Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2016-18: Mid-term Self Assessment Report

Introduction

The UK's third Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) was launched alongside the London Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016. The NAP was co-created with civil society, particularly after the development of the Open Government Manifesto. Government and civil society worked together through a series of workshops and online consultations to arrive at the final plan.

The UK's third NAP includes for the first time commitments from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The inclusion of those commitments was, in part, a response to a recommendation from the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism from the report covering the UK's first NAP (2011-13). The assessor recommended that the UK Government engage with the devolved administrations to ensure all relevant actors were included.[1] In December 2016, the devolved administrations: the Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government added their own commitments to the NAP, covering a broad range of topics. These commitments were co-created with members of civil society and active citizens, coordinated through the different open government networks around the UK.

This self-assessment report looks at progress 16 months into the implementation of the two-year plan. It will reflect on the experiences of Government officials and civil society organisations during the development and implementation of the NAP. The final section will set out those areas where we plan to make progress in the coming months. It will also set out our proposals to improve the development process for the next NAP, to ensure we continue our drive to be a world leader in open government.

To inform this self-assessment, we have sought the views of government officials and civil society organisations involved in the NAP process, as well as those not as actively involved. The headline results of the survey, completed by 27 respondents, are in Annex A.

This report covers the period from the publication of the plan in May 2016 until September 2017. A draft version of this self-assessment report was published from 17 November until 1 December to allow external organisations to provide public comments. We have incorporated many of them below. Where comments related to

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[1] [K. Dunion, United Kingdom Progress Report 2011-2013, p.14](#)

announcements or progress that was made after September 2017, these will be covered in the final self assessment report.

Open government in the UK

The UK was a founding member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2011. Since then, it has supported the organisation to grow from an initial membership of eight to over 70 governments. It was the lead co-chair of the OGP from September 2012 until November 2013, during which it hosted the OGP Summit in London. The UK was re-elected to the OGP Steering Committee in July 2014 for a further three-year term. From September 2016, it has co-chaired the OGP's Peer Learning and Support subcommittee. The UK completed maximum two terms on the Steering Committee in September 2017, and will remain a committed and active member of the OGP going forwards.

The UK's NAP commitments are structured around four priority areas:
- Fiscal transparency
- Tackling corruption
- Improving transparency around government and elections
- Investing in our national information instructure

The UK is recognised as a world leader in open data, as was recently reconfirmed by the World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Barometer.[2] We have continued our drive to remain open and transparent through the commitments in our NAP. In 2016, we became the first G7 country to introduce the Open Contracting Data Standard for the publication of central government procurement data on the Contracts Finder platform. We have introduced legislative changes to improve access to government data across organisational boundaries in public services through the Digital Economy Act 2017. The UK has also been a world leader in the transparency of our international aid through the International Aid Transparency Initiative and in transparency in the extractive industries through mandatory payments-to-governments reporting and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Process summary

The UK's participation in the OGP is led by the Cabinet Office and delivered by a team based in the Government Digital Service (GDS), part of the Cabinet Office. The Minister for Government Resilience and Efficiency, Caroline Nokes, is the UK's

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[2] Open Data Barometer Fourth Edition May 2017, opendatabarometer.org

Minister responsible for overseeing the open government agenda. The team is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the UK's NAP.

The UK also works with OGP around the world through the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). As a core part of its transparency agenda, DFID encourages vibrant civic engagement in the development of NAPs on transparency and better implementation of commitments by engaging directly with existing or aspiring member governments. DFID's significant involvement in OGP has helped expand it to some of the more fragile developing countries where a lack of transparency and accountability hampers poverty reduction and fuels instability. In 2016 three DFID priority countries (Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan) became members of OGP, taking the number of DFID priority countries overall to nine. DFID is working with the OGP Support Unit to use the OGP process to tackle issues facing these countries.

During the UK's tenure on the Steering Committee, the FCO has promoted various OGP initiatives to drive openness and transparency including the International Open Data Charter for which the UK is a lead steward and the Declaration at the 4th OGP Summit held in Paris in December 2016, which highlighted the need to protect and defend civil society's space to operate. The FCO has directly supported projects in over 20 countries during 2016. This work has included providing advice to countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina on the steps required to become full members of the OGP, as well as more targeted work with civil society and governments in member states including Serbia and South Africa either to develop their action plans or to achieve specific objectives. As we come to the end of our tenure on the OGP Steering Committee in 2017, the UK remains committed to working with civil society and governments to provide the leadership to protect and enhance the necessary civic space for transformative reforms.

The third NAP was co-created with civil society organisations, under the umbrella of the UK's Open Government Network, which is coordinated by Involve. The OGN crowdsourced an Open Government Manifesto, consisting of 28 proposals for commitments, covering a broad range of areas including anti-corruption, citizen participation, open budgets, and open information. From the start, we were keen to ensure that the NAP's narrative, priority themes and commitments were all co-created with civil society.

We began working with the OGN in July 2015, to identify the overarching narrative and priority themes for the NAP. Involve brought together the civil society representatives and the Cabinet Office Open Government team coordinated policy leads within government to ensure that ideas could be discussed with all the right stakeholders. Having robust discussions early on enabled us to include ambitious

commitments in the areas of anti-corruption, open contracting, and freedom of information. By December 2015, five priority themes were established to help frame the development of the NAP. Each theme had relevant government and civil society co-leads who could marshal collective efforts to develop proposals for commitments. These themes were:

- Access to information
- Anti-corruption
- Civic participation
- Open data
- Public accountability

In February 2016, the Cabinet Office and OGN co-hosted four workshops to develop commitments in these areas. In March and April, small working groups coalesced around each of the themes to develop as many civil society and government proposals into co-created commitments as possible. During April, the Cabinet Office and OGN hosted three further workshops in Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle to discuss progress on the NAP and to gather ideas for future commitments.

The civil society organisations we worked with brought their knowledge and expertise to bear on a set of difficult policy problems, helping ensure that the commitments were robust and ambitious. After the publication of the NAP, we have continued to work with civil society organisations as we implement the commitments, in keeping with the spirit of co-creation.

Our draft NAP was published for public comments. We received responses to the draft, and were able to incorporate much of the feedback we received.

Implementation of the NAP

Since May 2016, government officials and civil society organisations have been collaborating to implement the open government commitments.

The Open Government team remains the central point of contact working with commitment leads and civil society representatives to organise quarterly implementation meetings to discuss the progress of commitments. After each quarterly implementation meeting, a set of short updates on each commitment is developed. These are published along with the minutes of each implementation meeting on the OGN's website.

