Open Government Partnership UK Country Action Plan 2011-2013 – Self-Assessment Progress Report   Annex C

Lever	Sub – commitments as published in the UK Action Plan September 2011	**Fulfilled** **Partially fulfilled** **In progress** **Withdrawn** **Will be fulfilled** **Not met**	Update on progress at March 2013
Open Data (Consultation)			
Right to data	• a new power held by appropriate independent organisations to secure the release of valuable public datasets, with a suitable format, quality and regularity of publication;	**withdrawn**	The Government will shortly commence provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Act to provide enhanced rights to receive datasets requested under the FOI Act in a re-usable format, and for their re-use and ongoing publication. **T**he Information Commissioner's Office is the UK's independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals**.** It rules on eligible complaints, give guidance to individuals and organisations, and take appropriate action when the information rights legislation is broken. It will enforce the new datasets rights.
	• meaningful disincentives for public bodies and public servants found to have withheld data that should have been released;	**Partially fulfilled**	The Government's response to the Justice Select Committee's Post Legislative Scrutiny of the FOI Act announced that the Information Commissioner will be given longer to prosecute alleged offences under section 77 of the Act. Section 77 makes it a criminal offence to deliberately hide, alter or destroy information to frustrate a request under the FOI Act or the subject access provisions of the Data Protection Act. The current limit of 6 months from the date of an alleged offence has been a major barrier to the Information Commissioner being able to bring prosecutions under this provision, so the Government is minded to strengthen his ability to do so by allowing him six months from the date he becomes aware of an alleged offence.
	• maximum time limits for how long public bodies can review appeals against Freedom of Information Act (FOI) refusals;	**In progress**	The response to the Justice Select Committee's Post Legislative Scrutiny of the FOI is that the Government is minded to amend the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Act to indicate that, as far as possible and unless a public authority has good a reason otherwise, internal reviews should be completed within 20 working days.
	• altered procurement rules to ensure that data created by government is stored in IT systems which minimise the cost and difficulty of publishing data online;	**In progress**	As per the White Paper commitment, the Government is working on how best procurement policy can be delivered to ensure ease of data publication.
	• a new, higher cost cap for FOI for data held within IT systems procured after July 2012;	**withdrawn**	The Response to the Justice Select Committee's Post Legislative Scrutiny of the FOI act makes clear the Government's intention to review the circumstances in which requests can be declined on cost grounds, to reduce the burden imposed by the FOI act without an excessive impact of transparency.
	• mandating a phased introduction of 'Public by Default', delivered through a new generation of IT systems and accompanying policies.	**Partially fulfilled**	The Open Data White Paper set out the government's plan to 'publish by default', which is being adhered to where possible. Issues are still arising mostly due to legacy IT systems that do not produce the quality or format of data required as a minimum and so some datasets require manual intervention prior to publication. This has meant that data publication, in particular of corporate data, is being rolled out at a slower pace and only after consultation with departments over the practicalities of release. Additionally, many datasets that will be released for the first time have to be checked for privacy infringements and issues of national security to ensure that we are still protecting the individual. It is hoped that with the new ICT Strategy and the Public Data Principles, data will be able to be collated and published with only minor or no manual intervention or delay as the new systems will have been designed to produce data with these factors taken into consideration.
Setting standards	• formalising, through a Code of Practice or opt-in	**Fulfilled**	The Open Data White Paper announced the 'Public Data Principles' as policy for central Government departments.

