

Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Open Government

Wednesday 17th July



Central Digital
& Data Office

Matt Donnelly

Open Data and Transparency Lead
Central Digital and Data Office



UK OPEN
GOVERNMENT
CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

Kevin Keith

Chair
UK Open Government Network

Welcome

Kevin Keith

Kevin Keith (5 mins)

Welcome

Meeting rules

Inclusivity

Meeting rules

Chatham House Rule

“...participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any participant, may be revealed.”

Safe space for conversation

Inclusivity

Joint agenda

Encourage everyone to participate

Avoid interruptions

Ensure people can follow the conversation

Provide time for people to consider topics before agreeing next steps

Matt Donnelly (5 mins)

- Government officials may be limited in what they can say and contribute whilst awaiting instructions
- Machinery of Government change affecting CDDO

Purpose of this MSF

Part 1: NAP6 commitment monitoring and building capability

Part 2: Updates across all levels of government and civil society

Part 3: Co-creation planning session - understanding civil society needs

Agenda for this MSF

Welcome:

- Introduction
- Meeting rules
- Inclusivity

Part 1: NAP6 monitoring & amendments

- NAP6 monitoring:
 - Open Contracting
 - International Aid Transparency
 - Engagement on anti-corruption
 - UN Convention Against Corruption
- NAP6 “building capability”

Part 2: Updates across all levels of government and civil society

- UK OGN
- CDDO
- FCDO
- Devolved Administrations
- Local Government
- UK reps on OGP SC committee

Comfort break

Part 3: Co-creation planning

- Understanding civil society needs (breakout rooms) discussion
- Feedback to mainroom
- Reflections
- Close

Part 1:

NAP6 commitment

monitoring and building

capability

Civil society-government thematic leads:

NAP6 commitments 1-4

(5 mins each)

Commitment 1: Open Contracting

Summary:

To deliver the Procurement Act 2023 and secondary legislation, and strengthen implementation through a government Learning and Development Programme, enhanced digital platform, and support the development of the civil society procurement community.

Commitment 2: International Aid Transparency

Summary:

Strengthening of transparency and accountability of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Commitment 3:

Engagement on anti-corruption

Summary:

Civil society engagement on anti-corruption and participation in multilateral institutions

Commitment 4: UN Convention Against Corruption

Summary:

Improving transparency and inclusiveness of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) country review mechanism.

Matt Donnelly to lead (10 mins)

NAP6 “building capability”

- Digital Governance
- Freedom of Information
- Beneficial Ownership
- Open Justice
- Government Transparency Returns
- Open government collaboration

Part 2:

**Updates from UK OGN,
CDDO, FCDO and DAs/LG**

Kevin Keith (4 mins)

Updates from UK OGN

- Civil society letter to the PM
- Local Government Transparency event

Lucy McTernan (2 mins)

Reflections on OGP Steering Committee and
Governance Review Task Force (GRTF)



UK OPEN GOVERNMENT

CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

The Rt Hon. Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party

Sent by email

9th July 2024

Dear Prime Minister

Re: Open government can rebuild trust, support reforms, and drive efficiency.

Our heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. Your leadership comes at a pivotal time. We, as civil society organisations, to support a 'government of service', to rebuild trust through 'actions not words', and return to what your Manifesto called 'the foundations of good government'. Many of us are domestic and international experts in open government, a model of governance based on transparency, integrity, accountability and participation.

For over a decade, we have worked with the UK government to turn these principles into action through open government plans. This process of government and civil society working together is mandatory for members of the 75-country Open Government Partnership (OGP) - a multilateral initiative, instigated by the former US President Barack Obama, with the UK becoming a founding member in 2011. The Scottish and Northern Ireland governments, Glasgow City Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority have since joined OGP as local members.

Open government has led to the UK becoming the first country in the G20 to introduce a register of company ownership (beneficial ownership); at one stage, a world-leader in the release of open data to drive innovation; developing the world's first algorithmic transparency standard; and developing the UK Anti-Corruption Strategy. Policy commitments in transparency of official development assistance (ODA), natural resource transparency, fiscal transparency, open justice, and open contracting (procurement) amongst others, have also been jointly developed.

The Post Office scandal, PPE procurement, the opaque mortgage-raising 2022 mini-budget, the impact of corruption on UK growth and democracy (as highlighted by the Rt. Hon. David Lammy MP in his Kleptocracy speech) and the disregard for public standards and subsequent collapse in trust, demonstrate that open government is not peripheral to people's lives; it is central. And that so much more could be done. This is why we welcome the opportunity to work with a new government to revive the agenda, rebuild trust and support change for the better.

