



Ireland's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2014-2016

Mid-term Self-Assessment Report

Government Reform Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

October 2015

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1. Introduction and Background

Ireland sought membership of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in the belief that its aims would add further depth and provide an important international complement to our existing reform programme which aims at strengthening transparency and accountability of public institutions, providing improved and innovative public service and increasing citizen participation in policy-making.

The OGP's broadly based structure, together with its international cross-linkages, allows our political representatives and members of civil-society to trade ideas, both with each other and across the globe, about the objectives and the implementation of the OGP. This broadly-based trading of ideas helps to challenge the "accepted ways and whys of doing things" and to shine a light on the things that we are doing well and on the areas that we need to improve on. Ensuring that we have an open, transparent, accountable and ethical system of public administration can enrich and enhance our efforts to rebuild trust between government and citizens, improve public services, and drive innovation and business growth. Rebuilding trust is a cornerstone for our national recovery and will underpin the basis for our sustainable long-term growth.

This self-assessment report looks at progress 12 months into the implementation of our two-year National Action Plan (NAP). The NAP seeks to build upon the existing reform foundations and to provide a framework for a new phase of reforms. Implementation of the Plan is well underway with substantial progress made on many actions. The development and finalisation of our NAP required the close participation of civil society, as detailed in section 2 below, and this participation and openness has helped contribute to the increase in confidence in Government.

The 26 commitments in our National Action Plan are relevant to the principles of the OGP – transparency, civic participation, public accountability and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. The commitments span the following three core areas:

1. Open Data and Transparency – opening-up Government data for greater accountability, improving public services and achieving economic growth
2. Fostering citizen participation/more active citizenship – Greater citizen consultation and involvement to strengthen democracy and improve public services
3. Rebuilding public trust in Government - strengthening governance and accountability

All three of these core areas address the grand challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity. In addition, the first two areas also address the grand challenge of more effectively managing public resources.

2. National Action Plan Process

A: Consultation during NAP development:

A great deal of time and effort was invested in the development of the NAP and an intensive process of consultation utilising a variety of mechanisms was undertaken to provide the broadest possible range of citizens the opportunity to engage. The process took place over a period of 14 months in a manner consistent with the OGP Guidelines for Public Consultation on Country Commitments (<http://www.ogphub.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Additional-Guidance-Consultations.pdf>).

Following a competitive procurement process, Transparency International Ireland was engaged by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in June 2013 to manage a public consultation process with civil society aimed at developing proposals for consideration for inclusion in the NAP.

Three public meetings, arranged by Transparency International Ireland with funding support from DPER, were held during summer 2013 involving civil society groups and citizens and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform addressed the first meeting. Some 40 non-governmental organisations (over 100 individuals) participated in the consultation - see details on the www.ogpireland.ie, which was established and updated by Transparency International Ireland on the basis of funding allocated by DPER. DPER also contacted a large number of organisations (civil society, unions, business and public bodies) directly to advise them of the OGP consultation process and to encourage participation.

The consultation process resulted in a [report](#) containing 62 recommendations for inclusion in the NAP. The recommendations spanned a broad range of areas with diverging degrees of specificity and no priorities assigned. A number of submissions were also submitted to DPER and can be found at <http://www.per.gov.ie/en/background-to-the-development-of-the-national-action-plan/>. The report and submissions were considered by Government and a meeting was held with civil society to consider how best to identify a limited number of recommendations for inclusion in the draft NAP which would best meet OGP objectives and standards.

A Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising representatives of civil society and Government Departments was established and met on a weekly basis from February 6th to April 3rd with an alternating chair. The JWG considered the civil society recommendations for a period of several weeks culminating in a detailed response to each proposal (<http://www.ogpireland.ie/documents/>) and developed the draft NAP; with the civil society representatives consulting weekly with a Civil Society Forum. The action points from the weekly meetings of the JWG and all drafts of the NAP were published on the web. Following consideration by the Government, the draft NAP was launched by Minister Howlin at the OGP Europe Regional Meeting in Dublin Castle on 8th and 9th May 2014 for public consultation. Following the consultation, the NAP was finalised, approved by the Government and submitted to the OGP Steering Committee.

B: Consultation during implementation

Consultation during implementation takes place at 2 levels - in relation to the individual actions under the plan and in relation to the OGP plan as a whole. While there has been extensive consultation in relation to very many of the specific actions agreed under the plan, consultation in relation to the plan as a whole up to this point has not been strong as might have been wished.

Consultation on implementation of individual actions

Primary responsibility for implementation of specific actions under the Plan rests with the public body to which lead responsibility is assigned and details of the extent of engagement of civil society with the public sector during implementation are set out in the individual templates at Appendix 1. There was extensive engagement in the development of the first Government Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making brought forward by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. There was also extensive consultation at all of the key stages in the development of the legislative reforms brought forward by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to ensure adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability and to increase public integrity.

Of particular note in this regard is the consultation undertaken during the implementation of the action on the Register of Lobbying. The process included seeking submissions from interested parties, follow-up meetings with stakeholders, hosting an open public seminar, a further consultation phase on the outcome of these, a public consultation on the draft General Scheme, pre-legislative scrutiny, and consultation across all Government Departments. In addition, prior to the enactment of the

legislation, a paper-based pilot of the proposed lobbying register was developed and stakeholders (i.e. five groups in total including representative organisations) were invited to highlight issues encountered and an Advisory Group has been established to advise on implementation of the legislation.

A number of public events have been held, for example in relation to the Open Data actions, referenda were held following from the Constitutional Convention in which many stakeholders participated, key policy documents were published for consultation and many other actions were taken to involve citizens and civil society during implementation.

Consultation on monitoring of implementation

In relation to the monitoring of implementation, DPER is responsible for collecting information and reporting on progress in respect of the implementation of the Action Plan. A progress update was provided in December 2014, further progress reports were published in April and, following an update provided at an open consultative event on 14th July, in August 2015.

As regards consultation on the monitoring of the NAP as a whole, the proposal as set out in the NAP was to establish an Implementation Review Group (IRG) comprising representatives of civil society and Government Departments to monitor and oversee progress in respect of the NAP as a whole. A meeting of public service and civil society representatives was held in December 2014 to discuss draft terms of reference, the appointment of its Chair and the mechanism for appointing members to such a group. There was correspondence and meetings in later weeks in this regard. However, the Department was concerned that having such a small group of civil society representatives would not significantly progress the core objective of the OGP of increasing citizen participation. The Department proposed therefore, and the civil society representatives agreed, that a public consultative event should be held to address such issues. The aim of the event was to seek to establish how best to raise awareness of the OGP, broaden participation of citizens as well as civil society in the OGP and embed it in a sustainable way, and to inform the final approach to a model for monitoring progress in implementation. The event was held on 14th July and the Department is currently analysing this and considering next steps, including the possibility of establishing a group comprising officials and civil society members to monitor progress in implementation of the remaining actions and to consider how best to progress development of the second OGP Action Plan.

C: Consultation on the Self-Assessment Report.

A draft version of this Self-Assessment was published for consultation from 21st September to 12th October 2015. The response rate was low. One concern related to the short time available to respond to the Self-Assessment Report. This will be taken into account in future consultations on OGP Self-Assessment reports. However it should be noted that progress reports on the implementation of the NAP were published at regular intervals and reported on at a consultative event held in July. The provision of a 3-week period exceeds that required by membership of the OGP, which is for a 2-week consultation process.

Concern was also expressed about some delay in progressing actions in relation to young children and on enabling citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes. The Digital Strategy for Schools is a long-term goal that sets out a five year programme of work and important progress has been made in the summer of 2015 towards achieving greater teacher support for the reform necessary to maximise understanding of young people in civic life. The enabling of citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes is currently subject to discussion at the Local Government Reform Advisory Group established by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

We agree with the concern of insufficient engagement of citizens in the OGP. A great deal of time and effort was invested in the development of the NAP and a consultation event was held in July 2015 to consider, among other things, how best to broaden participation of citizens as well as civil society in the OGP and embed it in a sustainable way. The Department is currently analysing this as set out at section 2B above.

3. Implementation of National Action Plan Commitments

The Plan spans three main areas, Open Data and Transparency, Citizen Participation and Strengthening Governance and Accountability. Substantial work has been carried out in each area and substantial progress or completion has been achieved at this mid-way point in the implementation of the Plan in 22 of the 26 commitments:

Completion level	Number of Commitments
Not started / Limited	4
Substantial	10
Completed	12

An overview assessment of each of each of the three main areas is provided below and the Templates at Appendix 1 set out in detail what is going on, by whom, progress made etc. in respect of each commitment.

Open Data and Transparency: Actions 1.1 -1.8

Research indicates that delivery on Open Data will enable the public to hold Government accountable for its performance, use data to identify best practice, encourage the public sector to achieve greater efficiencies, improve the quality of analysis and decision-making and help citizens make more informed choices. Making data available to businesses will promote development of innovative products and services and drive economic growth. The commitments in this area focus on opening-up Government data to achieve these objectives.

The completion level in relation to the 8 commitments in this area are set out below:

Completion level	Number of Commitments
Not started / Limited	1
Substantial	3
Completed	4

The specific actions involved are as follows:

Action	Action name	Lead Implementing Agency	Completion Level
1.1	Establishment of best practice standards for Open Data	DPER	Completed
1.2	Establishment of Ireland's Open Data Platform	DPER	Completed
1.3	Undertake an audit of key datasets for publication	DPER	Substantial
1.4	Establish a roadmap for the Open Data and an evaluation framework to provide assessment of the ongoing Open Data	DPER	Completed

1.5	Establishment of an Open Data Ireland Governance Board (ODIGB) and Steering and Implementation Group (SIG) for Open Data Ireland	DPER	Completed
1.6	Signing up to the G8 Open Data Charter	DPER	Substantial
1.7	Implementing Open Data	DPER	Substantial
1.8	Improve computer literacy through implementation of proposed new Digital Strategy for Schools	DE&S	Not Started/Limited

The Open Data portal (a platform) has been developed with a beta version launched on 30th June 2015 significantly enhancing the look and feel of the portal and making datasets more accessible. Best practice standards in the form of a Technical Framework to underpin the publication of datasets on the Open Data portal have been developed. The portal currently contains over 1,100 datasets with preparation of many more datasets for publication in line with the Technical Framework underway.

The roadmap and evaluation framework were developed. Since then a Foundation document on a draft strategy for Open Data was published for consultation to provide future direction on Open Data following implementation of the roadmap. The submissions have been considered and will feed into the Strategy which will be finalised and implementation led by the Open Data Governance Board.

External technical expertise and support has been availed of and the expertise of the Central Statistics Office will be fully utilised to progress the Initiative in the coming years. This support will include supporting public bodies in undertaking audits of datasets and publishing plans to ensure high quality datasets are made available for re-use. The principles of the G8 Charter will continue to guide publication in this regard. A Public Bodies Working Group (a steering and implementation group) was established to steer and implement the project and provide the necessary central technical support.

It was considered that the timing was not right to put an Open Data Governance Board in place until the groundwork had been done on the Initiative. Now that the technical foundations have been put in place, establishment of the Open Data Governance Board is well underway with the initial assessment of applications having taken place at the time of writing. The Board will be put in place in the Autumn, following approval of the Government

In a short space of time, the Open Data Initiative has gained a lot of traction as evidenced by the strong interest in and high calibre of applicants for the Open Data Governance Board and the attendance at public events. The technical work done by the Public Bodies Working Group was hugely instrumental in this, as was the hosting of a number of public events and other initiatives led by the Department, some of the Local Authorities and agencies, civil society and the business sector.

Notwithstanding the good work done, there is a lot more to do. Looking ahead, the two main challenges we have are to

- Ensure public bodies have the necessary supports to enable them to make high value datasets available over time and the potential of Open Data is realised; and
- promote usage – the success of the Initiative is contingent on this and the Open Data community in Ireland is relatively small. We need the business sector, the researchers/academia and civil society/citizens to identify future opportunities and utilise datasets.

Our immediate focus now will be on supporting public bodies in carrying out audits and publishing datasets to grow the number of high quality datasets on the portal. This will take place on a phased basis. We will continue to host public events and work with stakeholders in line with our draft Open

Data Strategy to promote usage as well as continuing to develop new features on the portal such as visualisations to promote usage of data. The Initiative requires the support of civil society, researchers, and the business sector to use the data, provide us with examples of usage and the impact this has had and so achieve the potential benefits.

The Digital Strategy for Schools was published in early October 2015, a little behind schedule. Its five year work programme aims to increase the amount of digital technologies used in the classroom by teachers and students and increase the amount of professional development opportunities for teachers in using ICT as part of their teaching methodologies. The feasibility and desirability of providing an opportunity for students to pursue an in-depth course of study in discrete ICT skills will be explored during the lifetime of the Strategy. It is intended that this will be progressed in the Autumn.

Fostering Citizen Participation/More Active Citizenship: Actions 2.1 - 2.7.2

In recognition of the right of citizens to have an informed say in the public decisions that affect their lives, considerable efforts have been made in relation to the commitments in this area to promote greater participation in policy-making and service delivery.

The completion level in relation to the 13 commitments in this area are set out below:

Completion level	Number of Commitments
Not started / Limited	3**
Substantial	6
Completed	4

** Action 2.7.1 was commenced in early 2015 and is currently being progressed; Action 2.4.3 is scheduled to be undertaken by end 2015; and good progress is expected under Action 2.5.2 by mid-2016.