As agreed in our [joint statement on how government and civil society will collaborate](#), we have published full updates on each commitment every six months on the [OGP website](#). The first set were published in December 2016. The second set were delayed due to the UK's General Election in June 2017, and will be published alongside this report, as well as on the OGP's website, when the final report is published.

Commitment leads and relevant officials have been working with the relevant civil society stakeholders to progress the individual commitments. This has been done to varying levels across each of the commitments. Of particular note is the open contracting commitment, where officials and civil society have established an Open Contracting Steering Group that oversees the implementation of the commitment and shares expertise and ideas to drive progress. The partnerships around individual commitments have been judged as less good at mid-term than the 2013-15 NAP - with only 46% of respondents saying there was a very strong or strong partnership, compared to 69% in the 2013-15 mid-term report. To address this, Cabinet Office has been encouraging commitment leads to engage further with civil society stakeholders where relevant and appropriate. This mid-term point is a good opportunity to understand the strength of our partnerships and renew our collaborative efforts during the second half of the implementation.

Commitment 13 of the NAP aimed to enable a degree of flexibility and responsiveness to add or update commitments and milestones as necessary. This flexibility was useful to allow the addition of commitments from the devolved administrations in December 2016. The commitments from the devolved administrations have been the only further additions, and no further milestones have been added to existing commitments. However, civil society and government have been unable to develop an agreed process for the addition or updating of milestones. When we are co-creating the next NAP, we will improve the process of agreeing milestones when the plan is first drafted and agreed. This will ensure we can exploit the momentum around the development of the NAP, and agree clear milestones for the next two years.

We have learnt from our previous NAPs about the importance of clear commitments and milestones in order to measure progress. This NAP set out clear milestones with dates attached to each of them. Since the launch of the NAP in May 2016, there have been a lot of institutional change that has taken place in the UK. This has meant that some commitments have been delivered more slowly than first anticipated. This is reflected in the lower scores given in response to the question about the overall implementation of the NAP (54% rated implementation as going very well or well) than for the 2013-15 mid-term report (81%).

Status	Number (%) of milestones
Completed	8 (15%)
On track	29 (55%)
Ongoing	6 (11%)
Behind schedule	10 (19%)
Closed	0 (0%)

The progress updates published alongside this self-assessment provide the detail on progress to date across all our commitments. We would particularly like to reflect on the implementation of the following commitments.

Open contracting
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 implementation 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 this aspect of 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."

Natural resource transparency

We have made significant progress in the implementation of commitments around natural resource transparency. The second UK EITI Report was published on 31 March 2017. The UK is now scheduled to commence validation by July 2018. BEIS is conducting a consultative review of the mandatory [Reports on Payment to Governments Regulations](). The FCA has updated its rules to require companies to file extractives reports which are open and accessible. Going forward, in order to incorporate commodity trading transactions on payments to governments, DFID is working with BEIS, the FCA and HMT to explore whether we could further amend mandatory reporting rules to include companies engaged in physical oil, gas and minerals trading as an economic activity as well as a further category of payment within the legislation to capture such transactions. DFID and the Natural Resource Governance Institute have been working with the OECD to host and convene the international dialogue on commodity trading transparency. This was launched in June 2017, and will be followed by a full consultation on 31 January 2018.

Grants data

Billions of pounds of government money is spent through grants. Through this commitment, we're making grants data more open. We'll be publishing data at scheme level for all government departments covering 2015/16 and 2016/17. We're also piloting the publication of award level data for at least two departments. By providing this data in the standard format developed by [360Giving](), this more granular data can be compared with that of the other grantmaking organisations, therefore proving a bigger picture of funding landscape.[3]

Conclusion and next steps

We are pleased with the progress we have made when developing and implementing the current NAP. There has been a significant amount of political change in the UK over the last year, but the Government's commitment to open government is not diminished. The process of implementing this NAP has not always been straightforward, but officials and civil society have worked together well and continued to push for open government reforms. The survey showed higher scores around the ongoing joint process between government and civil society - with 75% of respondents saying that there was a large or moderate amount of ongoing collaboration compared to 56% for the 2013-15 mid-term report.

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[3] Grant data is collected at scheme and awards level where scheme is related to an overarching policy area and grant award is given out to meet the objectives of the grant scheme.

We have learnt some valuable lessons in the development and implementation of the this NAP which will factor into our thinking as we begin to develop the fourth NAP for publication in summer 2018.

The key lesson is that for the development of this NAP, we had a major event (the London Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016) with significant political support from which to launch the NAP. This enabled the Cabinet Office to encourage commitment leads to develop ambitious commitments in a wide range of areas, but particularly around the anti-corruption theme. In future, to ensure the UK can develop ambitious commitments, we should identify major events which we can link with the development of NAPs to exploit significant momentum.

The second lesson we've identified is that we should focus government's and civil society's efforts in key priority areas, rather than spreading them across multiple commitments. By identifying priority themes early in the development of the NAP, we could concentrate discussions, and ensure efforts were targeted at gaining ambitious commitments. For the next NAP, we will make sure that we focus on priority areas agreed by government and civil society.

The third lesson is the importance of the UK's leadership on open government around the world. As other countries develop commitments in a wide range of different areas, the UK is often a point of inspiration. It is important that Cabinet Office work closely with DFID and FCO to ensure our domestic implementation of commitments continues to maintain our position of global leadership, while supporting other countries with our experience and lessons learnt.

The next NAP is due for publication in summer 2018. This will include commitments from the UK Government, as well as each of the devolved administrations.

Annex A of the report: Self-assessment online survey - summary of results

This includes scores from across the UK Government and the three devolved administrations commitments. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Are you responding as a representative of government or civil society?		
Government	59%	16
Civil society	41%	11
Skipped question		0

2. Which set(s) of National Action Plan commitments are you involved in? Select all that apply		
UK Government commitments	66%	18
Northern Ireland Executive commitments	25%	7
Scottish Government commitments	4%	1
Welsh Government commitments	18%	5
Skipped question		0

3. How well do you think the UK has done to date overall in implementing the NAP?		
Excellently	0%	0
Very well	23%	6
Well	31%	8
Fairly well	35%	9
Poorly	12%	3
Skipped question		1

4. To what extent is there an ongoing joint process in place to monitor the

progress of the implementation of the NAP?		
To a large extent (meetings are held at least every three months with a government official or minister to review overall progress on implementation)	29%	7
To a moderate extent (meetings are held every three to six months with a government official or minister to review overall progress on implementation)	46%	11
To some extent (irregular meetings are held with government officials to review overall progress on implementation)	25%	6
Not at all (no meetings are held with government officials to review overall progress on implementation)	0%	0
Skipped question		3

