of 2018.

### Progress against milestones/activities

Since November 2016, Crown Commercial Service data from Contracts Finder has been published in the OCDS format as both a daily snapshot on data.gov.uk and a public interface allowing search of the Contracts Finder database and download in the Open Contracting Data Standard format. We have gone further by extending publication to all the data published on Contracts Finder. Guidance and links to the data are available [here](#).

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