The specific actions involved are as follows:

Action	Action name	Lead Implementing Agency	Completion Level
2.1	Review national and international practice to develop revised principles / code for public engagement/consultation with citizens, civil society and others by public bodies	DPER	Substantial
2.2.1	Undertake public engagement early in the legislative process	DTAOIS; Oireachtas	Completed
2.2.2(i)	Build capacity of public bodies to provide access to information under Aarhus Convention	DECLG	Substantial
2.2.2(ii)	Build capacity of public bodies to provide access to information under Aarhus Convention	DECLG	Substantial
2.3	Hold referenda arising from the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention	DECLG; DJ&E	Completed
2.4.1	Pilot approach to implementation of Public Participation Networks	DECLG	Completed
2.4.2	Provide legal base for public participation framework in local government	DECLG	Substantial

2.4.3	Undertake a feasibility study on possible means of enabling further citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes	DECLG	Not Started/Limited**
2.5.1	Develop, finalise and publish the first Government Strategy on children and young people's participation in decision-making	DC&YA	Completed
2.5.2	Maximise participation and understanding of young people in civic life	DE&S	Not Started/Limited**
2.6	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	DPER	Substantial*
2.7.1	A review of citizen complaints procedures will be undertaken.	DPER	Not Started/Limited**
2.7.2	Enhance customer engagement	DPER	Substantial
<p>*One sub-action under 2.6 has been completed ** Action 2.7.1 was commenced in early 2015 and is currently being progressed; Action 2.4.3 is scheduled to be undertaken by end 2015; and good progress is expected under Action 2.5.2 by mid-2016.</p>			

Highlights in relation to work that has been completed include:

- A comprehensive review of public consultation policies and procedures was carried out in a number of jurisdictions as well as the OECD model of best practice. Following the review, new public consultation guidelines were developed to foster greater citizen involvement and participation and improve principles and procedures for the conduct of consultations by public bodies. These guidelines have been the subject of an 11-week consultation period which concluded on 9th October 2015. Several submissions have been received and these will be considered in the context of finalising the guidelines. The guidelines will be rolled out to all public bodies and it is our intention to provide a central website which will send out automatic notifications to those who have registered interest in specific areas when a consultation is taking place.
- Pre-legislative scrutiny of Bills has been expanded and formalised and reasons must be given if a Bill is not sent for such scrutiny by the relevant Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee
- Training modules have been provided to relevant public bodies to build capacity in the provision of information under the Aarhus Convention
- Two referenda were held arising from the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention, an initiative which in itself did much to involve citizens in decision-making
- Following pilots, Public Participation networks (PPNs) have now been rolled out across all Local Authority areas. While still at a development stage the results so far have been good insofar as Local Authorities have been undertaking a range of activities to communicate with potential stakeholders of Public Participation Networks to increase awareness and aid in groups joining the PPNs
- The first National Participation Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in decision making 2015-2020 was published in June 2015. The process of development of the Strategy included a national consultation process in 2011 which obtained the views of 66,700 children and young people; a public consultation in 2012, ongoing stakeholder engagement in Departmental

initiatives – e.g Dáil na nÓg, Comhairle na nÓg and other initiatives involving children and young people. There are 7 main objectives under the Strategy to give children a voice and an Action Plan which was developed following in-depth bilateral meetings with Government departments and agencies, with non-government stakeholders and with children and young people. A toolkit has also been developed to provide information for managers of organisations and a manual for practitioners on how to make the organisation relevant to ‘seldom-heard’ children and young people and on how to include them in organisations and events. Work has also commenced on the development of a Participation Hub to provide information, guidance and practical support in delivering commitments outlined in the Action Plan

- A number of technical and innovative services are being introduced to ensure excellent service delivery such as the introduction of the Public Services Card which enables individuals to gain access to public services more efficiently and with a minimum of duplication of effort and the establishment of the new Local Government portal to facilitate one-stop-shop access for all citizens to all local authority services
- Actions are being taken to promote better customer engagement including provision of more customer service training, reviewing customer charter process, formal organisations survey of focus/user groups, meetings, seminars and consultation processes.

Rebuilding Trust in Government: Actions 3.1 -3.5

The existence of adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability within the civil service and between the civil service, the political level and citizens generally is one of the fundamental elements of a democratic system of government. The 5 commitments in this area build on, and give further impetus to, a number of the Government’s programme of political reform initiatives and lead to a more open, transparent and responsive Government and the restoration of public trust.

The completion level in relation to the 5 commitments in this area are set out below.

Completion level	Number of Commitments
Not started / Limited	0
Substantial	1
Completed	4

The specific actions involved are as follows:

Action	Action name	Lead Implementing Agency	Completion Level
3.1	Ethics Reform	DEPR	Substantial
3.2	Strengthening Freedom of Information - Implement the Code of Practice for Freedom of Information (FOI)	DEPR	Completed
3.3	Reform of FOI	DEPR	Completed
3.4	Regulation of Lobbying	DEPR	Completed
3.5	Encourage, Protect and Raise Awareness of Whistleblower Duties and Protections	DEPR	Completed

Much work has been done to achieve these 5 commitments, which will ensure adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability are in place and to increase public integrity.

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 closely reflects international best practice recommendations on whistleblower protection made by the G20/OECD, the UN and the Council of Europe, and draws on recent developments in legislative models adopted or being put in place in other jurisdictions. It provides a framework for the protection of workers in all sectors of the economy against reprisals in circumstances that they make a disclosure of information relating to wrongdoing which comes to their attention in the workplace. Briefing sessions were held to build capacity to implement the Act. Whistleblowing protection is increasingly seen as an essential anti-corruption mechanism and Whistleblowing should become an accepted norm as a result of the Act, promoting a culture of public accountability and integrity.

A modernised, consolidated, restructured and more accessible Freedom of Information Act was developed bringing almost all public bodies within scope and removing the main substantive restrictions in access to official information which had been introduced in 2003. The abolition of the up-front fee for making a request, the reduction of the fees for making appeals, and the minimum threshold and cap limits put in place for search, retrieval and copying have all led to more accessible information and are therefore advancing transparency, accountability and improved decision-making. Following a review of the implementation of FOI by an external expert group, and with the advice and support of a group of public bodies, a Code of Practice was developed to promote best practice among public bodies in relation to the operation of FOI and guide and inform them in the performance of their responsibilities under the FOI Act 2014. The Code was rolled out and implementation is ongoing.

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 sets up a statutory regime for the regulation of lobbying activity and provides for the establishment of a web-based public register which ensures significant transparency on who is communicating with whom and about what. There was significant engagement with stakeholders in the development of the Act which came into legal effect on 1 September. It applies to lobbying communication with Ministers, Ministers of State, TDs and Senators, MEPs representing the Irish State, Special Advisers to Minister and senior officials in the Civil Service and the Local Authorities. The Act strengthens the degree of openness and scope for public scrutiny of the interactions and engagements between all sectors of society with the political and administrative systems. It allows the wider public to reach informed evidence-based judgments about the extent to which different interest groups are accessing key decision makers across the political and public service systems and consequently will increase the public understanding of lobbying activity in Ireland.

Following a review of the existing framework, Heads of a Bill have been developed to modernise, consolidate and simplify the statutory framework for ethics in public office, drawing on international best practice and implementing recommendations of the Final Report of the Mahon Tribunal as appropriate. Once in place, it will significantly enhance the existing framework for identifying, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest as well as minimising corruption risks, strengthen public trust in public administration, and achieve a shift towards a more dynamic and risk-based system of compliance.

The delivery of these pieces of legislation over a relatively short timeframe reflect the level of enthusiasm, support and drive of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform towards open and better Government, which we have been working hard to achieve.

4. Conclusion, Other initiatives and Next Steps

A: Lessons learned

The action plan contains many commitments and as set out above, there has been substantial progress or completion achieved in the majority of the actions. Nonetheless, perhaps a more focused

programme of work with fewer actions would allow more time to be given to working with civil society and citizens in developing the actions in the first place and then keeping them informed and involved as implementation progresses.

When starting a new initiative, it is not always possible to predict the actions that will be required to deliver it and moreover the timing of when the actions should be taken. We saw this for example in relation to the Open Data Initiative where the timing was not right to put a Data Governance Board in place. We have gone beyond the stated actions in the NAP thus giving the initiative greater impetus. Producing fewer actions in the next NAP may allow for better planning.

Many of the actions, while stretching and ambitious, were quite concrete so it could be demonstrated that progress had been made. However it will be some time before the impact of the actions can be measured and indeed some of them will be quite difficult to measure as other factors will also have a role. We need to keep this in mind in developing the next NAP.

We are not yet at the position where we can conclude that OGP is something that the general public is aware of and we could do more in terms of publishing our achievements. There is much work to be done in this regard and it will involve a considerable investment of time and resources.

While we set out to achieve a number of actions around citizen participation and really good progress has been made in the specific actions, nonetheless we are concerned that the overall civil society/citizen engagement in the OGP remains low. As mentioned above, a consultative event was held on 14th July, which was well attended, and the objective was to seek views on how to raise awareness of the OGP more generally, how to broaden participation of citizens and civil society in the OGP in a sustainable way, as well as to finalise an approach to a model for reviewing the OGP NAP itself. Work is currently ongoing to address these matters.

While many of the actions were under the remit of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in the first NAP, it is likely that more Departments and other public bodies will be involved in the second NAP. This will require more engagement with the public sector as well as different civil society groups depending on the subject matter. Logistical / practical issues will need to be prepared for and we will need to ensure continuity in engagement and follow up on actions.

B: Conclusions and further steps

The first NAP was very ambitious with the areas encompassed being extremely important to the functioning of government institutions and economic growth. There has been very substantial implementation of the actions which go some way towards harnessing the potential of Open Data, strengthening citizen engagement in policy-making and increasing government transparency. The process has not always run perfectly but we are very pleased with the progress that has been made. We recognise that considerable efforts have been made by all concerned to develop the NAP in the first instance and to ensure delivery of the actions.

We consider the following to be important next steps:

- Establish an appropriate forum to review implementation of actions
- Build stronger working relationships with civil society
- Raise awareness of the OGP, making it relevant to a wider community and promoting greater citizen engagement at local level; and dedicate the time to do so
- Strike the right balance in terms of the level of ambition and the need to be realistic in developing NAP2 and not to underestimate the challenges faced

- continue to collaborate with other OGP members, sharing knowledge, experiences and lessons learned.

Membership of the OGP and implementing actions under that banner has heightened the profile of the actions and given them added support in terms of ensuring implementation. It also reaffirms Ireland's commitment to governmental transparency and provides an important platform to reinforce and add further depth to Ireland's ongoing programme of democratic reform. Continued political support and commitment at official level are vital to the process. We welcome the support, goodwill, interest and enthusiasm of civil society and citizens in the OGP process.

Appendix 1 - Commitment Completion Templates

Commitment Completion Template		
Action 1.1 – Establishment of best practice standards for Open Data		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Progress in this action has been the subject of public consultation processes. The Business, Research and Civil Society communities were all involved in the public consultations.
Main Objective	Establishment of best practice standards for Open Data	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Establishment and implementation of best practice standards for the publication and licensing of Open Data in Ireland.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>Open Data can deliver a significant democratic dividend, by facilitating more transparency and accountability of public bodies. Significantly greater availability of Open Data can play an important role in strengthening openness, transparency and accountability and is an important element of Ireland's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. It will also require better data discipline in public bodies, providing for greater efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. It is also anticipated that the commitment to collaboration that is a fundamental element of the Open Data Initiative will encourage more citizen participation and greater inclusion.</p> <p>One example of collaboration leading to more transparency, accountability and public participation was the Open Data Licences consultation process which was undertaken in February and March 2015. This consultation process was based on a document which considered a number of options for an Open Data licence for use in Ireland, to help ensure</p>	

	<p>interoperability with other datasets internationally and to help facilitate use and re-use by ensuring continuity of Open Data availability. The document was developed based on a detailed analysis of international best practice, including the EU Commission’s PSI guidelines recommending the use of Open Standard licences. Responses to the consultation recommended the Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC-BY).</p> <p>The Open Data Technical Framework, which was published for public consultation for a period of several weeks before the summer (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/), is now finalised and recommends CC-BY for publication of Open Data under Ireland’s Open Data Initiative.</p> <p>Generally, the advancement of the core values of the OGP in Open Data will be achieved through regular outreach and dissemination activities to raise awareness of the Open Data Initiative, publicise progress, and seek input from stakeholders including Civil Society.</p>		
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The Open Data Initiative aims to make it easier for any interested stakeholder to access, re-use and redistribute Government data, whether for commercial, research, citizen engagement, or other purposes. It also commits to regular engagement in outreach and collaboration activities to raise awareness of Open Data, publicise Open Data progress, and seek input from business, researchers and citizens.</p> <p>The Civil Society/Citizens community has an important role to play in ensuring that Open Data supports good practice in maximising the transparency and accountability gains from the release of datasets.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the</i></p>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014. As the Open Data agenda continues to evolve, it is anticipated that best practice will also evolve over time.</p> <p>On licences, the recommendation from a public consultation process to adopt the CC-BY licence for Ireland’s Open Data Initiative has been included in the Technical Framework document (http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/) which was finalised in July.</p> <p>The development of a National Open Data Strategy (see Foundation Document at http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) and the Technical Framework lead to persistent and repeatable processes that can be shared among public bodies and better</p>		
			<p>x</p>

<p><i>commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>facilitate the release of appropriate datasets based on real demand.</p> <p>These documents were published for public consultation. The consultation process ran until 15 July and responses were considered prior to finalisation. The process was complemented by a public Open Data event on 30 June which drew participants from all key stakeholder groups, including civil society.</p> <p>More generally, good practice standards are being applied to the outreach and dissemination activities in the context of events for public bodies and other public events.</p> <p>The best practice standards (Technical Framework) was completed in July.</p>
<p>End date</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this area will continue to evolve as new examples of best practice emerge.</p>
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Roll out of Technical Framework to public bodies is ongoing. Development of the Open Data strategy is well advanced following the public consultation on the foundation document for the Development of an Open Data strategy.</p>
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>	
<p>Engagement by public bodies is essential. There is a learning curve for public bodies and there is a time commitment required.</p>	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.2 - Establishment of Ireland's Open Data Platform		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	The alpha portal has been in place since July 2014. The beta version, launched on 30/06/15, includes a "Suggest a Dataset" facility which allows all interested stakeholders (from all groups across society) to suggest potential datasets for inclusion. The Open Data Initiative involves public consultation processes and public events. The Business, Research and Civil Society communities were all involved in these consultations and events, and at each of these, participants were asked to consider the potential datasets and use cases of data in the context of the portal.
Main Objective	Establishment of Ireland's Open Data Platform	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Establishment of Ireland's Open Data Platform, which will contain a data catalogue allowing citizens to search for datasets hosted by public sector bodies.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>These challenges will be achieved by ensuring that Open Data, linked though the portal data.gov.ie, will meet the requirements of the Open Data Technical Framework over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence (allowing people to use data) • Formats ((e.g., using non-proprietary instead of proprietary formats) • Metadata (precise descriptors about datasets) • Standards (to ensure a common understanding of the data) • Unique Resource Identifiers <p>This will mean that all datasets published on the Open Data portal will, within an agreed timeframe, be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machine-Readable • Non-Proprietary • Associated with an Open Licence 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Described by standardised Metadata and will thus be accessible and reusable. 		
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The Open Data Strategy will set out the steps required to ensure that the portal meets the highest international standards as a true Open Data portal where datasets are free to use, reuse, and redistribute.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
			<p>x</p>
<p>Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014.</p> <p>The beta version of the Open Data portal, data.gov.ie, has been launched. As of 13 October 2015 it hosts 1124 datasets from 85 publishers. The portal also includes a “Suggest a Dataset” facility. Processes underpinning this functionality will be rolled out over time to comply with international best practice.</p> <p>Metrics allowing benefits realisation capture will be introduced to match anticipated benefits with actual benefits.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>The portal has been delivered, but will continue to be enhanced over time.</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Ensuring alignment of the portal with the Technical Framework (http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/). Continuing to build the number of datasets made available through the portal.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>Working with public bodies to ensure compliance with the Technical Framework.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.3 – Undertake an audit of key datasets for publication		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	While members of the public will not be involved in the auditing, it is open to them to suggest datasets which they consider of high value which will assist public bodies in prioritising datasets for publication.
Main Objective	Undertake an audit of key datasets for publication	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Auditing of datasets available within the public service. Determination of the high value data sets to be prioritized for publication. Ensuring correct cataloguing of existing data sets.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The Open Data Strategy (see Foundation Document at http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) recognises the importance of a planned and structured approach to the publication of data as Open Data. Public bodies should take into account the value, potential for re-use and contribution publication of data can make to realising benefits. Organisational data audits play a key role in this regard.</p> <p>In making data open, public bodies seek to do so in an intelligent and managed manner. A key priority is to identify the data which they already hold. To ensure that the expansion of the portal, data.gov.ie, leads to the availability and use of high value datasets, a planned and structured approach to the publication of data as open data is required. This approach should take into account the value, potential for re-use and contribution a dataset can make to achieving the economic, social and democratic benefits of Open Data.</p> <p>Under this Open Data Strategy, all public bodies will be required to conduct an audit of their datasets using a template developed</p>	

	by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, based on the COMSODE methodology ¹ .		
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	<p>The draft Strategy for Open Data includes the aim that all public bodies will conduct an audit and develop publication plans, thus making Government more open and providing a means of holding Government to account through analysis of the Open Data.</p> <p>It will also help improve the openness of Government by encouraging citizen participation - taking account of “high-demand” datasets, and other requests arising from engagement with the Open Data user community, including Civil Society.</p>		
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
		x	
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014 and is ongoing, with the aim to have high value datasets published by mid-2016. An audit tool has been developed, which is available to all public bodies.</p> <p>DPER audit has been undertaken, resulting in the publication of additional datasets. The process of audits across public bodies is being rolled out. There are currently (13 October 2015) 1124 datasets and 85 publishers on the portal. The aim is to ensure the data is of high quality and in open format rather than focusing on the number of datasets. It is too early to have evidence of the effect of publication.</p>		
End date	Ongoing over duration of the Strategy		
Next steps	Ongoing engagement with public bodies and stakeholders in progressing a lifecycle approach to Open Data. Working with public bodies in auditing their datasets leading to greater publication levels of high quality / value datasets		
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			
Need for capacity building in public bodies to ensure audits are undertaken and publication plans developed. Support is being provided in this respect.			