5. Which NAP commitment(s) are you involved in or have a particular interest in? Select all that apply		
UK Commitment 1: Beneficial ownership	22%	6
UK Commitment 2: Natural resource transparency	19%	5
UK Commitment 3: Anti-corruption strategy	22%	6
UK Commitment 4: Anti-corruption innovation hub	22%	6
UK Commitment 5: Open contracting	26%	7
UK Commitment 6: Grants data	22%	6
UK Commitment 7: Elections data	15%	4
UK Commitment 8: Enhanced transparency requirements and revised Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice	26%	7
UK Commitment 9: Identifying and publishing core data assets	22%	6
UK Commitment 10: Involving data users in shaping the future of open data	30%	8
UK Commitment 11: Better use of data assets	19%	5
UK Commitment 12: GOV.UK	15%	4
UK Commitment 13: Ongoing collaborative approach to open government reform	22%	6

Northern Ireland Commitment 1: Develop & trial effective open policy-making and public engagement methods	19%	5
Northern Ireland Commitment 2: Promote greater levels of public sector innovation	19%	5
Northern Ireland Commitment 3: To investigate implementation of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) in Central Procurement operations	19%	5
Northern Ireland Commitment 4: Open-up government for greater accountability, improve public services and building a more prosperous and equal society	15%	4
Scotland Commitment 1: Effective Open Government for governments at all levels	0%	0
Wales Commitment 1: Open data plan	11%	3
Wales Commitment 2: Open data service	7%	2
Wales Commitment 3: StatsWales	7%	2
Wales Commitment 4: Administrative Data Research Centre Wales	4%	1
Wales Commitment 5: Government Social Research Publication Protocol	4%	1
Wales Commitment 6: Gov.Wales	4%	1
Wales Commitment 7: Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains	11%	3
Wales Commitment 8: Well-being of Future Generations Act – National Indicators for Wales	7%	2
Wales Commitment 9: Well-being duty on specified public bodies in Wales	7%	2
Skipped question		0

6. To what extent is there ongoing collaboration between government officials and civil society on the implementation of individual commitments?		
To a large extent (meetings are held - or other methods of engagement are instigated - between relevant government officials and relevant civil society organisations at least once every four months)	31%	8

To a moderate extent (meetings are held - or other methods of engagement are instigated - between relevant government officials and relevant civil society organisations at least once every six months)	27%	7
To some extent (meetings are held - or other methods of engagement are instigated - between relevant government officials and relevant civil society organisations less than once every six months)	38%	10
Not all (no meetings are held - or no other methods of engagement are instigated - with government officials to review progress)	4%	1
Skipped question		1

7. In your opinion, how would you judge the strength of the partnership between key government officials and engaged civil society organisations in the implementation of individual commitments?		
Very strong (government and civil society have productive and strong working relationships with at least a high level of trust and disagreements are negotiated with mutually agreeable solutions found in all cases)	8%	2
Strong (government and civil society have fairly productive and strong working relationships with at least a moderate level of trust and disagreements are negotiated with mutually agreeable solutions found in most cases)	38%	10
Moderately strong (government and civil society have a basic working relationship with at least a low level of trust and attempts have been made to negotiate disagreements with mutually agreeable solutions found in some cases)	46%	12
Weak (government and civil society have not been able to establish a working relationship and/or no attempts have been made to negotiate disagreements)	8%	2
Skipped question		1

8. Were you involved in the development of the NAP?		
Yes	54%	14

No	46%	12
Skipped question		1

9. To what extent did civil society organisations have a significant level of involvement and influence in the development of the narrative (ie the story that connects the commitments and describes the UK's approach to open government for the action plan)?		
To a large extent (government and civil society co-drafted the narrative for the action plan)	28%	7
To a moderate extent (civil society was able to comment on the draft narrative with government taking on board a majority of comments)	32%	8
To some extent (civil society was able to comment on the draft narrative with government taking on board a minority of comments)	40%	10
Not at all (civil society had no involvement in the development of the narrative for the action plan)	0%	0
Skipped question		2

10. To what extent did civil society have involvement in the development of individual commitments for the action plan?		
To a large extent (government and civil society worked together to develop all of the commitments in the action plan)	25%	6
To a moderate extent (government and civil society worked together to develop the majority of commitments in the action plan)	42%	10
To some extent (government and civil society worked together to develop the minority of commitments in the action plan)	29%	7
Not at all (civil society had no involvement in the development of commitments)	4%	1
Skipped question		3

11. To what extent was it communicated to civil society organisations why inputs were or were not taken into account regarding specific commitments?		
To a large extent (government responded to each input, stating the reasons they could or could not be adopted)	27%	6
To a moderate extent (government responded to the majority of inputs, stating the reasons they could or could not be adopted)	36%	8
To some extent (government responded to a minority of inputs, stating the reasons they could or could not be adopted)	14%	3
Not at all (government was not forthcoming about why inputs were or were not adopted)	23%	5
Skipped question		5

12. In your opinion, how would you judge the strength of the partnership between key government officials and engage civil society organisations in the development of NAP commitments?		
Very strong (government and civil society developed productive and strong working relationships with at least a high level of trust and disagreements were negotiated with mutually agreeable solutions found in all cases)	20%	5
Strong (government and civil society developed fairly productive and strong working relationships with at least a moderate level of trust and disagreements were negotiated with mutually agreeable solutions found in most cases)	40%	10
Moderately strong (government and civil society developed a basic working relationship with at least a low level of trust and attempts were made to negotiate disagreements with mutually agreeable solutions found in some cases)	28%	7
Weak (government and civil society were not able to establish a working relationship and/or no attempts were made to negotiate disagreements)	12%	3
Skipped question		2

13. Is there a clear direction of travel for the commitments you are involved in beyond the work already set out in the NAP?		
Yes	60%	15
No	40%	10
Skipped question		2

Annex B: OGP UK National Action Plan 2016-18 Commitment updates, September 2017

Commitment title	1: Beneficial ownership
Commitment	We will establish a public register of company beneficial ownership information for foreign companies who already own or buy property in the UK, or who bid on UK central government contracts.
Lead department(s)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	mySociety, Natural Resource Governance Institute, ONE, Publish What You Pay UK, The Open Data Institute, Transparency International UK, Global Witness
Overall commitment status	Ongoing
Overall progress against commitment	The Government launched a call for evidence in April. We are currently analysing the responses and plan to issue a response soon.

