

12 November 2010

Dear Cabinet Office Stakeholder,

Consultation on Cabinet Office's Information Strategy

I am writing to invite views on Cabinet Office's Information Strategy, which is outlined in our Business Plan published on 8 November.

The Business Plan brings together the Department's Structural Reform Plans and our contribution to the Government's new system of democratic accountability, through improved transparency between the Government and the public.

The Transparency section of the Business Plan (pages 32-38) contains our Information Strategy which describes the steps we will be taking to make our data and information publicly available. It also includes a proposed list of input and impact indicators, with their related data sets, which can be used to assess our performance in our key priority areas.

Our Business Plan (including the Transparency section) can be downloaded from the following address: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/business-plan.aspx

We welcome your views and comments on the Transparency section, especially regarding the following points (please refer to the numbering against each point in your response)

1. Have we selected the right indicators and measures and clearly explained their meaning in order to give you a helpful high-level picture on its spending and performance? If you don't feel they have, do you have any suggestions for the measures we should consider using;
2. The appropriateness of our commitment to the publication of data, i.e. does it go too far or not far enough?
3. Have we clearly defined our commitment to publishing data to help you judge performance and whether the data that will be published meets your needs;
4. Should we be mandating or encouraging the publication of extra data, or data broken down in a different way, that you would find helpful in holding it to account or making choices about your public services (subject to the collection burden) <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/unlocking-service/OPS/page.aspx?page=UnlockIndex>;
5. How varied is the data from Cabinet Office and how well does it satisfy your needs as users; and/or
6. Can we do more to engage you in helping it to meet its commitment to transparency and to make data available in the most helpful format

To give us your views please write to:

Sima Patel
Cabinet Office
22 Whitehall
London SW1A 2WH

Or by email to COMDU@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

Responses should be received by 31 January 2011. This consultation is not being classed as a Formal Written Consultation as there is no legal obligation to consult and because it would not be the most proportionate way of seeking input from interested parties, as the scope of this exercise is narrow and the level of interest highly-specialised.

If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidential disclaimer, it will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under the Freedom of Information legislation, but, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours,

Alexis Cleveland
Director-General
Corporate Services Group