¹ <http://www.comsode.eu/>

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.4 – Establish a roadmap for the Open Data and an evaluation framework to provide assessment of the ongoing Open Data

Lead implementing agency		Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Martin Troy
Title, Department		Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Email		Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie
Phone		01 604 5132
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	External expertise was contracted to assist in this action. The wider public was engaged through a public consultation, the results of which were published in 2014 (http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/)
Main Objective		Establish a roadmap for the Open Data and an evaluation framework to provide assessment of the ongoing Open Data
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Outlining steps to develop Open Data in Ireland. Setting quantitative and qualitative criteria. Regular progress assessment; benchmarking to best international practice.
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>		<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>A roadmap (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) was developed in 2014 setting out a detailed 3 year plan for the objectives, structure and actions necessary to advance publication of national and regional Open Data for maximum impact.</p> <p>Implementation has gone further than developing the roadmap in that the short and medium-term objectives have largely been achieved. The longer term objectives will be achieved in the context of the Open Data Strategy, which is currently under development.</p> <p>This challenge of advancing the OGP values is being addressed in the context of the lifecycle approach to Open Data proposed in the Foundation Document for the development of a National Open Data Strategy (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/).</p> <p>By establishing a lifecycle approach to Open Data, there will be a common understanding of the activities that are required in</p>

	<p>terms of data audits, developing publication plans, and publishing data via data.gov.ie. This will be supported by ensuring that sound governance structures are in place to achieve a consistent and coherent approach to Open Data across all public bodies. As part of this approach, a set of metrics allowing for ongoing benefits realisation measurement and capture will be developed.</p> <p>The coherent, consistent approach envisaged in the consultation documents will, in turn, help to advance the OGP values of access, accountability, participation, and technological innovation for openness and accountability.</p> <p>These initiatives will be complemented by Ireland’s ongoing engagement in EU and international Open Data benchmarking activities.</p>						
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>Significantly greater availability of Open Data will help to strengthen openness, transparency and accountability. Measurement tools will be developed in conjunction with the ongoing implementation of the Public Service Reform Plan and the Public Service ICT Strategy, as well as the Open Data Initiative. The ICT Strategy, in particular, identifies data as a critical enabler of Public Service Reform, facilitating “increased data sharing and innovative use of data across all Public Bodies to enable the delivery of integrated services, improve decision making and improve openness and transparency between Government and the public”.</p>						
<p>Completion level</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Not started / Limited</td> <td>Substantial</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>x</td> </tr> </table>	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed			x
Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed					
		x					
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>A roadmap (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) was produced. While significant progress has been made with the evaluation of progress, this will continue to be developed over time. This is primarily a matter of policy analysis at present, particularly regarding Civil Society metrics.</p> <p>There is greater information about the use of Open Data in public bodies (for data analysis purposes) and in business (data analytics and new business opportunities, including Apps).</p> <p>This Action was initiated in 2014, and has been ongoing, with the roadmap successfully completed by mid-2015. Since then, a foundation document for the development of an Open Data strategy was published for consultation and the new strategy will guide the further direction of the Open Data initiative in Ireland.</p>						
<p>End date</p>	<p>Ongoing for the duration of the Open Data Initiative</p>						
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Development of metrics under the Strategy</p>						
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved)</p>							

and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)

The challenges of capturing the exclusive benefits of Open Data, as opposed to data that is available in other closed formats will need to be addressed in developing the benefits realisation methodology. It is an area where further research is required at international level.

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.5 – Establishment of an Open Data Ireland Governance Board (ODIGB) and Steering and Implementation Group (SIG) for Open Data Ireland		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	<p>The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform launched an Expressions of Interest process for membership of the ODGB through www.stateboards.ie. Applications were invited from three groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Enterprise; • Civil Society Organisations; and • Academia and Research
Main Objective	Establishment of an Open Data Ireland Governance Board (ODIGB) and Steering and Implementation Group (SIG) for Open Data Ireland	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Establishment of ODIGB and SIG to ensure that a comprehensive governance and oversight and implementation framework is in place for future development of Open Data in line with Action 1.4.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The Open Data Roadmap (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) included a recommendation to establish an Open Data Board. The time is now right to establish this structure.</p> <p>The Open Data Governance Board (ODGB) will be established on a non-statutory basis to provide leadership in line with best international practice in the area of open data. It will support the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Government in driving implementation of the National Open Data Strategy (see Foundation Document at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/). The Board will consider opportunities to maximise the value of Open Data for long-term economic, social and democratic benefit, and will advise the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in this regard. The Board will focus on governance of implementation of the Open</p>	

	<p>Data Initiative across the Public Service, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>The ODGB will include representatives from public bodies as well as from other key stakeholder groups. These groups include Civil Society.</p> <p>A Public Bodies Working Group (which is the name given to the SIG) has been established. This Group has driven the preparation of the Foundation Document for the development of a National Open Data Strategy and the Technical Framework (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/), which are currently published for public consultation.</p>		
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The ODGB will provide strategic leadership in line with best international practice in the area of Open Data. It will support the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Government in driving implementation of the National Open Data Strategy.</p> <p>The Board will focus on governance of the implementation of the Open Data Initiative across the Public Service. It will consider how to improve the capacity and capability of public bodies in implementing Open Data, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>The ODGB will consider opportunities to maximise the value of public sector data and information for long-term economic, social and democratic benefit, including through the identification and release of appropriate data free of charge, and make recommendations to Government in this regard. The PBWG (SIG) provides expertise and brings knowledge and capability to the Initiative. The PBWG guides the nuts and bolts issues in relation to technical aspects of policy documents as well as supporting on practical aspects such as audits.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the</i></p>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest process for the ODGB were sought on stateboards.ie. Sixty-one applications were received and assessed. The high level of interest and the strength of the candidates is testimony to the success of the Initiative and level of awareness to date. Final appointments are a matter for Ministerial appointment and will be made imminently.</p> <p>PBWG (SIG) is fully operational.</p> <p>The strategy for Open Data in Ireland is to be completed in 2015.</p>		

<i>commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	Progress will be made on achieving the objectives set out in the strategy by mid 2016.
End date	The PBWG is in place since October 2014. The ODGB will be in place in 2015.
Next steps	Appoint members of ODGB following EOI process.
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.6 – Signing up to the G8 Open Data Charter		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A. However, this issue is included in a range of strategic documents which were the subject of public consultation.
Main Objective	Sign up to the G8 Open Data Charter	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Signing up to G8 Open Data Charter; formulating and implementing a plan for release of the high value data sets taking account of the Charter's Annex within a 2 year timeframe.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The G8 Open Data Charter is considered the gold standard for Open Data. Ireland's Open Data Strategy (see Foundation Document at http://www.per.gov.ie/en/open-data/) will be informed by the key principles of the Open Data Charter and will aim to achieve economic, social and democratic benefits.</p> <p>Open Data has significant potential to deliver valuable benefits across society. In terms of social and democratic benefits, Open Data can lead to, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More transparency and accountability of public bodies. Significantly greater availability of Open Data can play an important role in strengthening openness, transparency and accountability and is an important element of Ireland's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. • Better data discipline in public bodies, providing for greater efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. • More citizen participation and inclusion. 	
Ambition	To achieve compliance with the principles set out in the Charter. This is being implemented through publication of datasets on the portal in line with our Technical Framework	

<p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>(http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) and will be ongoing throughout the life of the Initiative.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014 and is ongoing with the aim of making significant progress by mid 2016, in the context of the Open Data Strategy.</p> <p>The Foundation Document for the Open Data Strategy (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/) and the Technical Framework go some way towards achieving the overarching principles of the G8 Open Data Charter; and publication of datasets in line with the Technical Framework will lead to the objective being achieved in principle over time.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>Ongoing for the duration of the Open Data Strategy</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Finalisation of the Open Data Strategy following the current public consultation process and commence implementation. Continue to roll out implementation of the Technical Framework.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>Ensuring that the high level Strategy is complemented by an implementable implementation plan which takes account of the G8 Charter Principles. Success will require full and ongoing engagement with all stakeholder.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 1.7 – Implementing Open Data

Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Martin Troy	
Title, Department	Administrative Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Martin.Troy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	01 604 5132	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Progress with Open Data has involved, as a core element, ongoing engagement and collaboration with interested stakeholders from all areas of society. Public Consultation processes have been open to all.
Main Objective	Implement Open Data	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Delivery of the strategic objectives of the Open Data Initiative, underpinned by sound governance structures and ongoing outreach and collaboration activities	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a coherent and consistent approach to Open Data, as set out in the Foundation Document for the development of a National Open Data Strategy, and the Technical Framework (http://www.per.gov.ie/open-data/), and through a lifecycle approach to auditing and publishing Open Data via the data.gov.ie portal.</p> <p>The implementation of the Open Data Initiative will be underpinned by sound governance structures and ongoing outreach and collaboration activities.</p> <p>Significant progress has been achieved. The next phase of this Initiative will be the finalisation and implementation of the Open Data Strategy.</p>	
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the</i>	<p>To deliver the strategic objectives of the Open Data Initiative. This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mechanism to measure success in realising the benefits of Open Data. 	

<p><i>commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a lifecycle approach to Open Data, setting out the activities that are required in terms of data audits, developing publication plans, and publishing data via data.gov.ie • Ensure sound governance structures to ensure that a consistent and coherent approach to Open Data is pursued across all public bodies. • Promote usage of Open Data through engagement with appropriate structures and Sectors • Improve the quality of data available to public bodies for analysis and decision-making to achieve better outcomes for all through improved data analytics. • Set out a consistent approach to Open Data for public bodies. • Identify specific domains for particular attention to allow for release of high value datasets, on a phased basis. Potential domains for the first phase include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment, ○ Health, ○ Transport, ○ Culture and Heritage, ○ Flooding. 		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>This Action was initiated in 2014. It is ongoing and is to be completed by the end of 2015.</p> <p>Public consultation on Open Data licence completed.</p> <p>Public consultations on Technical Framework and Foundation Document on Strategy ended on 15 July 2015. The process was complemented by a public Open Data event on 30 June which drew participants from all key stakeholder groups, including civil society.</p> <p>Beta version of the Open Data portal launched and has 1124 datasets and 85 publishers at present (13 October 2015).</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>Ongoing for the duration of the Open Data Strategy</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Analysis of responses to the Open Data public consultation process</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>Ensuring an action-oriented approach to delivering the Strategy and measuring the impact of datasets</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Commitment Completion Template		
Action 1.8 - Improve computer literacy through implementation of proposed new Digital Strategy for Schools		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Education & Skills	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Eddie Ward, Karen Murtagh and Rita Sexton	
Title, Department	Department of Education & Skills	
Email	Eddie_ward@education.gov.ie ; Karen_murtagh@education.gov.ie Rita_sexton@education.gov.ie	
Phone	01 889 6411/889 2308	
Other actors involved	Government	Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	NCCA, Teaching Council, Industry
Main Objective	Improve computer literacy through implementation of proposed new Digital Strategy for Schools	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Under the Digital Strategy to support students in learning to use digital technology, communication tools and the internet to engage in self-directed enquiry in order to develop their digital literacy skills. As students develop their digital literacy skills, they learn how to create, collaborate and communicate effectively and ethically.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	This action relates to open data and transparency. Through the Digital Strategy it is proposed to improve students' digital literacy and thereby ensuring students realise the potential of digital technologies and become engaged thinkers, active learners, knowledge constructors and global citizens to participate fully in society and the economy and will have knowledge of open data and be able to use it throughout their lives.	