How open government could support a Labour government? Open government is the 'foundation of good government'. Done well, it:

- reduces opportunities for corruption, saving the taxpayer money;
- builds trust through a collaborative approach to problem-solving and policy development;
- helps ensure officials act in the public interest and enhances the integrity of public institutions;
- supports growth and efficiency by leveraging technology and data.

Here are 5 ways it could support your government:

1. Mission-driven government: Your Manifesto states that 'government is at its best when working in partnership' and that 'mission-driven government means a new way of doing government that is more joined up, pushes power out to communities and harnesses new technology'. This is open government.

The OGP has a unique model of co-creation that brings together reformers from inside and outside of government to develop National Action Plans for Open Government. It is cross-departmental, coordinated by the Cabinet Office, with civil society convened by the UK Open Government Network (which itself convenes a wider group of civil society networks). It has an established government and civil society Multistakeholder Forum, with links to the participatory methods forum to support public participation in policymaking. This model could aid the delivery of your missions to rebuild Britain.

2. Ethics and Restoring Public Service in Westminster: Disappointingly, the previous government was unwilling to meaningfully engage on standards in public life. But Labour's plans for a new independent Ethics and Integrity Commission, and the OGP process, provide an opportunity for ongoing engagement with standards experts and civil society groups to restore trust in public life.

3. Tackling Corruption and Money Laundering: For over a decade, civil society and civil servants have jointly developed, implemented, and provided oversight of policy commitments related to corruption and money laundering. The current National Action Plan contains a commitment to regular engagement with civil society on a new cross-departmental UK Anti-Corruption Strategy. This is to be delivered by 2025, and overseen by a new Anti-Corruption Champion - a post created by the last Labour government, but which has now been vacant for over 18 months.

4. Growth, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence: Enabling innovation and driving growth through open data is a fundamental aspect of open government. It is clear that there are challenges and ongoing opportunities related to evolving technology. The world's first algorithmic transparency standard was developed by the UK government in partnership with the OGP, yet much more could be done on artificial intelligence, machine learning and automated decision-making (and how widely open data) to support Labour's Industrial Strategy whilst maintaining safeguards and ensuring all the public benefit.

5. Procurement reform: Open contracting (procurement reform) is a key aspect of open government and will be crucial for better, mission-driven public spending. The current National Action Plan includes a commitment on the delivery of the Procurement Act 2023's end-to-end transparency, simplification of public contracts, appropriate secondary legislation, and digital tools. The Labour Manifesto makes further commitments for procurement reform, simplification, and standardisation in the areas of defence, policing, the NHS, supporting small businesses, and the wider industrial strategy as well as a landmark commitment to appoint a Covid Corruption Commissioner to investigate the appalling public mispending and cronism during the pandemic. A large civil society network exists to support a Labour government with this agenda through the open government process, several of whom are also core participants to the Covid Inquiry module on public procurement.

Leadership

Open government can help those combating corruption drive legislative change, those awarding government contracts to innovate and achieve the best value, and those tackling laundered money to shine a light into the sometimes dark corners of property and company ownership. It can support those seeking to address inequality, improve the impact of ODA through greater transparency, or positively influence those upholding the fundamentals of our justice system. It can support freedom of the press and access to information, help restore political integrity and those seeking to address the twin challenges of our time: climate and technological change. And it can support the development of trust between government, institutions, and civil society.

This requires talented civil servants (and there are many), a willing civil society, and crucially strong political leadership. The latter was at times non-existent under the previous government. Your commitment to politics 'driven by a sense of service to the country' is welcome. As Prime Minister, we hope you and your government will commit to re-engaging open government as the basis of a more democratic, equal, and just society. We would welcome confirmation of your support of open government and extend an invitation to meet with representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Blair Glenconner, Civil Society Co-Chair, Open Government Partnership
Kevin Keith, Chair UK Open Government Network, Co-Chair UK Multistakeholder Forum
Darren Hughes, Chief Executive Officer, Electoral Reform Society
Jennifer Nadel, Co-director, Compassion in Politics
Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy
Duncan Hames, Director of Policy, Transparency International
Susan Hawley, Executive Director, Spotlight on Corruption
Gavin Starks, CEO, Jobbreaker One
Gavin Hayman, Executive Director, Open Contracting Partnership
Amanda Brook, CEO, Open UK
Risham Kotcha, Global Head of Policy, Open Data Institute
Thom Townsend, UK Anti-Corruption Coalition
Saskia Konyonenburg, Executive Director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
Saskia Coughhine, Director, Foreign Policy Centre
Nathan Yeowell, Executive Director, The Future Governance Forum

