

# Open Government Playbook

Open Government Playbook promotes better **transparency, participation, and accountability** within government.

You can find out more by searching Open Government Playbook at **gov.uk**

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Accountability

Definition

The public is able to exercise effective oversight and control over the decisions and actions taken by the government and its officials, in order to guarantee that government initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the communities they are designed to benefit.<sup>6</sup>

1. The Gov Lab (2013) Open Government - what's in a name <http://thegovlab.org/open-government-whats-in-a-name>

Accountability

Before

Assess the project plan to identify and disclose any potential conflicts of interest that the officials participating in the project may have. If there is a conflict of interest, take steps to prevent them from taking part in any decision-making processes.

Engage Civil Society actors to track delivery and raising concerns about any potential conflicts of interest.

Ensure that there are anti-corruption and fair competition measures in place. This can be done through publishing procurement and contract data, and running fair, open bids for services.

If in doubt, seek advice from bodies and institutions that guarantee compliance and oversee the exercise of public power, e.g. Financial Conduct Authority,<sup>7</sup> Serious Fraud Office;<sup>8</sup> and other about independent oversight institutions.<sup>9</sup>

2. <https://www.fca.org.uk>  
3. <https://www.sfo.gov.uk>  
4. [https://www.wfd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/WEB\\_INDEPENDENT-OVERSIGHT-INS.pdf](https://www.wfd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/WEB_INDEPENDENT-OVERSIGHT-INS.pdf)

## Accountability

Accountability

During

Make information about the effectiveness of anti-corruption prevention and the enforcement bodies widely available.

Keep a record of the spending of public funds with a justification of actions and decisions made during the project.

Keep an accurate and detailed record of all actions and the decision-making process, e.g. feedback provided on earlier public input, and, why it was or wasn't taken on board.

Declarations of interests should be made proactively available to the public, in a machine-readable format, and should be regularly updated.

Establish an oversight body to which individuals with ethical concerns can report or seek protection; ensure that they are sufficiently protected from reprisal for exposing wrongdoing, for instance by ensuring their anonymity.

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After

If any anti-corruption action has been undertaken, seek feedback from the public to identify the weaknesses and challenges in the procedure.

After the project is finished and/or the policy is implemented, establish a forum to have a retrospective session with the public, providing a safe space to scrutinise the project/policy.

Create an online tracker where implementation results are shared and the public can provide further feedback.

Introduce tools such as citizen scorecards or service evaluations.