Progress against milestones/activities

Milestone	Update	Status
1. The intention is to consult by the end of the year	The call for evidence was launched in April, closing on 15 May. We are currently analysing the responses and plan to issue a response soon.	Ongoing
2. Introduce primary legislation in the third Parliamentary session *(The calendar of Parliamentary sessions has changed following the recent general election.)*	Policy development is progressing and an update on this progress will be provided in the response to the call for evidence.	Ongoing

Commitment title	2: Natural resource transparency
Commitment	We will work with others to enhance company disclosure regarding payments to government for the sale of oil, gas and minerals, complementing our commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and implementation of EU Directives, and explore the scope for a common global reporting standard.
Lead department(s)	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, HM Treasury, Financial Conduct Authority and Department for International Development.
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Global Witness, Natural Resource Governance Institute, ONE, Oxfam, Publish What You Pay
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	There has been good progress against milestones one and two. For milestone three, DFID introduced a new OECD-hosted international dialogue on transparency in commodity trading in June 2017. We will work up a programme with the OECD and Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) for a policy event hosted by OECD on Commodity Trading transparency in December 2017. We are in the process of agreeing the terms of reference.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. UK to publish second EITI report by 15 April 2017 and commence validation to become EITI compliant	The second UK EITI Report was published on 31 March 2017. The UK is now scheduled to commence validation by July 2018.	Completed
2. UK listed extractive companies will be required to publish data under the EU transparency amending directive in an open and accessible format	The FCA has updated its rules to require those companies filing extractives reports under their Transparency Directive to comply with a reporting format that is open and accessible. Going forward, in order to incorporate commodity trading transactions on payments to governments, the Department for International Development is working with the FCA and HMT to explore whether we could further amend this rule to include physical commodities trading as an economic activity as well as a	On track

	further category of payment within the legislation to capture such transactions. The UK will consider whether to conduct a national impact assessment on potential impacts of these proposed mandatory reporting requirements.	
3. Agree terms of reference for the dialogue on increased transparency around sales of oil, gas and minerals	All countries that made commitments on this issue at the London Anti-Corruption Summit were invited to participate in follow up discussions regarding next steps. The general consensus was that the OECD should host and convene the international dialogue on commodity trading transparency, which was formally launched in Paris on 16 June 2017 as part of the OECD-hosted Policy Dialogue on Natural Resources. This will be followed by a fuller consultation in December 2017. DFID is finalising a cooperation agreement with the OECD which will manage this dialogue, working closely with the Natural Resource Governance Institute and others.	On track

Commitment title	3: Anti-Corruption Strategy
Commitment	To develop, in consultation with civil society, and publish a new Anti-Corruption Strategy ensuring accountability to Parliament on progress of implementation.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office and Home Office
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Bond Anti-Corruption Group (ARTICLE 19, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Corruption Watch, Global Witness, Integrity Action, Natural Resource Governance Institute, ONE, Open Contracting Partnership, Public Concern at Work, Publish What You Pay, The Corner House, The Sentry, Transparency International UK), Campaign for Freedom of Information, International Budget Partnership, mySociety, Natural Resource Governance Institute, Publish What You Pay UK
Overall commitment status	Behind schedule
Overall progress against commitment	The government is working on a new Anti-Corruption Strategy which will be published in due course. Consultation continues with a wide ranging group of stakeholders on the strategy, including civil society and business.

Progress against milestones/activities		
Milestone	Update	Status
1. Consult with civil society on the content of and publish a UK Anti-Corruption Strategy	The previous 6 monthly update described stakeholder engagement in 2016 with expert groups in civil society, business, and government departments and agencies. In 2017 the government has continued to consult with civil society, business and academics as it finalises a new Anti-Corruption Strategy. Meetings have focused more on specific proposals for the new strategy, whereas discussions in 2016 had been more wide ranging. We plan to brief external partners before publication.	Consultation stage - on track Publication stage - behind schedule
2. To publish progress against actions within the Strategy	Departments will regularly publish progress updates following publication.	Not yet commenced
3. To introduce a mechanism allowing greater Parliamentary scrutiny of anti-corruption work	This is currently under consideration. The views of civil society have been sought.	On track

Commitment title	4: Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub
Commitment	We will incubate an Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub to connect social innovators, technology experts and data scientists with law enforcement, business and civil society to collaborate on innovative approaches to anti-corruption.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service)
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Citi, Omidyar Network, Thomson Reuters, Transparency International UK, Vodafone.
Overall commitment status	Behind schedule
Overall progress against commitment	The development of the Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub has been slower than expected due to the difficulty of contracting a consultant to support GDS on developing the Hub as set out according to the original terms of reference. Officials will be working with new ministers and officials from across government on plans to deliver the Hub.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Establish Innovation Hub	Cabinet Office convened a series of meetings with relevant government officials and external organisations across the second half of 2016. We agreed a terms of reference for the Innovation Hub which set out the purpose and scope.	Ongoing
2. Showcase examples of innovative approaches to tackling corruption at the 2016 OGP Summit in Paris in December 2016	Cabinet Office organised a panel discussion at the OGP Summit in Paris which included speakers from OpenCorporates and the Open Data Cooperative who highlighted the work they are doing in beneficial ownership transparency and open contracting. The representative from OpenCorporates discussed the results of the DataDive which OpenCorporates, DataKind and Global Witness had convened in November 2016 to look at the beneficial ownership data released by the UK under the previous NAP.	Completed
3. Operationalise Innovation Hub	In early 2017, Cabinet Office worked with Omidyar Network to recruit a consultant. Unfortunately, problems with the contracting process delayed recruitment. Officials are working with new ministers and officials from across government on plans to deliver the Hub.	Ongoing

Commitment title	5: Open contracting
Commitment	To implement the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) 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.
Lead department(s)	Crown Commercial Service
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	ARTICLE 19, CAFOD, Campaign for Freedom of Information, Open Contracting Partnership, The Open Data Institute
Overall commitment status	Completed
Overall progress against commitment	The Open Contracting Partnership (OCDS Helpdesk) conducted an assessment of our initial implementation on Contracts Finder. This helped us improve our implementation of the standard. Our output has been validated as compliant with the exception of technical issues affecting a small volume of historical data. We continue to work closely with the Open Contracting Partnership. Their recent feedback 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 & completeness of information, the strong focus of the team on user needs, stakeholder engagement bodes well for 2017 and beyond." The UK has contributed to the development of the recent upgrade of the standard to version V1.1. Crown Commercial Service and our suppliers have been key in helping the Open Contracting Partnership to explore a number of data modelling issues, including on the handling of framework contracts, and preparing for subcontracting information.