Peter Jukes, Co-Founder / Executive Editor, Byline Times
Peter Geoghegan, Director, Democracy for Sale
Anthony Zacharzewski, President, Democratic Society
Sarah Castelli, CEO, Involve
Brett Hennig, Co-Founder & Director, Sortition Foundation
Mandeep S. Thwara, Chief Officer (Evidence and Engagement), Civics
Julian Swann, Civil Society Chair, Open Government Scotland
Rebekah McCabe, Chair, Northern Ireland Open Government Network
Jessica Blair, Wales Lead, UK Open Government Network
Dr. Liz David-Barrett, Director, Centre of the Study of Corruption, University of Sussex
Dr. Lucy McTernan, Global Steering Committee, Open Government Partnership
Mel Stevens, CEO, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
Jasmina Haynes, CEO, Integrity Action
Romilly Greenhill, CEO, Bond
Josiah Morimer, Committee Member, UK Open Government Network
Gary Forster, CEO, Publish What You Fund
Ken Godfrey, Executive Director, European Partnership for Democracy
Brett Solomon, Executive Director, Access Now
Jeni Tennison, Executive Director, Connected by Data
Julian Tait, CEO, Open Data Manchester
Renata Avila, CEO, Open Knowledge Foundation
Dr. Louise Crow, CEO, MySociety
Jon Alexander, Co-Founder, New Citizen Project
Michael Jarvis, Executive Director, Trust, Accountability, and Inclusion Collaborative
Maurice Frankel OBE, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information
Quinn McKew, Executive Director, Article 19
Dr. Ruairi McDonald, Civil Society Chair, Open Contracting Working Group | Researcher, University of Oxford
Prof. Albert Sanchez-Graells, Co-Director, Centre for Global Law & Innovation, University of Bristol
Gavin Freeguard, Committee Member, UK Open Government Network
Dr. Ben Worthing, Committee Member, UK Open Government Network
William Perrin OBE, Trustee, Indigo Trust
Tim Davies, Director, Practical Participation
Mor Rubinstein, Committee Member, UK Open Government Network
Evelyn James, Diverse 5050 Manager, Women's Equality Wales
Nicola Hamilton, Head of Understanding Patient Data
Peter Munro, Senior Coordinator, UK Anti-Corruption Coalition
Johnny Huggill, Director, PUBLIC
Ian Watt, Co-Founder, Code The City
Paul Connell, Co-Founder & CEO, Open Innovations Ltd.
Jen Harris, Director Open Data Services
Mollie Hanley, Director, Open Data Services
Simon Worthington, Director, Register Dynamics
Jez Hall, Director, Shared Future CIC
Susan Paxton, SCGD Director, OGP Scotland Steering Group
Dr Judith Townsend, Reader in Digital Society & Justice / Co-Director of the Digital Humanities Lab, Uni of Sussex

CC: The Right Hon. Angela Rayner MP, Deputy Prime Minister; The Right Hon. Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor; The Right Hon. Paul Maddison MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; The Right Hon. David Lammy MP, Foreign Secretary; The Right Hon. Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology; The Right Hon. Yvette Cooper MP, Home Secretary

Kevin Keith (Chair) UK Open Government Network, C / O Involve Foundation (Registered Charity 1130568), Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG. Email: UK@opengovernment.org.uk Website: www.opengovernment.org.uk

Kevin Keith

Civil society letter to the PM

Letter - Published on www.opengovernment.org.uk

- Sent to the PM CC: other ministers
- Raise the profile of open government
- Opportunities to support ‘missions,’ restoring public trust via Ethics and Integrity Commission, anti-corruption including new Anti-Corruption Champion, growth and artificial intelligence, procurement reform, importance of political leadership.
- Significant list of domestic and international signatories in the areas of transparency, integrity, accountability, participation and technology.
- Significant media coverage: The Observer, Politico, Civil Service World, Byline Times

Kevin Keith

Local transparency event

- Joint UK OGN / Birkbeck College (UCL)
- Josiah Mortimer, Chief Reporter, Byline Times, Ben Worthy, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Birkbeck College (University of London), Megan Waugh, Director, Research for Action, Mel Stevens, CEO, The Centre for Local Governance and Scrutiny
- Significant interest - 70+ registered
- Key themes: reviving Audit Commission (or similar body); investing in local journalism; enthusiasm for more discussion.
- Devolution and community power agenda likely to put local transparency higher up the agenda.