	process, the Public Data Principles articulated by the Public Sector Transparency Board;		Adherence and progress against these standards are reported quarterly to Parliament through a Written Ministerial Statement. The second of these statements is due to be laid in Parliament in April 2013. Some departments are encountering issues that are preventing greater progress towards compliance with the standards and a number of these issues have been identified in a workshop held by the Cabinet Office Cross Government Transparency Team. The issues were broken down into four basic categories: culture – the working culture within an organisation; ICT – legacy ICT systems that were not designed to collect and release the data in either the new open formats or with the information structured in the way it is required to be more meaningful; Corporate – the working practices of the organisation do not lend themselves to the release process, additional levels of bureaucracy are required to ensure data is of the best quality and informs the user in a meaningful way; and legal – legal barriers that are preventing the release of some data, especially higher value data. Following the workshop, "best practice guidance" is currently being drafted and will be shared across departments .
	• making clear the minimum that citizens can expect on publication and quality of data. This will include compliance with the Public Data Principles;	**Fulfilled**	The Open Data White Paper announced the 'Public Data Principles' as policy for central Government departments and departmental Open Data Strategies set out how they intend to achieve adherence to them.
	• ensuring a line of continuous improvement for public service providers in achieving the highest ratings for their published data when compared against the Five Star Rating for Open Data	**Partially fulfilled**	The Open Data White Paper announced the '5 stars' as policy for central Government departments and departmental Open Data Strategies set out how they intend to achieve adherence to them. In their Open Data Strategies, published alongside the Open Data White Paper, departments agreed to publish, where possible, everything as minimum "3 star" quality. Official statistical data is governed by other standards and as such does not meet the 3 star level, but this is being reviewed in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics to see if a solution to this can be found and the data released in an open and reusable format in future.
	• setting out how citizens can challenge where there is failure in the process (although we expect the public will rarely need to revert to this because data will be proactively published);	**Partially fulfilled**	The Open Data White Paper set out the existing redress mechanism for access and re-use. In addition the Cabinet Office set up the **Open Data Users Group (ODUG)** to support the work of the new Data Strategy Board (DSB). The ODUG will advise the DSB on public sector data that should be prioritised for release as open data, to the benefit of the UK. The full terms of reference for ODUG and DSB can be found here.
	• having in place an Open Data compliance monitoring process which outlines how, when and where public service providers should report their progress;	**Fulfilled**	Quarterly Written Ministerial Statements are laid in Parliament and detail departmental progress and adherence to the standards and published commitments.
	• establishing an obligation to consider and, if appropriate, act on user feedback. This will be the case even where it has been collected independently of the public body or public service provider;	**Partially fulfilled**	Some government departments, as part of their Open Data Strategies, committed to regularly publishing user feedback, these include HMRC and MOD. DoH are already regularly publishing user feedback as part of their suite of health releases, the feedback covering large areas of the National Health Service to allow users to make more informed choices. In some departments work still needs to be done to allow publication of user feedback where it is collected by an external source. An example of this is Department for Transport, where a majority of the user feedback is collected and held by third parties. The Transport Transparency Sector Board are working with these organisations and have started to look at releasing more comprehensive user feedback on trains, buses and air transport. The Civil Aviation Authority is currently passing a Bill through Parliament that will give them the authority and right to publish greater open data on the air industry.
	• making clear that, with very narrow restrictions, licences must cover free, commercial re-use with public service providers not normally selling data. We will build on the successful Open Government Licence (OGL), which makes re-use of Crown Copyright and Crown Database material free for commercial and non-commercial purposes, to create one or more licences which will be prescribed for public bodies where they are making datasets available for re-use. In most cases, the expectation will be that this licence will be the OGL;	**Fulfilled**	The Open Government Licence is now widely used by local authorities in England and Wales and has been adapted by some overseas governments including Canada, South Korea and Spain. Further licence models covering non-commercial use and charged licences have been developed under the UK Government Licensing Framework. .