Progress against milestones/activities

1. Open Contracting Data Standard to be implemented on Crown Commercial procurement.	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.	Completed

Commitment title	6: Grants data
Commitment	Government plans to collect more granular data on grant making. This will be in line with the 360 Giving Standard. In addition, the Grants Efficiency Function in the Cabinet Office will publish more granular level data on Government Grants Expenditure at a scheme and award level. The quantity and type of data provided publicly will be determined following consultation and agreement with the data providers.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	360Giving, NCVO, The Open Data Institute
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	We have made considerable progress with departments uploading grants data onto the Government Grants Information System (GGIS). Full data for 17 central government departments will be published in autumn 2017 at scheme level for year 2015/16 and 2016/17. We also intend to pilot the publication of award level data for at least two departments, to demonstrate how we are making progress in delivering increased transparency. For these departments, we are following the 360Giving Standard which makes open grants data more useful by standardising it.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Collate government grant data on grant schemes and grant awards level on the GGIS.	The GGIS has now been established and we are in the process of working with departments and arm's-length bodies in uploading data on grant schemes and awards. We have made good progress on uploading 2016/17 financial year data and departments are now uploading grants data covering the 2017/18 financial year. We will continue to work with departments over 2017/18 to increase completeness and accuracy of grant award level data.	On track
2. Publish more granular data sourced from the GGIS on grant schemes and grant awards (the quantity and the type of data provided will be	The GGIS data for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years will be published on GOV.UK by the Autumn 2017.	On track

dependent on agreements with the data owners, ie government departments)		23

Commitment title	7: Elections data
Commitment	Working with interested parties from government, Parliament and civil society, we will develop a common data standard for reporting election results in the UK faster and more efficiently, and develop a plan to support electoral administrators to voluntarily adopt the standard.
Lead department(s)	Local Government Association
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Democracy Club, Democratic Audit, Democratise, Local Government Information Unit, mySociety, The Open Data Institute, Press Association
Overall commitment status	Behind schedule
Overall progress against commitment	Project has made good progress to date in building working relationships and in facilitating widespread support and involvement in key stakeholders capable of moving this initiative forward. The technical strategy, the consultation process and the creation of a data standard is broadly on track. Since the start of the project, there has been wide and open consultation with public and private elections and data experts to develop a proposed specification of a new data standard. This is published but not yet deployed. It is also undergoing further scrutiny with technical data experts, the open data community and the Cabinet Office Open Standards Board on GitHub. We have secured participation and commitment from key stakeholders to support the initiative and to extend their tools, services and promotion channels to encourage take-up next year. Stakeholders include: Electoral Commission, Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), LGA, UK Parliament Information Services, academic groups, civic society democracy groups, electoral system suppliers. We have been approached by the Press Association, which is keen to deploy the data standard in elections analysis once fixed and in production.

Local authorities have limited capacity and resources and are unlikely to be able to participate unless the process can be made simple. Progress depends on introducing new import and export processes to commercial electoral systems. Suppliers have indicated willingness to participate but require funding to be available to underwrite their development costs. This was recorded as a risk in the last report and no progress has been made since then, partially due to the pre-election period around the June 2017 General Election. Whilst no rollout or significant pilot trials have been possible as a result of this, stakeholders have indicated that they can see the potential of easier data discovery and reuse if data to a consistent standard was being made available. |

Progress against milestones/activities		
Milestone	**Update**	**Status**

1. Develop a draft schema and publishing process for consideration, refinement and agreement by interested parties - particularly data publishers, election management system (EMS) suppliers, data consumers	Two rounds of open consultations with interested user groups and public sector publisher and governance groups have taken place in Feb-May 2016 and Aug-Oct 2016. Detailed technical meetings have taken place with Electoral Commission, senior representatives from the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), suppliers of the four main electoral management systems (EMS) and academic organisations to secure understanding, inputs and buy-in. This has resulted in the latest version of the elections results data specification which has the support of all groups online here: http://e-sd.org/vgTJ3 The key outcomes from the two consultations are summarised in online documents here: Consultation No1 (Spring 2016) - http://e-sd.org/fmcAY. Consultation No2 (Autumn 2016) - http://e-sd.org/Rsr9V. The standard is undergoing scrutiny by the Cabinet Office Data Standards Board on GitHub here: https://github.com/esd-org-uk/schemas/tree/master/ElectionResults. Very positive responses have been received and only very minor requests for subtle changes such as the format of dates to an international standard. All requests for refinement have been included in the latest version of the standard. We have commitment from Electoral Commission to support and extend additional online resources to their data systems for this work in 2017. We have support from the AEA to assist in promotion, rollout and initial trials in 2017 when we are ready to progress. We have a general promise from most EMS suppliers to remain involved and monitor the emerging specification for additional features needed within their systems to support data export in the appropriate form. These developments require funding and this has not yet been resourced.	On track
2. Use the draft data standard for real by gathering local elections results as they are announced	As no EMS commercial systems have yet been commissioned to implement technical support for the standard, this is pending development funding.	On track
3. Develop guidance materials and a support programme to assist Election Services Departments to participate	A specification document has been prepared here: http://e-sd.org/vgTJ3 eLearning modules to define the preferred approach to publishing all local government open data have been launched here: http://e-sd.org/zDlmh	Ongoing

	Work is yet to begin with Electoral Commission and AEA to develop a support and promotional campaign and will soon be behind schedule. This work awaits funding to progress the additional tools in the EMS systems in order to provide the necessary tools to the local Electoral Administration Departments.	
4. Data consumer groups to trial early use of the standard - even to the extent of manually re-working published data into the standard themselves to demonstrate benefits	This work has not yet commenced officially but is likely to move forward more rapidly once EMS systems have been extended to support the new data specification. Leeds City Council has manually reformatted existing data into the standard for review and early assessment. This is available online for download as a simple csv spreadsheet form here: https://aql.datapress.com/leeds/dataset/election-results-local/2016-06-01T15:41:51/Elections.csv No councils are able to prepare sample manual data pending a decision on whether this initiative will progress to production status. The LGA is investigating if sample data can be acquired from a few local authorities which can then be manually converted to the standard by LGA resources.	Behind schedule
5. Adoption by the suppliers of EMS systems to provide auto-extraction of local election content into the standard format	EMS suppliers have attended meetings, participated in open discussion forums and indicated interest to become involved but have not yet been issued with a detailed specification against which to respond as the open consultation has just recently completed. They have indicated an expectation that funding will be necessary to commission their development resources. This funding source has not been identified. The status of this section is recorded as "behind schedule" as we are currently unable to proceed until a funding source is identified. The Cabinet Office gave a commitment to explore how it could fund this work in March 2017 but progress on work was delayed by the June 2017 General Election. The LGA has agreed to consider solutions too.	Behind schedule
7. Develop online data search, validation, harvesting and aggregation tools to assemble local data into combined regional and national elections results register	The LGA has commissioned extensions to its open data validator tool to support elections data. This is online here: http://validator.opendata.esd.org.uk/electionresults. A json schema table is also developed to support data validation by the Open Data Institute csvlint tool here: http://toolbox.theodi.org/tools/csvlint/ The LGA open data harvester tool is being extended to support discover and build of regional and national elections data files by querying the Cabinet Office data.gov.uk open	On track