Kevin Keith (4 mins)

Updates from UK OGN

- Civil society letter to the PM
- Local Government Transparency event

Lucy McTernan (2 mins)

Reflections on OGP Steering Committee and
Governance Review Task Force (GRTF)

Matt Donnelly (4 mins)

Updates from CDDO

- Changes made to [Open Government collection](#) and [National Action Plan collection](#) on GOV.UK published on 13th March
- Successful application for second term on [OGP Steering Committee](#)
- Pre-election period delayed sharing of draft NAP5/NAP6 self-assessments
- Planned new 'Group' on GOV.UK will include the updated MSF Terms of Reference
- Received OGP Action Plan Review of NAP6 for government feedback

Ben Gittins and Alan Pettigrew (4 mins)

Updates from FCDO

- Kenya OGP workshop on new & emerging digital technologies

Updates from devolved administrations and local government (6 mins total)

- Northern Ireland
 - Scotland - including Nordic+ event
 - Wales
-
- Glasgow City Council
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

**10-minute
Comfort Break**

Part 3:

**Co-creation planning
session - understanding civil
society needs**

Kevin Keith - Resourcing

PLANNING FOR THE PROCESS

Key considerations before embarking on a co-creation process, planning to plan



OUTREACH

Stakeholders are informed about the OGP, the action plan process, and how they can participate. Information can also be gathered on what they want the action plan to tackle.



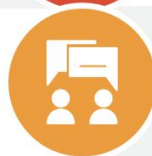
ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Sensemaking of inputs gathered, defining problems, working on solutions, moving from problems to solutions, and drafting the commitments



FEEDBACK

Participating stakeholders will be informed of the results of their contributions to and participation in the action plan development process.



Resourcing: What happened for NAP6?

- Documented: [www. opengovernment.org.uk/nap6](http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/nap6)
- Significant amount of outreach and co-creation activity activity but severely limited by resources...
- But what if not defined by resource?

STAGE TWO: Outreach

Meaningful civil society-government participation relies on awareness of open government, the co-creation process and how to get involved. It is particularly important to consider the barriers to the inclusion of marginalised and habitually excluded groups when conducting outreach activities to ensure as diverse a set of stakeholders as possible.

What happened:

- **28/04/23:** Publication of the [timeline](#) for the UK's 6th NAP for Open Government.
- **12/05/23:** Call for 'bold' ideas for NAP6 made. This was shared widely across national media, with coverage achieved in [Politico](#), [Hold The Front Page](#), [UK Democracy Bulletin](#) and on social media. It was also shared widely with civil society organisations. In parallel, CDDO solicited interest from government.
- **12/06/2023:** 90+ ideas were received from civil society for NAP6. These are viewable as either a [Google doc](#) or [Google Sheet](#) (excluding those who did not want their idea published).

STAGE THREE: Action plan development – Analysing inputs

Action plan development focuses on identifying commitments that will be included in the action plan, from analysing inputs, defining the problem, and identifying solutions, to reasoned response and finalisation.

- **16/06/23:** Initial analysis from the CDDO of submitted ideas was produced to support discussion at the June MSF. It recommended: Open Contracting (Anti-corruption and integrity) and Budget Transparency focused on Aid Transparency be taken forward; 'General' anti-corruption and integrity, Beneficial Ownership (Anti-corruption and integrity), Digital Governance, Inclusion, Justice, and Right to Information to be discussed further; Political Integrity (Anti-corruption and integrity), Civic Space, Natural Resources, Open Parliament, and Public Service Delivery (including health) not to be taken forward.
- **22/06/23:** A robust discussion of initial ideas collected during NAP6 outreach took place between government and civil society representatives at the June MSF. Alex Burghart MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office co-chaired part of this meeting.
- **20/07/23:** All respondents to the Call for Ideas were written to by the Chair of the UK Open Government Network informing them of the outcome of the June MSF and which ideas would be progressed and notified of an Open Gov Meetup event to hear from the government.
- **03/08/23:** Open Gov Meetup Almost 50 representatives from civil society were in attendance to better understand which commitments were progressing and why.
- **11/10/23:** Draft NAP6 commitments circulated with MSF attendees ahead of October MSF.
- **18/10/23:** Readout from the October MSF. A robust discussion took place in this meeting with regards to the publication date of the 6th NAP. It was resolved that it would be published in December 2023 in accordance with the OGP process.

To better understand civil society needs for co-creation we may wish to consider...

Considerations for co-creating commitments:

- Public outreach and consultations
- Co-development
- Implementation
- Monitoring

General civil society coordination:

- Coordination and building civil society network (UK OGN)
- Building capability for future co-creation in policy areas
- Resources, training etc

Breakout rooms for discussion in mixed groups (**20 mins**) and feedback to main room (**20 mins**)

Kevin Keith / Matt Donnelly

Comments on discussion

Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Open Government

Next provisional date: **Wednesday 23rd October 2024**
[post meeting note: this has been postponed]

Future provisional dates:

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Wednesday 7th May 2025

Wednesday 16th July 2025



Central Digital
& Data Office



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Central Digital & Data Office

UK Government Open Government Point-of-Contact

Dr. Matt Donnelly Open Data and Transparency Lead, CDDO
matt.donnelly@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk

Dr. Ben Gittins Open Data and Transparency Advisor, CDDO
ben.gittins@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk

Thank you and Close