<p style="text-align: center;">Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>Students to learn to use digital technology, communication tools and the internet to engage in self-directed enquiry. As students develop their digital literacy skills, they improve their capacity to know what they are looking for, what information to ignore or discard, and how to identify what can be useful or significant. They learn to discriminate between the multiple sources of information available online and to challenge the views they find there. They learn how to create, collaborate and communicate effectively and ethically. This will ensure that the public can access open data in the most efficient way.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>Published in early October 2015</p> <p>The Digital Strategy is a long-term goal; it sets out a five year programme of work. Over the next five years we will see an increase in the amount of digital technologies used in the classroom by teachers and students. There will be significant increases in the amount of professional development opportunities for teachers in using ICT as part of their teaching methodologies.</p> <p>The feasibility and desirability of providing an opportunity for students to pursue an in-depth course of study in discrete ICT skills will be explored during the lifetime of the Strategy.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">End date</p>	<p>2020</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Next steps</p>	<p>Publication and launch of Digital Strategy Implementation Group to meet</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>The extensive research and consultation process which took place has proved very worthwhile and has informed the recommendations in the Digital Strategy. The Strategy development process has crystallised the role of ICT in the classroom. The main challenge encountered was to meet the expectations of all stakeholders while also considering the limited resources (financial and personnel) available.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.1 – Review national and international practice to develop revised principles / code for public engagement/consultation with citizens, civil society and others by public bodies.		
Lead implementing agency		Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Kieran Sheedy
Title, Department		Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
Email		Kieran.Sheedy@per.gov.ie
Phone		604 5729
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Public consultation on the draft guidelines, open to all, was undertaken for a period of 11 weeks, concluding on 9 th October 2015. Several submissions have been received and these will be considered in the context of finalising the guidelines.
Main Objective		To foster greater citizen involvement and participation through the development of revised guidelines and principles for the consultation and engagement by public bodies with citizens, civil society and others
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Review national and international best practice to develop improved regulations, principles and procedures for the conduct of consultations by public bodies.
<p style="text-align: center;">Relevance</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>		<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services, increasing public integrity and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The adoption and implementation of principles guiding the carrying out of consultation processes complements and will help achieve the commitment in the Civil Service Renewal Plan (http://www.per.gov.ie/en/civil-service-renewal/) to strengthen policy-making skills and develop more open approaches to policymaking.</p>
Ambition		The guidelines will help officials in deciding when, with whom and how to consult. They will remind officials of the need to

<p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>consult among themselves and ask them to be conscious of the necessity to develop more open approaches to policy-making and to involve networks of practitioners, academics and experts in developing and debating policy options at an early stage. The guidelines will set out a brief checklist of issues/stages that officials should have regard to throughout the consultation process. Ultimately it should result in facilitation of greater citizen participation in policy making.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>A review has been carried out which included an examination of the Codes of Practice/Guidance on Consultation, and Consultation Principles in place in the UK, Australia, and Canada as well as those produced by the Council of Europe, the OECD, and the European Commission. A principles based approach to public consultation is advocated by these administrations and institutions.</p> <p>This review informed the development of a draft guidance document setting out the principles to inform engagement by Government departments and other public bodies with stakeholders/citizens when developing policy, services and legislation.</p> <p>To ensure that citizens and stakeholders can easily access consultations that are ongoing, it is also proposed to put in place a central repository for all public consultations and consideration will be given to automatically notifying organisations and individuals of consultations in areas where they have registered an interest.</p> <p>A public consultation process on the draft guidance document has been initiated and comments were sought by Friday 9 October 2015 – see http://www.per.gov.ie/public-consultation-process-on-principles-to-guide-public-engagement-on-policy-and-services-development-3/. Several submissions have been received and these will be considered in the context of finalising the guidance document.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>End 2015.</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Take account of views expressed in consultation process and complete and roll out the guidelines. Commence development of central repository for all public consultations.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>Guidelines as revised following consultation process are to be submitted to Government for final agreement. It will be important to raise awareness of the Guidelines and promote compliance if the objectives in the OGP and in the Civil Service Renewal Plan are to be achieved. A Central repository for all public consultations is to be developed.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.2.1 - Undertake public engagement early in the legislative process		
Lead implementing agency		Houses of the Oireachtas
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Charles Hearne
Title, Department		Houses of the Oireachtas
Email		Charles.Hearne@oireachtas.ie
Phone		01 6183113
Other actors involved	Government	Houses of the Oireachtas Committees
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	In the context of the pre-legislative scrutiny, the Oireachtas Committee may invite interest groups and / or submissions on the draft Bill.
Main Objective		Undertake public engagement early in the legislative process
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Oireachtas Committees to conduct systematic pre-legislative scrutiny of draft Bills, enabling consultation with citizens, civic society groups and others.
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>		<p>This commitment addresses the challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity, and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>In November 2013, revised Dáil Standing Orders came into effect that expanded and formalised a Pre-Legislative consideration of legislation where a Minister could have the Heads of a Bill reviewed by the appropriate Oireachtas Committee before the drafting process had been completed and the Bill published.</p> <p>The protocols agreed by Government provide that Departments must inform Oireachtas Committees which Bills will be subject to Pre-Legislative scrutiny or not. Where the Heads of the Bill have not been provided to the Oireachtas Committee, the Minister must explain why in the course of his or her second stage speech on the Bill.</p> <p>It is a matter for the relevant Committee to decide whether or not Pre-Legislative scrutiny is appropriate. The Committee Clerk must inform the Minister in writing if pre-legislative scrutiny is not to proceed. The protocols also set out the time limits and the process to apply where it does proceed.</p> <p>As part of the Pre-Legislative Stage the Oireachtas Committee may: undertake research on the policy area including</p>

	<p>comparative international research; seek written submissions on the Heads of the Bill or on the general subject matter from individual experts, stakeholder groups or interested parties; consult with the general public; and hold public hearings inviting individuals or groups to make presentations to the Committee.</p> <p>The Oireachtas Committee drafts a Report to address the key themes dealt with by the Bill and this is laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas and immediately sent to the Minister by the Committee Clerk. Where there has been Pre-Legislative consideration, the Committee will have an opportunity at Second Stage after the Minister and the Opposition spokespersons to outline the Committee's work.</p>		
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>To provide greater opportunities for engagement by the public in law making. At the pre-legislative stage, the Committee can consult with citizens, civic society groups and other interested groups.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
			<p>x</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>It was aimed that this Action would be introduced on a phased basis over 2014.</p> <p>By end July 2015, Oireachtas Committees had completed Pre-Legislative consideration of 48 Bills resulting in 43 Reports laid and 2 letters sent to the relevant Minister.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>It is expected that the pre-legislative scrutiny will continue on an ongoing basis.</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Continuation of the pre-legislative scrutiny</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>The workload could be high pending the number or complexity of bills brought forward.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template		
Action 2.2.2 (A) and (B) - Build capacity of public bodies to provide Access to Information on the Environment under the Aarhus Convention		
<p>This template covers 2 actions in the NAP, as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A: Development and delivery of a training module for staff in public bodies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B: Creation of a database to record requests for information</p>		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Terry Dunne, Marguerite Ryan, Aoife Byrne	
Title, Department	Environment Policy & Awareness	
Email	terry.dunne@environ.ie ; Marguerite.Ryan@environ.ie ; Aoife.byrne@environ.ie	
Phone	053 91 17419	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies covered by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 – 2011 and all other legislation transposing the Directive 2003/4/EC.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Environment Pillar, Environmental Law Implementation Group (ELIG).
Main Objective	Build capacity of public bodies to provide Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) in accordance with Directive 2003/4/EC and the Aarhus Convention.	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	<p>(A) Development and delivery of a training module to train staff (including AIE officers or decision-makers) in public bodies to facilitate Access to Environmental Information as provided for under Directive 2003/4/EC and the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>(B) Creation of a database to record requests for information under the AIE Regulations Directive 2003/4/EC http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/StatisticsandRegularPublications/AccessstoInformationontheEnvironment/. This database will provide a basis for analysis of AIE requests submitted to relevant public bodies similar to that which is in place for Freedom of Information requests (FOI).</p>	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of; improving public services, increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The objective of building capacity of public bodies to provide Access to Information on the Environment under the Aarhus Convention supports the aims of achieving “open data and transparency of Government data for greater accountability improving public services and achieving economic growth”.</p>	

<p><i>participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>(A) The effectiveness of building the capacity of public bodies to provide access to information under the Aarhus Convention through the development and delivery of a training module is key to promoting transparency of government decision making through the provision of access to information on the environment and public participation.</p> <p>The training module empowers the relevant bodies resulting in a more efficient and informed service for the public through increased awareness. The use of online resources (Environlink) promotes the use of technology that offers opportunities for information sharing and collaboration for relevant public bodies.</p> <p>(B) The creation of a database of AIE requests for analysis will support effective capacity building for public bodies to provide Access to Information on the Environment under the Aarhus convention through the collection, analysis and disclosure of non-sensitive metadata on AIE. The published database improves the transparency of formal democratic processes.</p> <p>The AIE database promotes transparency of government decision making and carrying out of basic functions. Publishing the AIE database on the Department’s website makes the information public in ways that enables people to both understand what their governments do and the process in doing this.</p>
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>(A) The training module as designed and delivered (on-going):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly enhances the existing framework for AIE requests. • Increases awareness of, and compliance with the Aarhus Convention amongst public authority staff. • Strengthens the standards that are required from public officials in the performance of their functions under the Aarhus Convention. • Puts in place a consistent AIE framework that corresponds with best practice. • Increases awareness of the availability of online resources. • 76 users of Environlink online resource to build network of AIE officers. • On-going response to requests for information packs and access to Environlink by public authority staff. <p>(B) The AIE database that has been published serves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly enhance the existing framework for AIE. • Increase awareness of and compliance with the Aarhus Convention amongst relevant public authority staff. • Strengthen the standards that are required from public officials in the performance of their functions under AIE requests. <p>Put in place a consistent AIE framework that corresponds with best practice.</p>

Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
		(A) & (B) On-going	
<p>Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>(A) The first Access to Information on the Environment training module was successfully delivered in September 2014. Over 120 public authority staff attended this event. This included representatives of 26 local authorities; 6 Government Departments and 16 other public authorities. It is anticipated that a second training module will be delivered in Q4 2015.</p> <p>(B) The 2013 AIE statistics were collected in 2014 and published on the Department's website (http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/StatisticsandRegularPublications/AccessToInformationontheEnvironment/). This includes statistics for all County Councils, Government Departments and all bodies under their aegis. To date the page has been viewed 340 times.</p> <p>The 2014 statistics are currently being compiled and it is anticipated that they will be published in Q4 2015. Going forward the statistics will be compiled and published annually. The statistics record the number of AIE requests submitted to public authorities and show how many were granted, refused or partially granted.</p> <p>Delivery of training and the collection of AIE statistics delivers outcomes raised and discussed through informal bilateral meetings between the Department and civic society groups through the Irish Environment Network (IEN) and the Environmental Law Implementation Group (ELIG) creating added value to the delivery of these objectives through civic participation. The attendance at AIE training and number of views on the statistics database demonstrates increased awareness around AIE. The use of Environlink as a resource to the AIE officer network in public authorities builds knowledge and expertise and this will be further promoted through the delivery of the next AIE training session in Q4 2015 and the collation and publication of the 2014 AIE statistical database.</p>		
End date	(A) Q4 2015; (B) On-going		
Next steps	(A) Organise a second training event for Q4 2015; (B) Compile the Statistics on AIE for 2014		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>(A) The planning and delivery of a second AIE training module to public bodies is intended to be completed in Q4 2015, with the date currently set for 19th November. Challenges may include availability of resources (staff and funding).</p> <p>(B) Database to be updated and published annually. Challenges may include delays in receipt of requested information from public bodies as requested. One challenge is the identification of public bodies as per recent court ruling on NAMA. It is intended to work closely with the established FOI statistics collection procedure.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.3 – Hold referenda arising from the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention

This Action comprises 2 parts as follows, with 2 separate implementing agencies:		
A: Referendum on age of candidacy for presidential elections and reducing voting age		
B: Referendum on same-sex marriage.		
Lead implementing agency	A: Department of Environment, Community and Local Government; B: Department of Justice and Equality	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	A: Riona Ní Fhlanghaile, Enda Falvey B: Carol Baxter (PO); Dara Breathnach (AP)	
Title, Department	A: Franchise Section, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government B: Civil Law Reform Division, Department of Justice and Equality	
Email	A: riona.nifhlanghaile@environ.ie , enda.falvey@environ.ie B: cbaxter@justice.ie ; debreathnach@justice.ie	
Phone	A: 01 888 2484 (Riona Ní Fhlanghaile), 01 888 2420 (Enda Falvey) B: 01 479 0248 (Carol Baxter), 01 479 0247 (Dara Breathnach)	
Other actors involved	Government	The Constitution Convention is a decision-making forum of 100 people, made up of 66 citizens, randomly selected and broadly representative of Irish society; 33 parliamentarians, nominated by their respective political parties and including an elected representative from each of the political parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly –see https://www.constitution.ie/
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	See panel above.
Main Objective		Hold referenda arising from the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		The Government committed to holding three referenda in 2015 in relation to reducing the age of candidacy for presidential elections, reducing voting age and same-sex marriage.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic</i>		This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation. The creation of the Constitutional Convention was a core commitment in the 2011 Programme for Government, intended to allow meaningful public participation and consultation in the further shaping and development of Bunreacht na hÉireann. It was asked to consider a range of matters viewed as socially

<p><i>participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>significant. The Convention considered the matter of amending the Constitution to allow same-sex couples to marry, and concluded that an amendment was required and should be positively framed and directive (as distinct from permissive) in nature.</p> <p>The Convention recommended that the age of eligibility for election to the office of president should be reduced from the prescribed age of 35 and it also recommended that the voting age should be reduced from 18 years to 16 years.</p>		
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>In light of the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention, Government decided in November 2013 to hold a referendum in the first half of 2015 on opening marriage to same sex couples, and directed the Minister for Justice and Equality to undertake the necessary preparatory work. This included outlining the detailed policy approach to be taken, which included review to ensure that marriage would not otherwise be altered and that the position of religious bodies would not be changed either by a proposed constitutional amendment or by any subsequent implementing legislation.</p> <p>The decision to proceed with a referendum was a direct and transparent response to the very strong recommendations of the Constitutional Convention. Government decided on in July 2013, in response to the recommendation of the Constitutional Convention to hold a referendum, before the end of 2015, on reducing the age of eligibility for election to the office of President from 35 years to 21 years.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>The target was to hold the referenda by the end of 2015.</p> <p>Two referenda were held, i.e. reducing the age of candidacy for presidential elections, and same-sex marriage.</p> <p>The referendum in relation to reducing voting age was not held. The referendums were held on 22 May 2015. The people did not approve the proposal to reduce the Presidential candidate age.</p>		
<p>End date</p>			
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>No further steps are required in relation to the Presidential candidate age.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			

There are a number of other recommendations from the Constitutional Convention which if they were to be implemented would require amendment of the Constitution. The Taoiseach in the Dáil on 9 June 2015 said that 'the Government do not propose to hold any further referendums during the remainder of its term'.

(i) overall lessons learned and challenges encountered with respect to the action plan development and implementation

Legislation and related procedures in relation to the conduct of referendums is well established and in the implementation of requirements in respect of the referendums held in relation to the marriage equality and lowering the age of eligibility for Presidential candidates we did not encounter any new challenges to the process.

(ii) the positive impact of the activities and related outcomes with respect to each commitment;

An impact of the holding of the referendum was that it provided a platform and focus for debate on the question of lowering the age of eligibility for Presidential candidates.

(iii) Why the referendum on voting age was not held in 2015

The Government set out its position on 6 February 2015 during the second stage debate on the Private Member's Bill – Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (No.2) Bill 2014 – which proposed the reduction in the voting age from 18 to 16. While supportive of a referendum, the Government side indicated their belief that it would be premature to proceed with a referendum on reducing the voting age from 18 to 16 with the other two referendums then in mind – marriage equality and reduction in the age of candidacy for President – for May. During the debate, Minister of State Coffey indicated that it would be necessary first of all to consider issues such as the implications of lowering the voting age across the policy spectrum. It was indicated that work had commenced on this and that it would be continuing. The Taoiseach subsequently indicated in the Dáil on 9 June 2015 that the Government did not propose to hold any further referendums during the remainder of its term.

The provisional referendum certificate in relation to the Marriage Referendum has not been finalised. Unless and until this is the done, no timeline or detail can be provided for any further actions.