	data hub. We remain in conversation with Cabinet Office (GDS) to add the elections schema to its content in data.gov.uk once approved. There remains a requirement to extend data registration capabilities in data.gov.uk capable of being activated automatically from machine to machine. Currently, each returning officer will be required to register their elections data manually which will be a source of risk and error.	
8. Encourage an initial pilot of local authorities to trial data output in the standard form - using May 2016 local election results. Aim for 20-30 participants	Local authorities have limited resource and require easy-to-publish features to be added to existing EMS systems. Until the data standard has been incorporated into the EMS systems, this is difficult for local authorities to trial.	Delayed
9. Encourage wider take up of the process in the 2017 local elections. Aim for 100-120 participants	Awaits progress on most of the above milestones to become effective.	Delayed

Commitment title	8: Enhanced transparency requirements and revised Freedom of Information Act Code of Practice
Commitment	To increase transparency and improve the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act in the public interest.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	360Giving, ARTICLE 19, Campaign for Freedom of Information, mySociety, The Open Data Institute, Transparency International UK
Overall commitment status	Behind schedule
Overall progress against commitment	The Government will consult on proposals for a new FOI Code of Practice shortly. Stakeholder input gathered from the consultation will be integral to finalising the Code before publication.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Enhanced transparency measures, including statistics on the operation of the FOI Act and data about senior pay and benefits	Enhanced transparency measures, including statistics on the operation of the FOI Act and data about senior pay and benefits. Guidance to be included, subject to outcome of public consultation, in the Code of Practice.	Behind schedule
2. Consult on and issue new FOI Code of Practice	Consult on and issue new FOI Code of Practice. Following work to develop the content of the revised Code, we intend that a draft Code of Practice will be issued for public consultation very shortly.	Behind schedule

Commitment title	9: Identifying and publishing core data assets
Commitment	We will create a high quality national information infrastructure, making government data more secure and easier to find, store and access.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service)
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	mySociety, The Open Data Institute
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	There has been good progress in developing a linked ecosystem of trusted, resilient and accessible canonical data stores (registers). There has also been work to develop a better understanding of the data discovery needs of users of data.gov.uk.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Create a register of the fields used within canonical registers to ensure consistency of nomenclature	We have field, datatype and register registers in the the Beta stage of development. We maintain these for each phase in the register creation process to ensure consistency.	On track
2. Create a linked ecosystem of trusted, resilient and accessible canonical data stores (known as registers), starting with data categories for which the user need is greatest (countries, local authorities, schools and companies) and implementing these during the period of this action plan	There has been progress in developing a linked ecosystem of trusted, resilient and accessible canonical data stores (registers). There are now 14 registers in the Beta stage of development. As well as the country register, this includes registers for English, Scottish and Welsh local authorities, government organisations and territories. There are a number of other registers in the discovery and alpha stages of development. A register of schools in England is in Alpha, for Wales this is in the Registers team backlog. A register of legal entities registered under the Companies Acts, managed by Companies House, is currently in the team backlog.	On track
3. Through a technical working group, adopt	The Open Standards team is considering several standards, including OpenAPI v3, ISO 8601, and Web CSV.	On track

existing and define and agree new common and, where possible, open data standards and approaches based on user needs	The Local Government Association is working with us to define an open election data standard for use in local and national elections. We continue to monitor the adoption of open standards by departments, where necessary we remind departments of their obligations.	
4. Explore options for the creation of an open address register underpinned by an open and authoritative identifier to enable anyone to cite or find a property or premises in the UK	We will continue to explore options for the creation of an open address register.	On track
5. Develop a better understanding of the data discovery needs of internal and external users of government data, to evolve data.gov.uk and inform the development of data discovery tools and services, with refreshed tools implemented during the period of this action plan	We have continued to conduct user research to understand the data discovery needs of data.gov.uk users. We have also built and tested prototypes of the data publishing process, to help reduce the complexity of the publishing and updating process for publishers. The site recently passed the Alpha service assessments for work on improving publishing and making it easier to find data. We are now moving to a closed Beta phase.	On track
6. Report on the effects on the UK data infrastructure of any actions to change	No update to add.	On track

the ownership or contract out the operation of key public registers		

Commitment title	10: Involving data users in shaping the future of open data
Commitment	We will create a high quality national information infrastructure, making government data more secure and easier to find, store and access.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service)
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	mySociety, Open Data Institute
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	GDS has had a more visible presence at open data community events such as the fourth Open Data Camp which it sponsored. It regularly attends semi-structured events at the ODI lunchtime lectures or meet-ups (such as Open Data for Development) to interact with the community. We interact with individual data requestors on data.gov.uk on a frequent basis to help them discover public sector open data. GDS engaged extensively with open data users in the Open Knowledge Forums during the creation of the Global Open Data Index 2017.

Officials from across government (other government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies) also play a vital role in engaging with the open data community. This takes place at events such as Open Data Camp/UK GovCamp, and in the development of key policy areas such as the Buses Services Act. By targeting their engagement with relevant stakeholder communities, officials can add value to their work and the work of their department/organisation. |

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Develop a strong, ongoing and collaborative conversation with data users across sectors and specialisms, particularly through working groups and meet-ups on specific aspects of the government data	Two GDS staff working with data attended GovCamp on 21 January and four attended Open Data Camp in Cardiff (25-26 February 2017) which was sponsored by the Cabinet Office. Other smaller events attended were OpenTech 13/5/17; Innovating with Defra Data 25/1/17; Parliamentary data workshops 21/2/17 and 9/5/17; ODI members evening 23/5/17; OpenData for Development 30/5/17; DWP Welfare Sector transparency Board 29/6/17; Institute for Government organograms hack day 28/7/17. These events have all provided opportunities for data users to interact with the Cabinet Office.	On track