	• merge information asset registers, publication schemes and other data lists over time into a single data inventory, alongside which would sit the 'unlocking service' that provides for citizens and business to make request for datasets not currently published or planned to be published;	**Withdrawn : Change in scope**	In 2011 work was carried out by HMT on producing a single data inventory for government to be held on data.gov.uk. This was a long and laborious task and was made more difficult by a number of issues including the differing structures of each government department and the legacy ICT systems in place. The Cabinet Office started working on a more flexible way to capture the data in 2011, but this provided more problems as data being captured differed greatly across departments in terms of quality and value. The Cabinet Office is currently looking at alternative ways to capture and release this data without having to produce a single list across government but that will provide users with the information they require. Work is commencing in Spring 2013 on this. The end result will be a data inventory but not necessarily a single list for government.
	• encourage continuous improvement by adoption of recommended publication formats appropriate to the context;	**Fulfilled**	As per the Public Data Principles
	• set consistent expectations of the appropriate quality of meta-data;	**Partially fulfilled**	Work is currently ongoing in developing a set of metadata standards and vocabulary for government, due to be considered in the autumn by the Standards Board. For cross government commitments, guidance is given as the content of the metadata to ensure consistency across departments of similar datasets. More work is needed with departments to ensure that the metadata for their individual dataset commitments reach the same standard
	• for standardised data co-ordinated across government, set the definitions of the data to be provided and their context.		
Corporate and personal responsibility	• introducing a corporate responsibility at Board level to ensure that the right to data is being met (for the organisation and all service providers in the public, private and third sectors) based on the Caldicott Guardian model[1];	**Fulfilled**	All departments have a nominated Senior Official for Transparency, who meet regularly with the CO Cross Government Transparency Team to discuss the Open Data Agenda and make decisions on cross government issues. Their agenda is also led by the Public Data Transparency Board. Below this is the 'working group' of practitioners from each department that meet to look at the everyday issues of releasing data. Their Agenda is led by the Senior Officials Group.
	• strengthening the role and broadening the membership of the Public Sector Transparency Board chaired by the Minister for Cabinet Office;	**Fulfilled**	Dame Fiona Caldicott has been appointed as the Privacy Expert to the Public Data Transparency Board. Additionally all Departmental Sector Boards have now appointed independent privacy experts.
	• bringing the Sector Transparency Board model to other parts of the public sector which hold datasets of greatest value. These will bring input from experts to support and challenge government in making more data public. These boards could ensure that data publication is prioritised to deliver the maximum benefit;	**Fulfilled**	The UK so far has **11 active Sector Boards** in Transport, Social Mobility, Health and Social Care, Tax, Welfare, Research, Local Public Data Panel, Location Council and Criminal Justice. Additionally Foreign Office, Business Innovation and Skills and Education have established internal panels that replicate the Sector Board terms of reference. These were established prior to the Sector Panels and so were utilised instead of establishing another Board. Consideration is being given to the creation of a sector board to bring together the various stakeholders involved in publically funded scientific research to explore greater transparency in this sector. DEFRA has now established an internal Sector Board across their organisations and will be looking to appoint an external data user in future.
	• reviewing the existing governance and regulatory model for public sector information in government.	**In progress**	Stephan Shakespeare was appointed Chairman of the Data Strategy Board (DSB) in June 2012. The DSB is the new advisory body that was set up by the government to maximise the value of data for users across the UK. In addition, Stephan was asked by ministers to undertake a review of public sector information, currently under development.
Collecting and publishing the right data	• establishing a framework for public service providers to have common, consistent and transparent data inventories outlining what datasets are held, and whether they are open or not, using standards set by central government. Inventories would need to be built in a modular way, over time, and should begin	**Will be fulfilled**	Due to the differing nature of government departments, work is currently underway to establish a flexible process for capturing data for the Inventories in such a way as to not increase the burden on resources and to immediately embed the process within already established processes in departments. Data inventory work already carried out by departments will be incorporated into the ongoing work. The CO is now looking at a completely different and innovative way to collect the data for inventories and work has

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[1] Caldicott Guardian is a senior person responsible for protecting the confidentiality of patient and service-user information and enabling appropriate information-sharing. The Guardian plays a key role in ensuring that the NHS, Councils with Social Sevices responsibilities and partner organisations satisfy the highest practicable standards for handling patient identifiable information.