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.4.1 – Pilot approach to implementation of Public Participation Networks		
Lead implementing agency	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Emer Connolly	
Title, Department	Principal, Community Division	
Email	Emer.Connolly@environ.ie	
Phone	01-888-2468	
Other actors involved	Government	Local Authorities in Galway, Tipperary, South County Dublin and Carlow.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Community and Voluntary Groups.
Main Objective	Pilot set up and implementation of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) in four Local Authority Areas - Galway Co. Co., Tipperary Co. Co. South Dublin Co. Co. and Carlow Co. Co.	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Developing a PPN in each Pilot local authority area to enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight activities of the local authority.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>The value of citizen participation in local decision making is directly enhanced by the development of Public Participation Networks –the foundation of which was laid out for the first time on a statutory basis with the Local Government Reform Act 2014.</p> <p>The PPNs will enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees across a range of areas of responsibility in each Local Authority.</p>	
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the</i></p>	The aim of developing the PPNs is to facilitate and enable the public to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system. This will allow the diversity of voices and interests in a local authority area to be facilitated and	

<p><i>commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>involved in decision-making. A parallel and equally important aim is to facilitate the local authority in making better and more-timely decisions.</p> <p>The participation of members of local communities, whether as individuals or as members of local community or other groups in public life and their right to influence the decisions that affect their lives and communities are at the centre of democracy. Open and inclusive policy-making enhances transparency and accountability, and builds civic capacity.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>This action is complete.</p> <p>PPNs have now been rolled out across all Local Authority areas. While still at a development stage the results so far have been good insofar as Local Authorities have been undertaking a range of activities to communicate with potential stakeholders of Public Participation Networks to increase awareness and aid in groups joining the PPNs.</p> <p>PPNs are active across all Local Authorities in nominating and selecting community representatives for public seats on Strategic Policy Committees and other Committees of the Local Authority, including Local Community Development Committees, where the PPN has five seats across the community and voluntary (two), social inclusion (two) and environmental (one) sectors.</p> <p>At end 2014, 60% of local authorities had set up PPNs. The new PPN structures are now being implemented across all 31 Local Authority areas.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>The commitment to pilot PPN's in four local authorities has been completed and the new PPN structures are now being implemented across all 31 Local Authority areas.</p> <p>The process of setting up the PPNs is at various stages in each local authority; setting up of an oversight group to ensure consistency across the local authority sector will be a priority during the second half of 2015.</p> <p>In addition, training and development supports will be required to develop capacity of PPN members to fulfil meaningful roles within the local government arena.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			

Prior to the development of the Action Plan under the Open Government Partnership initiative, DECLG was already engaged in a process of reform of local government. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 makes legal provision for the reforms set out in the Government's Action Programme for Effective Local Government, "Putting People First" (<http://www.environ.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentReform/>), which was published in October 2012. "Putting People First" emphasises the relationship between the local authority and local community groups. Community organisations have a distinct relevance for the community leadership role of local government as such groupings include many of those citizens most active in, and committed to, their localities. The development of strengthened relationships between local community groups and Local Authorities will be mutually beneficial.

Provision of resources, including a resource worker to support the development of the Public Participation Network will ensure the viability and sustainability of the new structures.

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.4.2 – Provide legal base for public participation framework in local government		
Lead implementing agency		Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Emer Connolly
Title, Department		Principal, Community Division
Email		Emer.Connolly@environ.ie
Phone		01-888-2468
Other actors involved	Government	All Local Authorities
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective		Provide legal base for public participation framework in local government expanding on that provided in the Local Government Reform Act 2014.
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Legislation: Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides the legislative basis which gives effect to the Framework for Public Participation and the Public Participation Networks (PPN's). Section 46 was commenced on 01 June 2014, along with a number of other sections of the Act. Guidelines on implementation of PPN's issued from the Department to Local Authorities in April 2014; these remain in effect and may be amended from time to time.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>		Statutory under-pinning of public participation mechanism for engagement with the local authority system enabling the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees across a range of areas of responsibility in each Local Authority. Meets the government's commitment to strengthen and deepen civic participation at a local level. To develop a framework for public participation in local government, which will set out the mechanisms by which citizens and communities will be encouraged and supported to participate in the decision-making processes of the local authority.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The PPN will be the main link through which the local authority connects with the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors without prejudice to other consultation processes. With effect from 01 June 2014, where community representation is to be provided on appropriate committees of the Local Authority, such as Strategic Policy Committees/Local Community Development Committees etc., it must be sourced through the PPN.</p> <p>The participation of members of local communities, whether as individuals or as members of local community or other groups in public life and their right to influence the decisions that affect their lives and communities are at the centre of democracy. Open and inclusive policy-making enhances transparency and accountability, and builds civic capacity.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>PPNs have now been rolled out across all Local Authority areas. While still at a development stage the results so far have been good insofar as Local Authorities have been undertaking a range of activities to communicate with potential stakeholders of Public Participation Networks to increase awareness and aid in groups joining the PPNs.</p> <p>PPNs are active across all Local Authorities in nominating and selecting community representatives for public seats on Strategic Policy Committees and other Committees of the Local Authority, including Local Community Development Committees, where the PPN has five seats across the community and voluntary (two), social inclusion (two) and environmental (one) sectors.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">End date</p>	<p>PPNs will be ongoing.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Next steps</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making of regulations; 2. Setting up oversight group to monitor and evaluate implementation across the local government sector; 3. Securing adequate resources to ensure effective implementation of the new arrangements 		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>The primary responsibility and accountability for decision-making within the local authority resides in the elected council. As part of a revitalisation of local government, the approaches to engage the public in local authority policy formulation and service design will go beyond the range of communication, consultation and community participation mechanisms used in the past. Approaches to stimulate greater public participation will complement rather than diminish, compete with, or substitute for local representative democracy. The participation of members of local communities, whether as individuals or as members of local sectoral, community or other groups in public life and their right to influence the decisions that affect their lives and communities</p>			

are at the centre of democracy. Open and inclusive policy-making enhances transparency and accountability, and builds civic capacity.

Regulations for the PPNs have been drafted; however, some legal issues remain to be resolved. An oversight group is scheduled to be set up in Quarter 4, 2015. €50K has been allocated centrally for each PPN during 2015, provided it is supplemented by €30K from local authority sources. This will allow the recruitment/deployment of a dedicated resource worker and overheads for each PPN. This level of funding needs to be maintained over time, to ensure the successful development of the new structures.

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.4.3 – Undertake a feasibility study on possible means of enabling further citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes		
Lead implementing agency		Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Rory O’Leary
Title, Department		Assistant Principal Officer, Local Government Finance Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Email		Rory.OLeary@environ.ie
Phone		053 – 911 7441
Other actors involved	Government	The Members’ Association and the County and City Managers’ Association
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	
Main Objective		Undertake a feasibility study on possible means of enabling further citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Members’ Association & County and City Managers’ Association to undertake feasibility study, in consultation with key stakeholders, on enabling further citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>		This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation by assessing how citizen engagement in the local authority budgetary process can be further enabled.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The results of the feasibility study will inform and guide the next steps on how further citizen engagement in local authority budgetary processes can be facilitated.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
	<p>Commencement to be informed by emerging amendments to the local authority budgetary process.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>It is considered that the opportunity for the timely commencement of Action 2.4.3 will be informed by emerging amendments to the budgetary process.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">End date</p>	<p>End 2015</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Next steps</p>	<p>DECLG to discuss approach to study with other actors involved.</p>		
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>			
<p>Current status: The budgetary process and its application within the context of the recently formed Municipal Districts is the subject of discussion at the Local Government Reform Advisory Group (established by The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government). Having regard to these active considerations and the potential for further reforms to the budgetary process, it is considered that the opportunity for the timely commencement of Action 2.4.3 will be informed by emerging amendments to the budgetary process. The means by which further citizen engagement might be enhanced can be considered as part of this overall process.</p>			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.5.1 – Develop, finalise and publish the first Government Strategy on children and young people's participation in decision-making.

Lead implementing agency		Department of Children & Youth Affairs
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Anne O'Donnell
Title, Department		Head of Participation Unit, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Email		Anne_ODonnell@dcya.gov.ie
Phone		+353 1 6473016
Other actors involved	Government	Department of Education and Skills Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Department of Health Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Education and Training Boards Health Information and Quality Authority Health Service Executive Housing Authorities HSE, Mental Health Services Local Authorities Local Government Management Authority Mental Health Commission National Council for Special Education National Educational Psychological Service, National Transport Authority The Teaching Council Tusla – Child and Family Agency
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Children and Young People's Services Committees Children's Mental Health Coalition Comhairle na nÓg Drug and Alcohol Task Forces Empowering People in Care (EPIC) Family Mediation Service Headstrong Youth Advisory Panel Healthy Ireland Council Legal Aid Board Local Community Development Committee Rural Transport Network Sports Partnerships The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning

	Union of Students in Ireland
Main Objective	Develop, finalise and publish the first Government Strategy on children and young people's participation in decision making
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Developing strategies, resources, guidance and training to enable appropriate participation by children and young people in decision making.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making (http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/national-strategy-on-children-and-young-people-s-participation-in-decision-making/3456.htm) builds on the achievements and challenges of the National Children's Strategy by further embedding effective, meaningful and systematic participation by children and young people in decision-making on issues that affect them in all aspects of their lives.</p> <p>There is a growing body of evidence on the benefits of participation by children and young people in decision-making across a range of measures, including improved services, policies, research, active citizenship and, most importantly, improvements for children themselves and for society generally.</p> <p>Inclusion of children and young people in decision-making can promote children's protection, improve their confidence, communication skills and ability to negotiate, network and make judgements.</p> <p>There is also strong evidence that participation by children and young people in decision-making can support active citizenship and social inclusion at an early stage and there is general agreement that this is crucial to building and sustaining a healthy society. Young people's engagement with social media in new social movements and global forms of activism is evidence that they take their citizenship very seriously and are engaged actively on issues of importance to them, using a space that is owned and created by them.</p> <p>In education, effective and meaningful participation of children and young people has been shown to be beneficial to children and young people, and to schools. Students' participation generally, and in student councils more particularly, can improve academic standards, reduce rates of early school-leaving, improve discipline and facilitate students in acquiring communication, planning and organisational skills.</p> <p>Improved services are among the most measurable benefits of children and young people's participation in decision-making. Recent</p>

	<p>studies indicate that using children’s views in the development and evaluation of healthcare service provision can have a significant influence on health outcomes and reduce healthcare usage.</p>
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>Children and young people live their lives at home, in communities, in childcare, in schools and other education settings, in clubs and organisations. Some children and young people have experience of growing up in care, living with disabilities, being in detention or interacting with the health, mental health, child protection or homelessness services. Children and young people’s voices should be heard in all of these significant settings and they should be facilitated to be active participants in decisions that affect them, in accordance with their age and maturity. It is a key priority of this strategy that seldom-heard children and young people are enabled to take part in decision-making and this is particularly critical in the case of children living in the care of the State or in receipt of child protection and welfare services.</p> <p>Accordingly, the priority objectives in this strategy are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and young people will have a voice in decisions made in their local communities. 2. Children and young people will have a voice in decision-making in early education, schools and the wider formal and non-formal education systems. 3. Children and young people will have a voice in decisions that affect their health and well-being, including on the health and social services delivered to them. 4. Children and young people will have a voice in the Courts and legal system. <p>The actions outlined in this strategy aim to address the challenges that exist in children and young people being enabled to participate appropriately in decision-making. The use of age-appropriate methods is particularly critical in involving very young children in decision-making. There is a growing body of evidence and good practice on creative methods for involving this age group effectively in decision-making. These methods are already being used by some early education practitioners in Ireland. In addressing these challenges, the strategy contains a series of additional objectives, which include the following objectives:</p> <p>Objective 5: Promoting effective leadership to champion and promote participation of children and young people.</p> <p>National leadership on participation will be strengthened through the establishment of the DCYA Children and Young People’s Participation Hub, which is one of the key actions in this Strategy (page 31 in Strategy). The hub will support Government departments and other organisations to develop the leadership and culture required to implement the strategy’s actions effectively.</p> <p>Organisational change is essential to ensuring meaningful participation by children and young people in decisions that affect</p>

them. Participation must be embedded within the infrastructure of an organisation and progress beyond one-off, discrete activities, to become an ongoing embedded process.

Effective participation demands a whole-systems approach, combining four key elements, namely:

- Culture: The ethos of an organisation, shared by all staff and service users, which demonstrates a commitment to participation.
- Structure: The planning, development and resourcing of participation evident in an organisation's infrastructure.
- Practice: The ways of working, methods for involvement, skills and knowledge that enable children and young people to become involved.
- Review: The monitoring and evaluation systems that enable an organisation to evidence change effected by children and young people's participation.

This strategy proposes a range of measures to achieve a whole-systems approach to participation:

- increased participation training for individuals and organisations;
- capacity-building;
- awareness-raising;
- skills training for young people and adults;
- the adoption of participation practice standards;
- opportunities for practitioners and organisations to network and share information about participation practice;
- embedding a culture of participation within organisations, whereby young people feel that they are valued, listened to and play an important role in influencing decisions that affect their lives.

Organisational culture and strong leadership are particularly critical in ensuring the involvement of seldom-heard children and young people in decision-making. A precondition for the meaningful, effective and sustainable participation of seldom-heard young people is an appropriate organisational infrastructure, including a cultural climate that values inclusiveness, empowerment and participation.

Objective 6: Development of education and training for professionals working with and on behalf of children and young people.

Training for professionals is also critical to participation by children and young people in decision-making. Strategies to give children a voice will only work if there are adults willing to listen to them.

Actions in the present Strategy address the training of professionals and others who work with and on behalf of children and young people. The DCYA Children and Young People's Participation Hub will form partnerships with third-level and further education institutions to oversee development of education on children's rights (including participation in decision-making) for professionals who work with and on behalf of children and young people.