agenda, to inform and challenge the Government Data Programme	We will draft an engagement plan and share this for feedback from the community.	
2. Ensure government policy and the Government Data Programme is informed and challenged by leading external thinkers through an active Data Steering Group	The Data Steering Group met four times in 2016 including one joint session with the cross-government Data Leaders Network. The Group was due to meet on 20 March, but owing to the unavailability of a number of members the meeting was cancelled. We are currently reviewing data advisory requirements as we enter a new phase of data policy development. GDS has developed strong working relationships with leading organisations in the UK's data landscape, including the Alan Turing Institute, the Office of National Statistics the Open Data Institute, the Royal Statistical Society, the Royal Society, techUK and the UK Statistical Authority.	On track
3. Develop our partnership with the Open Data Institute to help government connect with data businesses, innovators and civil society	We have started a series of meetings between the ODI and the GDS Management Team to identify common areas of interest and help deliver the Government's commitment to remain a world leader in open data. These will complement informal meetings between GDS and ODI staff around day-to-day open data and other data issues.	On track
4. Build cross-government engagement and leadership on data management and open data, and publish plans for departmental engagement with data users and new open data commitments, through a cross-government Data Leaders Network	The cross-government Data Leaders Network has met regularly since the publication of the NAP, and the development of new open data commitments and engagement mechanisms is ongoing.	On track
5. Maintain active and wide-ranging engagement with civil society groups to ensure the Government Data Programme supports better data access and	The Cabinet Office organised a meeting between Minister for the Constitution Chris Skidmore and the Open Government Network's Steering Committee in April 2017. The meeting was very productive, with a broad range of issues discussed. The minutes are on the OGN's website.	On track

use for smaller civil society organisations	The team interacts with individual data requestors on data.gov.uk on a frequent basis to help them source public sector open data. (With 145 requests being processed between Jan-Jul 2017) GDS engaged with the open data community in the Open Knowledge Forums during the creation of the Global Open Data Index 2017. This was complemented by extensive discussions with Open Knowledge. Meetings of the Open Government Implementation Group, comprising Government and the Open Government Network (OGN), were held in February and July. The second quarterly meeting was delayed due to the June 2017 General Election. The Group will continue to meet quarterly. These are opportunities for civil society to monitor progress on the implementation of the National Action Plan, and discuss new commitments.	
6. Maintain regular updates on the government's open data policies online through blog posts and social media - allowing users to interact with these policies as they develop and post suggestions for improvements	As part of Cabinet Office's ongoing work on open data, we use the Data in Government blog to show progress and to help illustrate the meaning and purpose of open data to a wider audience. The blog currently has around 150 regular subscribers as well as more casual readers, and work is underway to understand more about this audience, build upon it, and make interaction more regular and effective. Both the blog and Cabinet Office and GDS' core social media channels, including Twitter and Linkedin, are enabling an ongoing explanation of work to improve data.gov.uk. This includes discussing changes to the site's homepage and highlighting interesting new data sets, as well as encouraging more users to come forward and give their views on the site's overall usability. This has helped in identifying more of data.gov.uk's core users, which in turn has supported ongoing improvement work. As well as GDS' activities, other government departments and agencies engage with their external data users through their own blogs and social media channels. During the pre-election period for the June 2017 General Election, we were restricted in how we could communicate in public.	On track
7. Explore further channels with which to	We are members of Slack channels including localgovdigital.slack.com, opendatacommunity.slack and	On track

engage users on open data issues, such as the Open Government Forum, Google Communities or Slack – these would have the advantage of real time discussion and problem solving, as well as a more direct link between government and data users	governmentdigital.slack which have wide ranging membership. We also contribute to the Knowledge Hub OpenDataCommunity group. We have regularly have used Twitter to ask for information about the challenges of using government data. This has resulted in a number of questions for example about the Open Government Licence which are being followed up with The National Archives. A number of issues have been raised about specific datasets which have been passed on to the relevant data owners.	
8. Engage with citizens, civil society, private and public sectors to develop an ethical framework for the use of data science techniques in government, including through public engagement events and an interactive online engagement tool	Government has published an ethical framework for the use of data science techniques in government, and we will continue to iterate and improve it in collaboration with data users across government and society.	Complete d

Commitment title	11: Better use of data assets
Commitment	We will encourage and support data-driven techniques in policy and service delivery across government departments and encourage the better use of open data in the economy and civil society.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service) and Office for National Statistics
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	
Overall commitment status	Generally on track
Overall progress against commitment	Good progress, especially in developing the skills of analysts and non-specialist policy staff. First cross-government data science conference held; data science accelerator trained two cohorts of analysts; data science campus building capability in data science for statistics established at the Office for National Statistics; new senior data advisory board convened to oversee a portfolio of cross-government projects around data-enabled transformation. After having obtained Royal Assent for the Digital Economy Act 2017 on 27 April 2017, in order to fully implement the Part 5 ("Digital Government") provisions, work is underway to develop further four Codes of Practice and a set of regulations in respect of the Public Service Delivery power.

Progress against milestones/activities

1. Pursue legislative changes to enable better access to government data for defined purposes across organisational boundaries in public services and between different levels of government working with internal and external experts and consulting with the public at key stages	A range of data sharing powers for public benefit were included in Part 5 of the Digital Economy Act 2017, which passed into law when it received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. We will run a public consultation on the codes of practice. The codes of practice set out how the data sharing powers should be operated. We will also consult on draft regulations for specific purposes (or objectives) for which personal information can be shared under the public service delivery power and the specific bodies that can share for those purposes. Following the public consultation we will analyse responses and publish a Government response. We will look to secure Parliament's approval of the codes and regulations by spring 2018, when the powers will be exercisable by relevant bodies.	On track

2. Publish departmental data plans for improving data quality, opening up more data and ensuring continuing engagement with external stakeholders	GDS is working with departments to release details about their plans for data.	Behind schedule
3. Monitor and publish progress against departmental data plans	These are dependent on milestone two being completed.	Behind schedule
4. Help non-data specialist policy and operational staff across government to understand analytical approaches and the transformational power of data	The Government Data Science Partnership (GDS working in close collaboration with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Government Office for Science (GO-Science)) held the first ever cross-government Data Science Conference in April 2017. The conference brought together over 250 data scientists, analysts and policymakers from across government to share knowledge and best practice, and to learn from each other. The GDSP has initiated a programme of data literacy programme that will reach senior civil servants, policy professionals and operational service managers, helping them understand the opportunity that data science offers their areas. The GDS Better Use of Data team continues to engage with policy and operational colleagues through Show and Tells, various departmental and cross-government boards, and workshops, to demonstrate the transformative potential of data science.	On track
5. Equip government analysts with the latest data science tools and skills, through a programme of work led by the Office for National Statistics	ONS opened its data science campus in March 2017, which equips government analysts with new skills through academic collaboration, apprenticeships and research projects. GDSP continues to run the Data Science Accelerator programme, which has trained over 30 analysts since December 2016 through mentored projects that teach new skills and deliver insights into real departmental challenges. We also began testing a cloud-based tool that enables government analysts to experiment with new tools and techniques. The cross-government Data Science career path is being implemented to improve recruitment and retention.	On track
6. Showcase best practice in data science through cross government projects, finding opportunities to bring in external expertise to inform	Examples of cross-government projects in this reporting period are building a taxonomy for GOV.UK, Reproducible Analytical Pipelines and using machine learning to classify user feedback. Such multidisciplinary data science projects bring together user researchers, data scientists, policy	On track

the design and delivery of the projects	experts and developers to deliver sustainable data-informed change.	