	with high priority data;		commenced in Spring 2013 on this.
	• developing a clear methodology to support intelligent inventories that are prioritised by value;		
	• ensuring a clear process to support a reduction in collections of 'unnecessary data', which maximises opportunities to streamline the volume of data we collect, and ensures resources are focused on collecting essential data; and	**Partially fulfilled**	This action will never be fulfilled in the way the commitment was originally drafted. Data.gov.uk is a 'living' site that is consistently being updated and improved; new ideas for using the data and new technology means that the site has to evolve constantly to ensure that it remains a world leader in government portals. Tools introduced on data.gov.uk allow users to see, at a glance, departmental progress against regular monthly publication of spend data and procurement card data. Data.gov.uk is also now offering tools for departments to see what broken links currently exist; which of their releases are the most 'popular'; and visitor numbers to their datasets.
	• developing data.gov.uk and identifying other digital channels to support users in finding and accessing relevant high quality data and easy to use tools and applications.		
Maximise the opening up of data	• routinely publishing evidence and databases behind policy statements in the way that currently happens around Budget statements;	**Partially fulfilled**	The Open Data White paper detailed the government's commitment to routinely publishing evidence and databases behind policy statements. Some departments have started to publish underlying data for research purposes and the HMRC are releasing more data into their data lab that has been designed for researchers and academics.
	• routine publication of the data underlying surveys at the same time as the survey analysis is published; and		
	• examining ways for improving the use of existing published data for policy and research purposes.		
Stimulating the market for innovative use of open data	• Public service providers are to report each year on how they are building collaborative relationships with the user community, including the commercial sector, which promote use of data.	**Partially fulfilled**	**A joint Cabinet Office and BIS Technology and Strategy Board (TSB) effort, resulted in the establishment of the Open Data Institute (ODI)**. The ODI opened its doors on 1 October 2012 and is a global first: collaboration between our leading businesses and entrepreneurs, universities and researchers, government and civil society to unlock enterprise and social value from the vast amount of Open Government Data now being made accessible. The ODI, an independent organisation led by Professors Sir Tim Berners-Lee and Nigel Shadbolt, will stimulate innovation and enterprise. In addition, in 2012 the Cabinet Office set up the **Open Data User Group (ODUG)** to support the work of the new Data Strategy Board (DSB). The ODUG will advise the DSB on public sector data that should be prioritised for release as open data, to the benefit of the UK. The full terms of reference for ODUG and DSB can be found here Departments have also been tasked to report on how they are engaging the user community in their Open Data Strategies.

Overseas development aid: transparency and accountability

OGP eligibility included in assessment for support	• The UK Government will include the OGP eligibility criteria and related datasets in our overall assessment processes which determine the readiness of partner governments for UK budget support. • This will further strengthen our approach which is based on robust assessments of partner governments' commitment to improving public financial management; strengthening human rights; increasing domestic accountability and reducing poverty.	**Fulfilled**	DFID's internal guidance on budget support includes use of the OGP eligibility criteria. These have been part of dialogue in those countries where new budget support programmes are being initiated, including Rwanda and Ghana.
5% of budget support on strengthening local accountability	• We will also use our commitment to spend up to 5% of budget support (as additional funds) on strengthening local accountability to support progress against related OGP goals.	**Fulfilled**	DFID's 11 countries that provide budget support have a wide-range of programmes in place that aim to strengthen local accountability and OGP goals. These include civil society programmes, support to audit institutions, and to parliamentary scrutiny committees
Publish Aid Information in line with IATI	• We will publish aid information from all government departments who spend overseas development assistance (ODA) in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards, extending coverage to other departments in addition to the Department for International Development.	**Fulfilled/ Will be fulfilled**	BIS – all ODA spend goes through Medical Research Council. MRC IATI registry in pipeline. DFE - no timetable needed – recommending transfer spending back to DFID DECC - has published DEFRA - will publish by June 2013 DH – plan to publish by June 2013 DWP - aiming to publish by 30 April 2013 FCO - will begin publishing ODA data in March 2013, working to full implementation of the IATI standard by March 2014. This first data set will not be in XML format, because of issues around IT systems, procedures and resources that the department is working to resolve. HO – In progress. Plan published on IATI website. Ministerial agreement to publish information given. Projects identified and created on IATI website. First set of data will be published in April 2013. Link to IATI website to be included in the Home Office website (transparency page). MoD – in pipeline