	<p>Objective 7: Mainstreaming the participation of children and young people in the development of policy, legislation and research.</p> <p>The right of children and young people to a voice in decisions that affect their lives is Government policy since 2000. Since that time, children and young people have been involved in the development of a number of significant pieces of national policy, legislation and research. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020 also commits to children and young people having a voice in decisions that affect their lives across all five outcome areas of the Policy Framework. Actions in the present strategy commit Government departments and agencies and other stakeholders to involve children and young people in the development of policies, legislation and research.</p>		
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
			x
<p>Description of the results</p> <p><i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>The original aim was that the strategy would be published in 2014, with ongoing work over the period 2014-2020 and good progress made by mid-2016. The first National Participation Strategy on Children and Young People’s Participation in decision making 2015-2020 (http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/national-strategy-on-children-and-young-people-s-participation-in-decision-making/3456.htm) was published in June 2015. The Strategy includes an Action Plan which was developed following in-depth bilateral meetings with Government departments and agencies, with non-government stakeholders and with children and young people involved in the implementation of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=3146&ad=1).</p> <p>The implementation of the actions in the action plan will be monitored under the mechanisms established for monitoring the progress of the national framework strategy, Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures.</p> <p>A practical guide aimed at a wide range of professionals who want to find ways to enable marginalised or disadvantaged children and young people to have a say in decision-making at local and national level has been published (http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/A Practical guide to Including Seldomheard Children & Yo/3536.htm) with the Participation Strategy. The Toolkit was developed to provide: information for managers of organisations; and a manual for practitioners on how to include ‘seldom-heard’ children and young people in organisations and events, and how to make the organisation relevant for seldom-heard children and young people.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the development of the Participation Hub. An online database of documents and online resources on the theory and practice of children and young people’s participation in decision-making is being compiled and will be made available. A scoping</p>		

	exercise to explore the needs of stakeholders and inform the establishment of the Participation Hub has also been commissioned and will be complete in Q3.
End date	2020
Next steps	<p>Establishment of a Children and Young People’s Participation Hub is the key priority action for the DCYA in the Action Plan accompanying the strategy. This hub will be the national centre of excellence on children and young people’s participation and will provide information, guidance and practical support to Government departments and agencies in delivering commitments outlined in this strategy’s Action Plan. It will also become a key driver in supporting the implementation of this strategy and Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. To achieve this, the hub will champion and promote participation, create resources and training materials, conduct training, document and disseminate learning and establish an online children’s participation database. It will also form partnerships with third-level and adult education institutions to oversee development of education on children’s rights (including participation in decision-making) for professionals who work with and on behalf of children and young people.</p> <p>The vision for the Participation Hub includes the establishment by the DCYA of strategic formal partnerships with organisations and initiatives in the statutory and non-statutory sectors to develop and document innovative best practice in children and young people’s participation in decision-making. The hub will involve children and young people appropriately in its development and operation.</p>
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.5.2 – Maximise participation and understanding of young people in civic life		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Education & Skills	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Anita Fitzgerald, Pádraig Mac Fhlannchadha, Breda Naughton, Kevin McCarthy	
Title, Department	Department of Education & Skills	
Email	Anita_Fitzgerald@education.gov.ie ; padraig_macfhlanncha@education.gov.ie ; Breda_Naughton@education.gov.ie ; Kevinj_mccarthy@education.gov.ie	
Phone	01 8892291	
Other actors involved	Government	Department of Education & Skills, Primary and post-primary schools
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective		Maximise participation and understanding of young people in civic life
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Schools exploring how new Junior Cycle can be delivered across curriculum in terms of 24 Statements of Learning in particular that the students “will value what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts”. Implementation of Politics and Society as a Senior Cycle subject to commence in a number of schools from September 2016.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All schools will be asked to participate in an important civic project in 2015-16. As Ireland celebrates the centenary of its 1916 Rising, on 15th March 2016 (Proclamation Day) school children will be asked to contribute to a school ‘proclamation’ (vision for modern Ireland) which will promote citizenship and societal engagement. Reforms at ISCED 2 will include an extended emphasis on Civic, Social and Political Education. In time, CSPE will be incorporated into a core area of learning called Wellbeing, strengthening the message that societal and civic involvement are important to every individual’s personal wellbeing. This will foster greater positivity towards civic participation. We also plan to introduce an optional short course in Digital Media Literacy, which will strengthen awareness of technology-related citizenship activity, communication and accountability. Reforms will also aim to recognise and encourage aspects of civic participation outside the classroom e.g. student council participation. At ISCED 3, the new optional subject Politics and Society will be introduced to a number of schools in 2016-17, with a

	view to widespread implementation thereafter.. It will emphasise political understanding and active, participatory citizenship, including assessment of a major student project component.		
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	We aim to continue to foster public and civic engagement, and understanding of the political system through the curriculum. This will include significant engagement with politics directly, e.g. school links to local councils, school visits by local councillors and members of parliament. Students will also be encouraged to participate in their Student Council in their school.		
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
	Important progress made in Q3 2015.		
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>Important progress has been made in the summer of 2015 towards achieving greater teacher support for these reforms, and the final Framework for Junior Cycle has been published (August 2015). The timeline for the introduction of Politics and Society as a Senior Cycle subject is as set out in the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Department in September 2015 will announce launched an extensive programme of commemorative events on 22nd September, including citizenship activities such as Proclamation Day, to coincide with the 1916 centenary. These include projects, competitions and resources which support civic engagement and, in several instances, all-island collaboration – see www.education.ie. As different initiatives reach their start points, details will become available at www.Scoilnet.ie/2016.</p> <p>Junior Cycle reform is being progressed in consultation with teachers and educational stakeholders.</p> <p>A firm commitment to introduce Politics and Society has been given, and work continues on issues around teacher qualification and assessment.</p>		
End date	2017		
Next steps			
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology: Development of ICT Strategy					
This Action comprises six commitments as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Development of ICT Strategy B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill C) Public Services Card D) Single Customer View E) Local Government portal F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices 					
Commitment A: Development of ICT Strategy					
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform				
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mary O’Donohue				
Title, Department	Mary O’Donohue, Head of Operations, Office of Government Chief Information Officer				
Email	Mary.ODonohue@per.gov.ie ,				
Phone	076 100 7076				
Other actors involved	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Government</td> <td>All public bodies: Public Service ICT Strategy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	Government	All public bodies: Public Service ICT Strategy	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Government	All public bodies: Public Service ICT Strategy				
CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A				
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology				
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	<p>Delivering better outcomes and efficiency through innovation and excellence in ICT as set out in the Public service ICT Strategy 2015.</p> <p>Digital trends are revolutionising how governments, citizens and businesses interact with each other and the world. Shifts to digital technology such as the rapid rise in the use of smartphones, widespread information sharing and expectations of ‘anytime, anywhere’ access necessitates investment in whole-of-government strategic projects that target efficiencies or better outcomes for citizens & businesses.</p>				
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>Digital First: Digitisation of key transactional services and the increased use of ICT to deliver improved efficiency within Public Bodies and provide new digital services to citizens, businesses and public servants.</p> <p>Innovative use of ICT in the Public Service will deliver better value for taxpayers by creating efficiencies through integration,</p>				

	<p>consolidation and sharing of common infrastructure, systems and resources.</p> <p>Adoption and facilitation of digital technologies will increase productivity, improve the relationship between citizens, businesses and government and will deliver social and economic benefits for Ireland.</p> <p>Data as an Enabler: Integrated services and increased data sharing will drive significant efficiencies; will facilitate insight driven decision making; will increase openness and transparency between Government and the public; and will provide a much higher user experience and quality of service for citizens, businesses and public servants.</p>		
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The PS ICT Strategy sets out to build the ICT foundations that will deliver government services into the future. It is specifically aligned with the objectives of the Public Service Reform Plan and the goals of the Civil Service Renewal Plan (http://www.per.gov.ie/en/civil-service-renewal/). It aims to provide a framework for the delivery of greater efficiencies in Public Service ICT delivery and administration, with better outcomes for citizens, businesses and public servants.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
		<p>x</p>	
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>The target for the development of the Public Service ICT Strategy, and a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the ICT Strategy, was Q3 2014.</p> <p>The PS ICT Strategy has been approved by Government and was launched by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in January 2015. The Strategy provides a 5-year horizon for delivering better outcomes and efficiency through innovation and excellence in ICT but given the ever-changing nature of ICT, the Strategy will be reviewed for currency and updated accordingly on an annual basis.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>2020</p>		
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Immediate next steps in the implementation of the Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive analysis of ICT expenditure and headcount as well as a base-lining exercise is being undertaken in order to support the implementation of the Strategy. • On completion of this detailed analysis, the SIP will be further developed and business cases for investment in the various strategic initiatives will be prepared. This step is also necessary to identify the resources available to be reinvested in other elements of the Strategy as part of the Reform Dividend. • The resources and funding required for the delivery of the SIP in the longer term (beyond 2015) will be built into the 		

	<p>budget cycle for the relevant Public Bodies from 2016 onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the scale of the challenge and the diversity of the Public Service it is envisaged that the programme would be broken in to a number of defined phases targeting specific ICT areas within specific Public Bodies and on an interdepartmental basis.
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>	
<p>The implementation of the PS ICT Strategy is in its initial stages and will build on successes already achieved in the on-line engagement of citizens and the delivery of public services through digitisation projects.</p>	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology: Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill

This Action comprises six commitments as follows:

- A) Development of ICT Strategy
- B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill
- C) Public Services Card
- D) Single Customer View
- E) Local Government portal
- F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices

Commitment B: Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill

Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Michael Perkins	
Title, Department	Michael Perkins, Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Email	Michael.Perkins@per.gov.ie	
Phone	Michael Perkins: 01 604 5613	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	A Data Sharing and Governance Bill will be developed to promote and encourage data sharing between public bodies.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The Data Sharing and Governance Bill will be developed to promote and encourage data sharing between public bodies.</p> <p>On 1 August 2014, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform published a policy paper entitled, “Data Sharing and Governance: Policy Proposals”, which set out key elements of proposed legislation. Interested parties were invited to make submissions responding to the policy proposals. The Department received many constructive submissions, which have contributed significantly to the development of policy on Data-Sharing.</p>	

<i>detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	On 24 November 2014, a public information event was held to discuss the outcomes of the consultation, and allowed for useful discussion of the main policy issues from different perspectives.		
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	The Data Sharing and Governance Bill will promote and encourage data sharing between public bodies with a view to significantly reducing the administrative burden on citizens and businesses, allowing them to avail of higher quality, more efficient and seamless public services, while reducing reliance on paper documents. While the consultation phase is now completed, the Department continues to welcome comments on the policy paper or on other aspects of data-sharing.		
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
		x	
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	The target completion date is the end 2016 but with good progress made by the end of 2015. Having considered the submissions received, the Department prepared a draft General Scheme of the Data-Sharing and Governance Bill. On July 7th, 2015, the Government approved the drafting of Bill and its submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform for pre-legislative scrutiny. The General Scheme is published on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.		
End date			
Next steps	The General Scheme of the Bill is published on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and drafting is to be commenced.		
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology: Public Services Card		
<p>This Action comprises six commitments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Development of ICT Strategy B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill C) Public Services Card D) Single Customer View E) Local Government portal F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices 		
Commitment C: Public Services Card		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Richard Shine	
Title, Department	Richard Shine, Principal, Department of Social Protection	
Email	richard.shine@welfare.ie ,	
Phone	Richard Shine: 071 9672696	
Other actors involved	Government	Relevant public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Making a number of significant improvements through the new Public Services Card, including the incorporation of contactless ticketing chips for travel entitlement and new smart card technology.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A</i></p>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation. A number of significant improvements will be made through the new Public Services Card including the incorporation of contactless ticketing chips for travel entitlement and new smart card technology.</p>	

<p><i>detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>			
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The purpose of the Public Services Card is to enable individuals to gain access to public services more efficiently and with a minimum of duplication of effort, while at the same time preserving their privacy to the maximum extent possible. The PSC is designed to replace other cards within the public sector such as the free travel pass and the social services card and to make it easy for providers of public services to verify the identity of customers.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>Face-to-Face registration, which involves the capture of an individual's photograph and signature and the verification of identity data already held by the Department, is taking place countrywide in 94 offices of the Department</p> <p>Selected customers, whose identity is regularly authenticated in a face-to-face process, have also been invited to avail of a 'postal' registration process.</p> <p>Registration is now required for individual applicants for a Personal Public Service (PPS) Number and people applying for or in receipt of social protection payments or benefits.</p> <p>Online self-scheduling was deployed in Q3 2015 to facilitate customers to book their own appointments e.g. Child Benefit recipients who are working and have limited availability during the standard working day.</p> <p>Options for out-of-hours registration solutions are being explored.</p> <p>A Mobile Registration solution has been developed in-house and trialed in undertaking a number of SAFE registrations (e.g. employees in their work premises as well as residents of congregated settings). Mobile SAFE registration kits are now being made available across the Department's Regional Divisions. The demand for this option is low to date but is expected to increase as SAFE Registration is offered to the wider population.</p> <p>The target for completion is the end of 2016 but with good progress made by mid 2016.</p>		

	<p>By the end of May 2014, over 730,000 cards had been issued. To date, 1.5 Million cards have been issued. It is intended that a cumulative target of three million cards will have been issued by the end of 2016. Further services will be reviewed with a view to providing them through use of the Public Services Card.</p>
End date	End of 2016
Next steps	<p>The PSC project has been earmarked as a key initiative in the new Reform Plan with the aim to “expand the use of the PSC to cover a greater range of services” as the PSC is essentially a major piece of public service infrastructure that will in time be leveraged by all public bodies. Further services for use through the Cards is under consideration.</p> <p>Many Departments and state agencies currently offer some online services. However, in general, these are either low value services requiring a low level of citizen authentication, or, if high value, require the citizen to present in person at some point in the transaction in order to authenticate themselves. The PSC project has the potential to facilitate start-to-finish high-value online services, and the development of a pan-public service Identity and Access Management (IAM) solution to support this is underway with the intention that it will be available later this year.</p>
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>	
<p>N/A</p>	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology: Single Customer View		
<p>This Action comprises six commitments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Development of ICT Strategy B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill C) Public Services Card D) Single Customer View E) Local Government portal F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices 		
Commitment D: Single Customer View		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Mary O’Donohue, Mark Warren	
Title, Department	Mary O’Donohue, Head of Operations, Office of Government Chief Information Officer; Mark Warren, HEO, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Email	Mary.ODonohue@per.gov.ie , Mark.Warren@per.gov.ie ,	
Phone	Mary O’Donohue: 076 100 7076; Mark Warren: 01 604 5091	
Other actors involved	Government	Relevant public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	A range of new public service applications will be developed based on the Single Customer View.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A</i></p>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>A range of new public service applications will be developed based on the Single Customer View.</p> <p>An application to assist organisations looking to verify the identity of customers. An application that will assist with sharing of Public Service Card information</p>	

<i>detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>							
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	Reduce the amount of customer interactions with state bodies by sharing information rather than requesting it multiple times.						
Completion level	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Not started / Limited</td> <td>Substantial</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed		x	
Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed					
	x						
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>The target completion date is the end of 2015 but with good progress made by mid 2015.</p> <p>Organisations are now using the data validation application, the data sharing application is in development/testing stages.</p>						
End date	End 2015						
Next steps	Continue work on this.						
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)							
Not applicable							

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology: Local Government portal		
<p>This Action comprises six commitments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Development of ICT Strategy B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill C) Public Services Card D) Single Customer View E) Local Government portal F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices 		
Commitment E: Local Government portal		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Tim Willoughby	
Title, Department	Tim Willoughby, Chief Technology Officer, Local Government Management Agency	
Email	twilloug@lgma.ie	
Phone	01 633 2200	
Other actors involved	Government	Relevant public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Establishing the new Local Government portal, localgov.ie, facilitating one-stop-shop access for all citizens to all local authority services.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A</i></p>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation by integrating the process of building and planning into a process that the Builder and Architects are immersed.</p> <p>The Local Government Portal (www.localgov.ie) is a Service Catalogue of All Local Government Services harnessing open source technologies. The system connects the public with all of the Local Government Services. The first end to end online service on the Portal is the Building Control service, where users can Register, Upload, Pay and monitor progress. There is also an Online Building Register where all previous applications are available to view. This will be available as Open Data on data.localgov.ie in the coming months.</p>	

<i>detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>							
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	<p>The Local Government Portal is a central location where the citizen can find and interact with all of the Local Government Services. The Catalogue details which authorities carry out different services and also harnesses semantics where authorities may call similar services different names. The intention is to build more and more interactive services, similar to the BCMS, which can be accessed, transacted and completed on the Portal.</p> <p>At this stage, the portal is substantially completed – with a catalogue of all Local Government Services and with Transactional Services Enabled,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Registration • Online Forms • Upload Documents • Make Payments • Track Applications 						
Completion level	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Not started / Limited</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Substantial</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed		x	
Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed					
	x						
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>The aim was that the new Local Government portal www.localgov.ie would be in place in 2014.</p> <p>The Building Control Management System as the Initial Portal delivery has been very successful in its first year. Since the launch on 1st March 2014, there has been over 10,000 building commencement registered, with over 190,000 documents uploaded, over 2m in payments, over 30,000 registrations of owners, builders, architects and developers. The next phase will see more forms being added to the portal for Fire Certificates, Disability Permits and Completion Certificates.</p> <p>The Portal, as the front end to the BCMS includes reusable components that other services can utilise, Forms, Documents, Payments and Registration.</p>						
End date							
Next steps	A tender is issuing from the LGMA to build the next phase of the BCMS project. This phase will add a Mobile use platform for the end user and a more Open Registration system for the public that will allow them to reuse existing identities, rather than having to create new ones for Local Government and that can be leveraged across Local Government.						
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)							

The LGMA is issuing a tender to build the next phase of the project. This will build out more legislatively required functionality for the BCMS, but can also enhance the front end shared services. Areas of interest are – a Mobile platform, so that Mobile users can access services. A more open registration system that will allow for Businesses to view all their transactions, across many users, and will allow users to reuse existing Identities.

