HM Government

UK Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2016-18: Commitments from the Northern Ireland Executive

Commitment 1: Develop & trial effective open policy-making and public engagement methods

To explore, develop and trial creative and effective open policy-making and public engagement methods and share the learning across government.

Objective: To embed a culture of proactive and meaningful engagement with the public across government departments to ensure that the public's' input contributes in a meaningful way to policy formulation.

Status quo: The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) faces a challenging agenda over the next few years. The delivery of priorities more than ever depends on the development and implementation of sound, effective and innovative policies. Key to our future in the public service is improving how we engage with the public. Despite the growing awareness of the benefits of effective engagement, there appears to be room for improvement, particularly in engaging stakeholders more openly in the very early scoping and initiation stages of policy development. Consequently, it is important for government to continue to explore and develop innovative approaches for engaging the public in formulation of policies that affect their lives

Ambition: To make public participation in government policy making more effective and meaningful.

Lead implementing organisation: Department of Finance

Timeline: December 2016 - May 2018

OGP value: Civic participation

New or ongoing commitment: New and ongoing

Other actors involved - government: Other Executive departments

Other actors involved - CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals: Policy Champions Network, Open Government Network, Cabinet Office

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfill the commitment	New or ongoing commitment	Start Date	End Date
Government and civil society to co-design a pilot project to test	New	December 2016	May 2018

open policy making methodology locally, ensuring that the lessons learned from the pilot are documented and shared across government.			
Support research and experimentation to create new tools or utilise existing tools and platforms that empower users to be fully active in the government policy making process.	Ongoing	December 2016	May 2018
Complete the on boarding process to encourage greater levels of uptake from all Executive departments and NDPBs to the NI Direct consultation portal.	Ongoing	Ongoing	May 2018
Showcase best practice and innovative examples of public engagement in policy development across Executive departments.	Ongoing	December 2016	May 2018

Commitment 2: Promote greater levels of public sector innovation

Develop a more innovative and entrepreneurial culture in the local public sector to address major societal and environmental challenges

Objective: Developing a more innovative public sector

Status quo: The local public sector faces significant challenges, which will require much greater degrees of innovation than it has traditionally deployed.

Ambition: Increasing the culture of innovation in the public sector will mean it will be more open, more agile and see a much greater degree of public participation

Lead implementing organisation: Department of Finance

Timeline: 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2018

OGP values: Access to information; Civic participation; Public accountability

New or ongoing commitment: New and ongoing

Other actors involved - government: Department for the Economy, in partnership with other Executive Departments and the wider public sector.

Other actors involved - CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals: Civic society, businesses, voluntary and community sector

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfill the commitment	New or ongoing commitment	Start Date	End Date
In line with the Executive's Innovation Strategy introduce a SBRI Challenge Fund to support public sector innovations	Ongoing	April 2016	March 2017
Seek to establish a New Executive Innovation Fund to support public sector innovation including SBRI and Challenge Prizes	New	October 2016	March 2017
Explore funding opportunities for Public sector innovation beyond the region	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Explore opportunities for exemplar projects using data	Ongoing	Ongoing	March 2018

analytics to address voluntary, community, social enterprise, public and private sector needs			
Explore opportunities for the Executive for projects under the Space for Smarter Government Programme	New	April 2016	March 2018
Develop a proposal for data analytics and research exploitation centre	New	April 2016	June 2017
Explore opportunities, such as Govcamp, for promoting cross border knowledge sharing and collaboration on digital government ideas and issues.	New	December 2016	May 2018

Commitment 3: To investigate implementation of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) in Central Procurement operations

To investigate implementation of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) in Central Procurement operations.

Objective: To ensure data available on contracts awarded is available for use by stakeholders.

Status quo: An international standard - Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) has been introduced around contract data and this has not been implemented locally.

Ambition: The ambition is to establish whether it is practical for DoF Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to implement the Open Contracting Data Standard moving forward.

Lead implementing organisation: Department of Finance

Timeline: January 2017 – December 2017

OGP values: Access to information; Open data; Public accountability

New or ongoing commitment: New

Other actors involved - government: Other Northern Ireland Civil Service departments

Other actors involved - CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals: None

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfill the commitment	New or ongoing commitment	Start Date	End Date

DoF CPD to explore a pilot project implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard	New	January 2017	December 2017
Develop visualisation tool with contracts data from CPD as part of the Open Data Strategy	New	January 2017	December 2017

Commitment 4: open-up government for greater accountability, improve public services and building a more prosperous and equal society

To establish that all public sector data is Open by default (excepting personal, IPR, commercially or environmentally sensitive data).

Objective: To ensure that the Executive's Open Data Strategy is embraced and adopted by all public sector organisations.

Status quo: To embed a culture of open by default and increase awareness and demand for open data.

Ambition: To increase the number of public sector organisations aware of open data and to encourage publishing of their data on OpenDataNI. Also to encourage the use of open data as a driver to economic growth, innovation and research, and increased Public Sector efficiency.

Lead implementing organisation: Department of Finance

OGP values: Access to information / Civic participation / Public accountability

Timeline: December 2016 – May 2018

New or ongoing commitment: On-going

Other actors involved - government: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Other actors involved - CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals: ODI Belfast, NI Digital Catapult, Future Cities

Verifiable and measurable milestones to fulfill the commitment	New or ongoing commitment	Start Date	End Date
Increase the number of Showcases on OpenDataNI	Ongoing	November 2015	May 2018

Support an annual competition to derive and promote innovative services and products	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Support and host engagement events between the public sector and the developer community to focus on issues and problems locally and use technology, innovation and open data to find solutions	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Increase engagement with a number of partners such as ODI Belfast, NI Digital Catapult, universities, business and developer groups	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Increase proportion of public sector agencies to have published open data	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Increase the number of public sector staff trained in producing and publishing open data	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Increase proactive publication of data from government departments	Ongoing	November 2015	May 2018
Publish 2 datasets as 4-star or 5 star linked Open Data as defined by W3C	Ongoing	June 2016	May 2018
Work with ODI Belfast and partners to encourage innovative uses of open data for new products and services	Ongoing	November 2015	May 2018