



Open Government Partnership (OGP) - 9th Round Table Meeting Minutes - 26th January 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome and updates since last meeting - Co-chairs Philip McGrath and Antoin O Lachtain
2. Updates on commitments under the Third Open Government's Partnership National Action Plan 2021-2023:
3. Discussion and decision on the OGP Consultation Themes Paper and next steps toward public engagement
4. Actions arising /AOB/Next meeting/ close

1. Welcome and updates since last meeting

- The Co- Chairs welcomed members to the meeting. The 1st December minutes were agreed and will be uploaded to the Open Government Partnership website. The members were thanked for their contributions to the Consultation Themes Paper.

2. Updates on commitments under the Third Open Government's Partnership National Action Plan 2021-2023:

Ciara Morgan (DPER) provided an update as follows:

- **Review of Ireland's Statutory Framework for Ethics in Public Life**
Government approved the publication of the Ethics Review report and preparation of a General Scheme based on the recommendations on 13 December 2022. The review report will be published shortly and a General Scheme will be prepared by the Department. There will be awareness raising activities of the review report and its recommendations.
- **Review of Ireland's Freedom of Information (FOI) Regime**
A Memorandum for Information updating Government on progress on the review was brought to Government on 13 December 2022 and published. I will share it with the Secretariat for circulation of the group. It is intended to seek Government approval to the final review report in Q1 2023. The Minister intends to bring legislative proposals, informed by the review, to Government in 2023.
- **Review of the Operation of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015**
The review recommendations informed the drafting of an amendment Bill to strengthen the existing legislative framework. This Bill was published in September. The Bill was considered in the Dáil at Committee stage on 7th December. Dáil report stage is provisionally scheduled for 1 March 2023 and it is intended that it will complete its passage through the Oireachtas and be enacted in early 2023.

Kieran Moylan (DRCD) provided an update as follows;

- Publication of Values and Principles

The Values and Principles for collaboration and partnership working with the community and voluntary sector were approved by Government and were launched in 2022. DRCD is responsible for disseminating the Values and Principles and will be undertaking a monitoring exercise as part of the 2023 work programme

- Civic Forum

The first Civic Forum for dialogue between the state and the community and voluntary sector took place at the Aviva stadium on 21st November 2022. A draft report on the proceedings has been received and is being finalised. The next action will be to engage with the sub-committee of the Cross Sectoral Group on the Community Strategy to identify and agree on the next steps arising from the first event and develop proposals for the next event.

- Review of the PPNs

Following the publication of the PPN Structural Review Report in June 2022, DRCD has undertaken to work collaboratively with stakeholders to shape the future of the PPNs. A webinar on the structural review was held in October 2022 and it was also discussed at the PPN Conference in October last.

A Working Group has been established to act as the main forum to develop recommendations to the Minister and to develop a roadmap. The roadmap will include actions identified in the structural review along with further recommendations put forward by stakeholders.

DRCD is preparing to commission research on addressing barriers to participation in the PPNs and to make recommendations on increasing diversity and the participation of under-represented groups. Draft terms of reference have been prepared and have been circulated to the PPN National Advisory Group, staff and secretariat networks for their observations and feedback. An Oversight Group of PPN stakeholders will be established to monitor the research. A request for tender is expected to issue before the end of Q1 2023.

Diarmuid O Leary – (DHLGH) provided an update as follows;

- A review of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is currently underway review the framework and operation of SPCs.

A Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) has been constituted to oversee, advise and guide the SPC review, chaired by this Department. Members of the Stakeholder Working Group comprise councillor representative groups (AILG and LAMA), the CCMA, the SPC stakeholder representative pillars including PPNs, as well as Government Departments (D/ECC and D/RCD), the LGMA, and the Department's Planning Division.

The SWG has met twice so far since October, with the third meeting scheduled for early February. Its work to date has involved setting out the terms of reference for the review itself.

The work of the review will be carried out by an external consultant. It is envisaged that the SWG would meet with the external consultant at appropriate intervals to advise and guide the review process.

Once complete, the report will be submitted by the external consultant to the SWG. The SWG will provide commentary on the final report, and will then submit the report with the SWG's commentary to the Minister. It is intended that the review will complete its work well in time to allow any necessary amendments to be made by the Minister to the SPC guidelines in time for the 2024 local elections.

Liam Gleeson – (DPER) provided an update as follows;

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has engaged the IPA to carry out a review of the existing consultation principle and guidance for the public sector published in November 2016.

This review will comprise of interviews and a co-production phase involving key stakeholders in the drafting of the updated guidelines and will include.

- Background research began in December with a review of academic literature and best practice guidelines
- Interviews with key personnel directly involved in the area of public engagement are including National Disability Authority, officials in Department of Rural and Community Development with responsibility for engagement with community & voluntary sector and in the Department of the Taoiseach with responsibility for social dialogue.
- Workshops will be arranged with key stakeholders including members of the Round Table with a view to taking place in March.

Final draft of updated guidelines to be submitted to DPER by end April.

3. Discussion on the OGP Consultation Themes Paper and next steps toward public engagement

Following a presentation by the Secretariat regarding consultation with the Round Table regarding the Options Paper four key themes for public consultation, which include Transparency and Accountability in Public Office; Participative Democracy and Budgeting; Strengthening Public Trust in Government and Public Access to Government Data, were agreed.

The Civil Society representatives presented a framework paper in respect of the upcoming public consultation process.

4. Actions arising /AOB/Next meeting/ close

- The Round Table agreed to the formation of a sub-group from the membership to develop the consultation process and next steps toward public engagement.
- It was agreed that dates for meetings in 2023 would be circulated to Round Table Members