UK Government ICT Strategy

Single Domain	Access to data offers key benefits by enabling access to online transactional services, which makes life simpler and more convenient for citizens and businesses (for instance in accessing and applying for student loans or jobseeker's allowance) and offers channels to collaborate and share information with citizens and business.This in turn enables the innovation of new online tools and services. For these reasons the Government will work to make citizen-focused transactional services 'digital by default.' Where appropriate this will be done by using Directgov as the single domain for citizens to access public services and government information. Direct.gov.uk is the UK Government's digital service for all citizens, providing a single point of access to public sector information and services. The site receives more than fifteen million visits a month, from around eight million unique users. For those for whom digital channels are less accessible (for example, some older or disadvantaged people) the Government will enable a network of 'assisted digital' service providers, such as Post Offices, UK online centres and other local service providers.	GOV.UK - **Fulfilled** Assisted Digital - **Will be fulfilled**	GOV.UK has been launched and sets the foundation not only for finding government information but for lean and efficient transactional services cross government. The project is run under Agile continuous improvement processes. Government published its Approach to Assisted Digital in December 2012 and is now implementing the approach for the first services to go digital by default. Appropriate service providers will be identified and appointed following an open procurement process.
Open data for businesses	The Government will open its data and application interfaces in ways that encourage businesses and social providers to develop new market opportunities. For example, the website Mumsnet uses Directgov tools built on standardised interfaces to provide their users with official up-to-date information on schools and family services.	**Will be fulfilled**	As part of the work being done by the Government Digital Service, the government's single domain, GOV.UK, will have APIs for its content. In October 2013, GOV.UK will provide open API access to content and data.
Standards	The Government believes that citizens should be able to read government documents with the standardised document format reader of their choice. The first wave of compulsory open standards will determine, through open consultation, the relevant open standard for all government documents.	**Will be fulfilled**	The Open Standards Principles (PDF) for software interoperability, data and document formats in government IT were published in November 2012. Consideration and selection of compulsory open standards is now beginning.
Crowd-sourcing and engagement	To ensure that appropriate data is transparent and shared rather than duplicated, the Government will implement engagement processes for open data standards activity and crowd-source priority areas for data standards	**Fulfilled**	The Standards Hub has been developed as the primary engagement channel for open standards activity. Users of the site are encouraged to submit challenges for the Government to address and to suggest ideas for how these could be solved using open standards.
Mandate channel shift	To make citizens' lives simpler and easier, the Government will mandate 'channel shift' (move online) in selected government services	**Will be fulfilled**	Various milestones with departments. All departments are required to have a channel shift plan as one of their actions in response to the Government Digital Strategy. Compliance will be monitored quarterly by Digital Leaders, starting in March 2013, with an Annual Review against progress being published on the Government Digital Strategy website in December 2013. Where users cannot use digital services independently, all new and redesigned services are required to provide

			assisted digital support to ensure that all users can access digital by default services.
Cross-government standards on APIs	To open up new, innovative services from a diverse range of providers, the Government will create cross-government standards on APIs and develop a quality assurance 'kite-mark'	**Will be fulfilled**	API policy and guidance is planned for later in 2013. This will be incorporated into the <u>Digital by Default Service Standard</u>. APIs will be reviewed as part of the service standard governance rather than with a separate kite-mark for APIs.
Online in all consultations	To facilitate a two-way dialogue with citizens, departments will ensure that an online channel is included in all government consultations	**Will be fulfilled**	GOV.UK will provide access to the consultation documents of departments and agencies, which have transitioned onto the Inside Government section of the site. Citizens will be able to see whether a consultation is still open or has closed, as well as official responses.
Practical guidelines on social media	To embed social media as a mainstream channel used routinely to engage with citizens, business and internally, the Government will develop practical guidelines on departmental access to the internet and social media channels	**Fulfilled**	The Government Digital Service has published a <u>guide</u> on handling social media for government.
Standardised formats for user satisfaction data	The establishment of standardised formats for user satisfaction data so that users can compare and contrast their experience of the service they receive with that of others	**Will be fulfilled**	The Digital by Default service standard will set out a methodology for consistent user satisfaction metrics across Government services. This will be launched in April 2013.