Commitment title	12: GOV.UK
Commitment	Assess opportunities for digital consultation tools, rebuild navigation to bring guidance and policy together by topic, provide APIs for government content and provide a full version history of every published page.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service)
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Democratic Society, Snook, Involve, Natural Resource Governance Institute, The Open Data Institute
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	The first milestone is complete. The second is complete and we continue to do work in these areas. We have trialled new navigation patterns on education content, which we plan to continue to iterate. We have made significant progress transforming content and grouping it into coherent themes based on terms users use and understand. We are also exploring the needs of users who hold government to account, and are investigating what improvements we can make. The second two milestones are on track. We are scoping the work involved in providing a supported API for government content and are on track to do this. We have finished a discovery into providing a full version history for pages on GOV.UK and will look to return to testing implementations in due course.

Progress against milestones/activities		
1. Complete a discovery project to identify opportunities for improved digital consultation tools, identifying next steps	GDS procured The Democratic Society and Snook to carry out a six week discovery into digital consultations. The discovery confirmed that the needs of digital consultations are too varied to have a one size fits all solution. A long term recommendation was for GDS to create an open infrastructure for consultation into which consultation tools from in-house or external developers can be plugged, like modules. GDS will assess the priority of improving digital consultations as we create future roadmaps.	Completed
2. Improve tagging, navigation, search and notification systems on GOV.UK, so publishers can begin to join together related content (including both guidance and policy) and	We have completed work to simplify the GOV.UK tagging infrastructure and built the structure for the new single taxonomy and begun work on the tools that support iterating the taxonomy. The single taxonomy is a framework of categories that we can use to organise content on GOV.UK, for example 'Education, training and skills' contains 'School Curriculum',	Completed

transactions as coherent services	which contains 'Early year curriculum' and so on. The resulting information hierarchy will be used to support navigation, orientation and search across GOV.UK and in turn make it easier for users to find what they are looking for. We have written two blogs on this: Finding things on GOV.UK and New tagging infrastructure for GOV.UK. We have created a taxonomy for the first theme area: education content, based on data and research. We have made significant progress transforming content and grouping it into coherent themes based on terms users use and understand. We will continue this work with the other areas of content on GOV.UK. Work is ongoing with the Transport and the Coming To The UK themes. In Q1 2017/18 we worked to quantifiably improve internal search on GOV.UK. We created new measurements and carried out A/B testing to test our improvements. Building on this work in Q2 we are working to improve how GOV.UK performs in external search. We have created a new unified navigation pattern that we are trialing on education content, and which we plan to iterate going forward. We have completed the discovery into notifications. We have worked to enable notifications on new taxonomy. We are simplifying the email backend to enable future improvements. We have carried out extensive user research on notifications, signups, journeys and preference management.	
3. Provide APIs for government content	In Q2 2017/18 we are documenting and defining a public API for GOV.UK content. This will enable other departments and external organisations to make use of our content. It will also enable us to provide a way of accessing version history on GOV.UK and make it easier to see how content is changing. Alongside this we have researched and documented API open standards and industry best practices to help inform future API development across GDS. We are on track to deliver a well documented and supported public API for government content by the end of Q2 2017/18.	On track

4. Provide a full version history of every published page	During our discovery on Content History in Q1 2017/18 we identified confusion around the way we try to manage non-current content on GOV.UK. The key difficulty was between making sure content on GOV.UK is accurate, up-to-date and findable in order not to confuse users and maintaining an open record of content published by government so that it can be held to account. We need to clarify how we manage non-current content on GOV.UK and this will inform further development work on providing history through the API which can then be worked on in early 2018.	On track

Commitment title	13: Ongoing collaborative approach to open government reform
Commitment	Identify, develop and implement robust and ambitious open government commitments on an ongoing basis through collaboration with partners in governments, parliaments and civil society across the UK.
Lead department(s)	Cabinet Office (Government Digital Service), Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government
Civil society organisation(s) involved in implementation to date	Involve, UK Open Government Network
Overall commitment status	On track
Overall progress against commitment	The Cabinet Office and the Open Government Network (OGN) have been working together to identify new commitments which could be added to the current National Action Plan, and the fourth National Action Plan (NAP). OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) have informed us that commitments added in the second year of the plan cannot be included in the IRM assessments. We will therefore look to include any proposed commitments into the fourth NAP.

Progress against milestones/activities

1. Government and civil society will work together to develop and communicate an approach to implementation that supports transparency on progress of implementing commitments and provides forums for engagement at all levels to hold government to account	A joint statement showing how government and civil society will work together was published on 7 October on GOV.UK and the OGN website. The implementation meetings on 1 February and 27 July were well attended by government officials and civil society. The second meeting was delayed due to the June 2017 General Election.	Completed

2. We will identify priority stakeholders and policy areas to inform an approach to broadening engagement and the priority focus for future commitments, including identifying platforms for communicating open government policy	We are considering potential new commitments, and in the course of this work have identified new stakeholders with whom we are engaging. Cabinet Office and the OGN are working together to plan the process for developing the fourth National Action Plan, beginning later in 2017.	Ongoing
3. The UK Open Government Civil Society Network will review its governance, terms of reference and working practices to ensure that it is able to continue to effectively build, involve and represent a broad membership	The OGN has updated its terms of reference.	Completed
4. Commitments will be updated with new milestones as necessary to provide further clarity on agreed approaches to take work forward work	Collectively, civil society and government have struggled to work together to agree on additional milestones after the publication of the NAP in May 2016.	Cancelled
5. New commitments will be published at a minimum of two points in the two-year plan cycle. These will be developed through a co-creation process with civil society, meeting the OGP criteria for starred commitments	The Cabinet Office worked with the devolved administrations to add commitments from each of their governments to the UK's National Action Plan in December 2016. The Northern Ireland Executive added four commitments, the Scottish Government added one, and the Welsh Government added nine. Cabinet Office discovered in June 2017 that commitments added more than one year after the launch of the National Action Plan are not assessed by the independent assessor as part of the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism. Since this independent assessment is a key way of holding government to account, Cabinet Office feels it is important to only add commitments when they can then be assessed under the IRM.	Partly met