Lessons Learned and Future Plans

Due to the Nature of the project and the tight timelines, the LGMA had to really focus on the Citizen deliverable and the business deliverables. The project was split into two deliverables, with specific focus on Citizen engagement in the portal and Business requirements in the shared back end. The approach proved successful and is a potential way forward for future projects.

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.6 – Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology		
This Action comprises six commitments as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Development of ICT Strategy B) Development and promotion of Data Sharing and Governance Bill C) Public Services Card D) Single Customer View E) Local Government portal F) Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices 		
Commitment F: Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Claire Crowley, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI)	
Title, Department	Assistant Principal	
Email	claire.crowley@djei.ie	
Phone	631 2467	
Other actors involved	Government	DJEI
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	Customer improvements to be implemented for citizens through technology	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Establish Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) to provide ‘first-stop-shops’ for micro-enterprise and small business sector to avail of enterprise support services, other direct business supports and co-ordinated access to other services for business.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of improving public services and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The LEOs serve as a first-stop-shop service to the micro-enterprise and small business sector providing enterprise support services, direct business supports and a sign-posting service to other business supports. In tandem with the formal establishment of the LEOs, a new National LEO Gateway website and 31 LEO sub-sites were launched. In addition, the cross-governmental SMEs Online tool, designed to help Irish start-ups and small businesses navigate the range of Government business supports for</p>	

<p><i>detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>which they could be eligible, is accessible on the LEO Gateway site.</p>		
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>In 2012, in recognition of the changes to the social, economic and technological landscape of Ireland in recent years, the Government decided to reform the system for delivery of support to micro and small enterprises. The purpose of the reform was to make the operating environment for businesses more coherent, responsive and conducive to entrepreneurship at local level.</p> <p>The reformed structure provides a service which amalgamates national enterprise policy and local business supports in order to strengthen the local business culture and environment. The LEO structure combines the expert knowledge of the former CEBs with the Business Development expertise of the Local Authorities, overseen by the Centre of Excellence in Enterprise Ireland.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>Thirty-one LEOs were established in April 2014, following the legal dissolution of the County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs).</p> <p>In tandem with the formal establishment of the LEOs, a new National LEO Gateway website and 31 LEO sub-sites were launched. The objectives of this project were reached in that the project delivered an enhanced web capability for the new LEOs which brought consistency and uniformity to the online tools available to the LEO staff and which ultimately ensured delivery of a high level of service to their clients. It also allowed the application of the new single branding for the LEOs so that no matter which sub-site a customer accessed they would be presented with the same branding, information, layout and options. Key tools were provided such as online applications, events booking and management, integration with social media platforms and use of e-zines etc. The Gateway website provides easy access to all 31 sub-sites and in addition there is also a function to create ‘syndicated content’ at the centre that is then pushed down to all LEO offices for inclusion on their sub-site.</p> <p>In addition to the website development, the cross-governmental SMEs Online tool, designed by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Finance, to help Irish start-ups and small businesses navigate the range of Government business supports for which they could be eligible, is accessible on the LEO Gateway site. By answering the eight questions in the Online Tool, a small business will, in one location, be able to:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find out which of the over 80 Government business supports from 27 different Government Departments, Agencies and Initiatives are available to them • obtain information on the range of Government supports for accessing credit • identify their nearest Local Enterprise Office where they can discuss the outcomes of the guide further • download all these filtered results into a document for their further use.
End date	2014
Next steps	Ongoing provision of the enhanced service.
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.7.1 - A review of citizen complaints procedures will be undertaken.		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Kieran Sheedy	
Title, Department	Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Email	Kieran.Sheedy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	604 5729	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A
Main Objective	To review the effectiveness of citizen complaints procedures	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Review how public service bodies respond to complaints; whether they provide information on how to appeal & complain; & the effectiveness of remedies to complaints.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of: improving public services; increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>A document setting out the key principles for complaints systems was produced by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in January 2014 to provide clarity for Departments and Offices in terms of how they develop their complaints handling processes, as well as ensuring a greater level of consistency in approach between different organisations. The Guidelines for Customer Charters (2012) also provide for greater consistency in this regard.</p> <p>The review will examine the extent to which this principles based approach is being implemented at a practical level in civil service organisations</p>	
<p>Ambition</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will</i></p>	<p>Citizens will have clear knowledge of complaints procedures. Complaints will be dealt with thoroughly, impartially and in good time and effective remedies will be put in place in response to complaints made.</p>	

<i>either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>			
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
	Commenced in Q1 2015, currently ongoing		
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	Initial data collected in Q1 2015 in respect of all Government Departments. Data currently being analysed.		
End date			
Next steps	Review ongoing		
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			
N/A			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 2.7.2 - Enhance customer engagement				
Lead implementing agency		Department of Public Expenditure & Reform		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		David Feeney		
Title, Department		Principal Officer, Reform and Delivery Office, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform		
Email		David.Feeney@per.gov.ie		
Phone		01 604 5135		
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies		
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	N/A		
Main Objective		Enhance customer engagement		
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Promoting customer engagement through providing more customer service training, reviewing customer charter process, formal organisations survey of focus/user groups, meetings, seminars and consultation processes.		
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>		This commitment addresses the grand challenges of improving public services; and increasing public integrity; and more effectively managing public resources. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation. In improving how the State provides its services, there is a need to radically change the relationship with the service user. Engagement with the citizen and business customer must be real and meaningful if service delivery is to meet their needs, rather than a perception of those needs. Better customer engagement undoubtedly leads to better public services and is therefore an important aspect of Public Service Reform.		
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>		Public Service Reform is a key element of the Government's overall strategy for recovery. The Government's second Public Service Reform Plan 2014-2016 was published in January 2014 and has a priority focus on improved service delivery and better outcomes, alongside ongoing efficiency measures. A key objective of the Reform Plan is to enhance how the Public Service engages with service users, with a view to improving the quality of their interaction with the Public Service and to facilitate service improvements at organisational and sectoral levels. An important part of this work is about improving the customer experience and some initiatives in this area are summarised below.		
Completion level		Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
			x	
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first</i>		There have been a range of initiatives to improve customer engagement and customer service undertaken by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in the last year		

<p><i>or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>(these central initiatives are complemented by others at organisational level across the Civil Service). A number of the central initiatives are summarised below:</p> <p>All Government Departments, Offices and other public bodies are required to publish Customer Charters and Customer Action Plans, covering a three year period, based around a four-step cycle of Consultation, Commitment, Evaluation and Reporting. A review of the quality of the Customer Charters and Customer Action Plans of 33 organisations (primarily Civil Service) was undertaken in Summer 2014 and a report on the findings was published in October 2014. Overall, the review found that the quality of Customer Charters and Customer Actions Plans in Departments and Offices is of a high standard and the process is generally well understood and followed.</p> <p>The Department published the results of a Civil Service Customer Satisfaction Survey 2015 in May 2015. The survey was undertaken by Ipsos MRBI following a tendering competition and was the first such Civil Service wide survey since 2009. The purpose of the survey, which had over 2,000 respondents from the general public, was to ascertain satisfaction levels with services, as well as more general perceptions of, and attitudes to, the Civil Service. To complement this work, public bodies are encouraged to regularly undertake organisational level survey and other forms of customer engagement. Overall, this is an important initiative as it improves customer engagement and the results of the survey will help inform ongoing developments in service delivery across Government Departments and Offices.</p> <p>Service Design is an emerging and innovative approach to improving public services by streamlining processes and improving the customer experience. The Department was centrally involved in a service design training initiative in conjunction with a number of public bodies. The tools and techniques that were part of the training help improve service provision from the customer perspective by identifying bottlenecks and inefficiencies in the current front facing processes; co-creating with service users to provide true customer value; and developing innovative service solutions to key service issues. More generally, the Department promotes the provision of customer service training by public bodies for their frontline staff through the QCS Officers' Network.</p> <p>Increased use of plain language is an important part of the reform programme and a specific action in the Public Service Reform Plan. In order to help achieve this objective, the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) were engaged by the RDO to deliver four sessions of Plain Language Training for public bodies. Officials from more than 20 organisations took part in</p>
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	<p>training and further training is planned before the end of 2015. The RDO have also previously produced, in cooperation with NALA, a handbook on the use of plain language and this will be updated and re-circulated before the end of 2015.</p> <p>Due to the nature of customers' interactions with public services, most engagement and customer improvement tends to take place at an organisational level. In this context, the role of the Quality Customer Service (QCS) Officers' Network is to coordinate and improve customer service and customer engagement across the Civil and Public Service. Membership of the Network includes representatives from all Government Departments and Offices. The Network is supported by the Department and meets regularly to discuss items of interest and share best practice on all aspects of Customer Service.</p> <p>One specific aspect of the work of the QCS Network is the organisation of an annual conference for public servants to promote best practise in the area of customer service. The most recent annual Customer Service conference took place on 12 December, 2014 in the Wood Quay Venue, Dublin City Council Civil Offices. Over 120 public servants were in attendance drawn from Civil Service Departments and major Offices, Local Authorities and the wider Public Service. Planning is underway for the 2015 conference in December.</p> <p>Finally, the Annual Progress Report on the Public Service Reform Plan 2014-2016 was published in March 2015 and this sets out a broad range of initiatives to improve public services and customer engagement (www.reformplan.per.gov.ie)</p> <p>As set out in the Public Service Reform Plan, the aim was for the review of charters to be completed by the end of 2014 and for other actions to be ongoing.</p> <p>Overall, better customer engagement is a key aspect of Public Service Reform and undoubtedly leads to better public services.</p>
End date	The current Public Service Reform Plan runs to end 2016. Many of these initiatives will continue beyond that timeframe.
Next steps	Further initiatives are planned in this area including more plain language training and revision of the plain language handbook. There will be further surveys at organisational and Civil Service-wide level and another Customer Service conference will take place in December 2015.
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	
A key lesson / conclusion is that enhancing customer engagement should be a priority for all public bodies. While DPER leads and coordinates some initiatives in this area, it is important for all public	

bodies to play a role. There is no one single initiative that will deliver the overall objective of enhanced customer engagement – this require a whole series of ongoing initiatives at both central and organisational levels.

Commitment Completion Template		
Action 3.1 – Ethics Reform		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Kieran Sheedy	
Title, Department	Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Email	Kieran.Sheedy@per.gov.ie	
Phone	604 5729	
Other actors involved	Government	The Standards in Public Office Commission, the Departments of Justice and Equality and of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General were consulted in relation to draft proposals to reform the legislative framework governing ethics in public office. The Draft General Scheme was circulated to all Government Departments for observations.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	A public consultation process open to all was conducted from 16 th June to 11 th September.
Main Objective	Reform of legislative framework governing ethics in public office	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Government will bring forward legislation to modernise, consolidate & simplify statutory framework for ethics in public office, will implement recommendations of Final Report of Mahon Tribunal agreed by Government and will draw on international best practice.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment address the grand challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The existence of adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability within the civil service and between the civil service, the political level and citizens generally is one of the fundamental elements of a democratic system of government. There is a significant body of research highlighting internationally the important linkage between the quality of public institutions and long-term economic and social sustainability. Moreover, there are a number of significant examples in Ireland’s history – most recently the banking and financial crisis - where institutional weaknesses and governance failures have given rise to very substantial economic and social costs.</p> <p>The effectiveness of the ethical framework in managing conflicts of interest arising for public officials is integral to the quality and efficacy of public governance and in addressing corruption risks. Minimising corruption risks, and ensuring that conflicts between the public interest and private interests of public officials in the performance of their duties are regulated, is central to maximising the value generated and contribution made by the public sector.</p>	
Ambition	.	

<p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The reform proposals that have been developed are designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly enhance the existing framework for identifying, disclosing and managing conflicts of interest as well as minimising corruption risks; • Strengthen public trust in public administration by reinforcing the standards required from public officials in the performance of their functions; • Achieve a shift towards a more dynamic and risk-based system of compliance; • Ensure that the institutional framework for oversight, investigation and enforcement is robust and effective; • Put in place a consistent, coherent and proportionate ethics framework for all public officials at both local and national level which is calibrated to conflict of interest and corruption risks; and • Ensure Ireland’s disclosure and conflict of interest framework corresponds to international best practice and is appropriately balanced to other important public policy objectives including safeguarding privacy and encouraging participation in public life. <p>These reforms complement the reforms introduced in the areas of whistleblower protection, ombudsman reform and Freedom of Information in boosting openness, transparency and accountability of public governance.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>The original aim was that the draft Heads (General Scheme of the Public Sector Standards Bill) would be published by the end of 2014 and the Bill would be published by the end of 2015.</p> <p>The Government agreed on 16th June 2015 to the publication of a draft General Scheme to replace the current legislative framework governing ethical obligations for public officials, and to its referral for priority drafting and pre-legislative scrutiny. This will provide the Oireachtas Committee with the opportunity to consult civil society groups, advocacy groups and individuals with expertise in ethics, enabling them to provide input and to develop the draft General Scheme.</p> <p>To inform and encourage public debate, and to facilitate consultation with citizens, users of public services and interested organisations, a Policy Document was also published, setting out the analysis conducted by the Department which informed the Scheme’s development. Comments were sought by Friday 11 September 2015 – see http://www.per.gov.ie/public-sector-standards-bill/. The response rate was low and the observations received will be taken into account during the drafting of the Bill.</p>		
<p>End date</p>	<p>Q1 2016.</p>		

Next steps	Publication of draft Bill by end 2015, pending the legislative workload to be delivered, and enactment by the Oireachtas subsequently by end Q1 2016.
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	
Volume of legislation to be developed and enacted by Government may result in this legislation not being completed by end Q1 2016.	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 3.2 – Strengthening Freedom of Information - Implement the Code of Practice for Freedom of Information (FOI).

Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Evelyn O'Connor	
Title, Department	Principal, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Evelyn O'Connor	
Phone	604 5311	
Other actors involved	Government	All public bodies
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Wide range of stakeholders
Main Objective	Strengthening Freedom of Information - Implement the Code of Practice for FOI	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Implementing a Code of Practice for Freedom of Information ; proactive publication of information by public bodies; introducing a 'legislative footprint' regarding current legislative initiatives, published on Department websites.	
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>	<p>This commitment addresses the grand challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation through improved access to information and the decision-making process. The objectives of the Code include promotion of best practice among public bodies in relation to the operation of FOI and guiding and informing them in the performance of their responsibilities under the FOI Act 2014.</p> <p>The implementation of the Code of Practice for FOI will assist greatly in achieving the fundamental aim of the FOI Act 2014: "to enable members of the public to obtain access, to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy, to information in the possession of public bodies, other bodies in receipt of funding from the State and certain other bodies and to enable persons to have personal information relating to them in the possession of public bodies corrected..."</p> <p>The implementation of the Code of Practice involves all those involved in FOI: Requesters, Decision Makers, FOI Officers, Internal Reviewers, and the Office of the Information Commissioner.</p>	
Ambition	The existence of adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability within the civil service and	

<p><i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>between the civil service, the political level and citizens generally is one of the fundamental elements of a democratic system of government.</p> <p>In previous FOI regimes the roles of those involved in FOI were not clearly set out. The Code of Practice for FOI sets out such roles in detail, including the responsibilities for FOI practitioners and management in each public body, thus strengthening governance in implementing FOI in public bodies and resulting in timely information about policy and decisions that affect people's lives.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Code of Practice for FOI are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote best practice in public bodies in relation to the operation of FOI; • Guide and inform the performance of public bodies in relation to their responsibilities under the FOI Act; • Ensure FOI requests are dealt with by public bodies as efficiently as possible; • Secure appropriate consistency and standardisation of approach by public bodies in responding to FOI requests; and • Provide a framework for appropriate oversight and accountability of the performance of public bodies through monitoring of compliance with the Code. 		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>The aim was that the Code would be published by Q3 2014 for public consultation, finalised by the end of 2014, and that implementation would be ongoing. The Code of Practice was published in tandem with the Commencement of the FOI Act 2014. (Oct 2014). Implementation of the Code is ongoing with the following areas completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single FOI Training Framework has been put in place which provides a panel of trainers from which FOI bodies can procure quality-assured training in a consistent and cost-effective manner – completed Nov 2014; • The reconstitution of the FOI Networks – completed Oct. 2014; • The redevelopment of a modern accessible FOI website • Updating of Manuals/Guidance/Templates – completed Jan 2015; • Publication Scheme – Following a review of schemes in other jurisdictions and taking into account the nature of requests and submissions made in this regard, a draft publication scheme was developed in consultation with public bodies. A pilot scheme was developed by a public body and focus groups on schemes were carried out by 		

	<p>other public bodies which fed into the development of the model and enabled consideration to be given to whether further models pertinent to particular types of public bodies were required. The model publication scheme and guidance were published on 14th October following approval by the Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased resources centrally to assist in provision of advice and guidance as well as collection of statistics <p>In relation to (i) the criteria to establish the information likely to be in the public interest that should be published proactively, (ii) the model for identifying the information that is frequently requested under FOI, and (iii) the legislative footprint, the aim was for these to be completed by mid 2015. Criteria were not developed as individual public bodies will be best placed to know what kinds of information are sought frequently under FOI in the public interest. It is considered that this is something that can be monitored over time. The legislative footprint is now being progressed in the context of the public consultation guidelines.</p>
End date	April 2016
Next steps	<p>New guidance continues to be developed as the need arises</p> <p>Records Management – The DPER will review and provide central guidance if required to improve records management.</p> <p>FOI Costs – FOI bodies have been furnished with a template to record time spent on FOI requests, and have been advised to monitor such time from 1st July 2015.</p> <p>Additional Networks - Examples of the types of networks that could be newly established are commercial bodies, education and training boards, regulatory bodies, ombudsmen, etc. The FOI CPU has encouraged all public bodies to link up with a network or to create a new one.</p> <p>Further templates will be developed to assist public bodies Public bodies are being asked to publish generic email addresses on their FOI contact details to improve access by the public.</p>
<p>Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)</p>	
<p>The main risks involved is that a lot of the responsibility lies with the various public bodies, many of whom have various programmes competing for limited resources. The Central Policy Unit will continue to provide guidance and to drive and oversee the implementation of the Code.</p>	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 3.3 – Reform of FOI		
Lead implementing agency	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Evelyn O'Connor	
Title, Department	Principal, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	
Email	Evelyn.o'connor@per.gov.ie	
Phone	604 5311	
Other actors involved	Government	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in consultation with public bodies and the Office of the Attorney General be involved in the delivery of this action. All public bodies will be involved in implementation once the Bill is enacted.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Wide range of stakeholders.
Main Objective	Reform of FOI	
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)	Implementing a comprehensive reform of Ireland's Freedom of Information legislation through the FOI Act 2014 and the establishment of a Code of Practice for FOI as referenced above.	
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>	<p>This commitment address the grand challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The new FOI Act came into force on 14 October 2014. It removed the main substantive restrictions in access to official information which had been introduced in 2003 providing access to records which would previously have been excluded.</p> <p>The Act also extends the powers of the Information Commissioner and introduces provisions to ensure that FOI requests for information held electronically are dealt with effectively. It also clarifies that there is a general right of access to records held by public bodies and introduces new policies and principles clarifying that FOI bodies must have regard to the need to achieve greater openness in their activities and adherence to the principle of transparency and to strengthen accountability and improve the quality of decision-making.</p> <p>It also extended FOI to all public bodies unless specifically exempt in whole or in part and provides a framework for the extension of FOI to non-public bodies in receipt of significant funding from the Exchequer. The legislation also provided an</p>	

	<p>opportunity for a necessary consolidation, modernisation and updating of the legislation and the legislation was simplified and restructured to make it more accessible to the citizen.</p> <p>The new Act applies to all public bodies including newly established bodies that conform to the definition of public body in Section 6 of the Act (a very broad definition designed to bring as many bodies as possible within remit), unless they are specifically exempt or part-exempt for necessary reasons such as to protect the economic interests of the State. The Act brought a number of long-established high profile excluded bodies within remit for the first time including the Central Bank, An Garda Síochána and many others.</p> <p>The €15 application fee has been abolished and a minimum threshold of €101 (approx. 5 hours) below which no search, retrieval and copying fees can be charged provided the request can be processed within this time period. A cap of €500 on the charging of search, retrieval and copying was also introduced.</p>		
<p>Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i></p>	<p>The existence of adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability within the civil service and between the civil service, the political level and citizens generally is one of the fundamental elements of a democratic system of government.</p> <p>The FOI Act 2014 has provided citizens with a more open and transparent method of obtaining information held by public bodies. The abolition of the up-front fee for making a request, the reduction of the fees for making appeals, and the minimum threshold and cap limits put in place for search, retrieval and copying have all lead to more accessible information.</p> <p>The Act is in favour of releasing information with the onus on the relevant public body to apply the necessary exemption, usually subject to a public interest test.</p>		
<p>Completion level</p>	<p>Not started / Limited</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i></p>	<p>It was aimed that the comprehensive reform of Ireland’s FOI legislation would be implemented through the FOI Bill 2013 and the establishment of a Code of Practice for FOI, and that these would be ongoing to be completed by the end of 2014.</p> <p>The FOI Act 2014 came into force in October 2014. The Code of Practice for FOI was issued in tandem with the Act.</p> <p>The following legislation has all been issued subsequently in accordance with various sections of the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SI No 531 of 2014 - Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SI No 103 of 2015 - Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Commencement Date for Certain Bodies) Order 2015 • SI No 144 of 2015 - Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Exempted Public Bodies) Order 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SI No 148 of 2015 - Freedom of Information 2014 (Effective Date for Certain Bodies) Order 2015 <p>Public bodies are required to prepare and furnish publication schemes to promote the proactive publication of information outside of FOI by 14th April 2016.</p> <p>Regarding the provision of key principles to guide public bodies in the performance of their functions under the Act; the extensions of the functions/powers of the Information Commissioner; provisions to ensure that FOI requests relating to information held electronically are dealt with effectively; and confirmation that there is a general right of access to records held by public bodies; the aim was for these to be completed by the end of 2014.</p>
End date	Q4/2015
Next steps	Further legislative work is required in relation to the Commencement Order for Section 8 of the FOI Act so that the Publication Scheme will come into effect for all bodies, and in the area of records of a deceased person. It is anticipated that both of these pieces of work will be completed in 2015. Further regulations/orders will be made as required
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)	

Commitment Completion Template

Action 3.4 – Regulation of Lobbying		
Lead implementing agency		Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Joyce Nolan
Title, Department		Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
Email		Joyce.Nolan@per.gov.ie
Phone		01 604 5486
Other actors involved	Government	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and public bodies. All public bodies will be involved in implementation on a phased basis.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Wide range of stakeholders including representative bodies, NGOs and Charity sector, Business interests, Unions and Consultant PR / Lobbying sector
Main Objective		Regulation of Lobbying
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Securing Government approval for, publishing and enacting the Regulation of Lobbying legislation. Developing a Transparency Code.
Relevance <i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i>		This commitment address the grand challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation. The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 sets up a statutory regime for the registration of lobbying activity on a web-based public register. It will show who is communicating with whom and about what.
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the</i>		The existence of a public register of lobbying activity will provide transparency on who is seeking to influence Government and the senior public service in respect of certain issues impacting on public policy, legislative initiatives or matters involving public funds.

<i>commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>			
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
			x
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>The target for the publishing of the Bill was mid-2014, and for the Enactment the end of 2014.</p> <p>The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 is now in place. The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform has made a Commencement Order setting 1 September 2015 as the commencement date for the Act. The first registration period is from 1 September 2015 to 31 December 2015 and the deadline for the first registrations is 21 January 2016.</p>		
End date	Action Completed. The Act applies to lobbying communication with Ministers, Ministers of State, TDs and Senators, MEPs representing the Irish State, Special Advisers to Minister and senior officials in the Civil Service and the Local Authorities.		
Next steps	The scope of the Act will be extended over time to other areas of the wider public service by Ministerial Order. A review of the first year of the implementation of the Act will begin in September 2016.		
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			

Commitment Completion Template

Action 3.5 – Encourage, Protect and Raise Awareness of Whistleblower Duties and Protections		
Lead implementing agency		Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Michael Perkins
Title, Department		Assistant Principal, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform
Email		Michael.Perkins@per.gov.ie
Phone		01 604 5613
Other actors involved	Government	All Government Departments and the Office of the Attorney General were consulted.
	CSOs, private sector, working groups, multilaterals	Trade unions, relevant civil society organisations and employer representative bodies involved.
Main Objective		Encourage, Protect and Raise Awareness of Whistleblower Duties and Protections
Brief Description of Commitment (140 character limit)		Communicate and increase awareness of whistleblowing and the availability of whistleblowing protection consistent with Protected Disclosures legislation.
<p>Relevance</p> <p><i>Briefly describe the way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values of access to information, public accountability, civic participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability. (A detailed description of these values is available in the OGP Values Guidance Note.)</i></p>		<p>This commitment addresses the challenges of improving public services, and increasing public integrity. It is relevant to the advancement of transparency, accountability and public participation.</p> <p>The Protected Disclosures Act, which has been in place since July 2014, provides a framework for the protection of workers in all sectors of the economy against reprisals in circumstances that they make a disclosure of information relating to wrongdoing which comes to their attention in the workplace. The legislation is drafted to cover as broad a population of persons in the workplace environment as is feasible. The extent of the ‘wrongdoings’ on which protected disclosures can be made is sufficiently broad to ensure that a wide range of possible wrongdoings can be reported.</p> <p>This Act addresses a gap in Ireland’s legal framework for preventing corruption and reflects international best practice relating to whistleblowing protection recommended by, the G20/OECD, the UN Council of Europe and the European Parliament. It requires that every public body shall establish and maintain procedures for the making of protected disclosures by workers who are or were employed by the public body and for dealing with such disclosures. Written information</p>

	in relation to those procedures must be provided to workers employed by the public body. The Minister for Public Expenditure will issue Guidance for the purpose of assisting public bodies in the performance of these functions.		
Ambition <i>Briefly describe the intended policy results of the commitment and how it will either make government more open or improve government through more openness.</i>	The existence of adequate and effective arrangements for governance and accountability within the civil service and between the civil service, the political level and citizens generally is one of the fundamental elements of a democratic system of government.		
Completion level	Not started / Limited	Substantial	Completed
			x
Description of the results <i>Include specific activities within the reporting period (first or second year of the action plan) and, wherever possible, please indicate whether there has been evidence of members of the public using the commitment or whether the commitment has had an effect.</i>	<p>The target was to initiate this Action in Q3 2014, to be ongoing to mid-2015.</p> <p>The Protected Disclosures Act has drawn wide international praise as a best in class provision and represents a small but nonetheless significant step in Ireland's anti-corruption framework.</p> <p>A number of public bodies have already prepared and issued written procedures for making protected disclosures A number of engagements have also taken place with public bodies and other interested parties in relation to the content of Guidance to be issued by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to assist public bodies in the performance of their functions under the Act, and the Minister's Department is currently in the process of finalising this Guidance.</p> <p>The Protected Disclosures Act has attracted favourable comment in Europe wide peer reviews of statutory protections for Whistle-blowers.</p>		
End date	Legislation is complete but implementation of the Protected Disclosures Act will be ongoing.		
Next steps	The Department of Public Expenditure and will finalise and issue Guidance for the purpose of assisting public bodies in the performance of these functions in the near future.		
Additional information (Description on what remains to be achieved and any risks or challenges to implementing the commitment.)			
The emphasis of the Protected Disclosures legislation is to protect individuals from penalisation for making a protected disclosure within the terms of the Act. The existence of the legislation gives rise to an expectation that a range of investigatory mechanisms are available to promptly investigate and adjudicate on all protected disclosures no matter what their nature is. However, the Act contains no new obligation to investigate and is not prescriptive on the approach to be taken to conducting an investigation as this will depend on the specific circumstances that apply in any particular case.			

