Launch of the Northern Ireland Open Government Network

5th November 2014
Malone House, Belfast

#OpenGovNI  #I’mIn
Simon Hamilton MLA
NI Minister of Finance & Personnel
Open Government Partnership

Embryonic Open Government Network
Building Change Trust

Peter Osborne
“The public want a long-term relationship with the State but sometimes it seems civil servants and politicians want a one-night stand.”

“It is about balancing the need to manage with the right to influence”
Background

- Launched in September 2011 – UN General Assembly;
- Initially eight countries – UK, USA, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, Norway, Philippines, Indonesia;
- Now over 60 countries, including Ireland;

Aims:

- Increase transparency, participation and accountability;
- Not just top down government.
Admission

Admission criteria:
1. Fiscal transparency;
2. Access to information;
3. Disclosures relating to elected or senior officials;

Five Grand Challenges:
1. Improving public services;
2. Increasing public integrity;
3. More effective management of public resources;
4. Creating safer communities;
5. Increasing corporate accountability.
In the UK

- Action Plan Two – the third due in 2015-2016;
- 21 commitments in Action Plan Two;
- Championed by Cabinet Office;
- Ongoing and developing relationship with VCSE;
- Mainly Whitehall focussed to date.

“Citizens are demanding that the state should be their servant, not their master, and that information that governments hold should be open for everyone to see”

Rt. Hon. Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, United Kingdom
In Ireland

- Action Plan One – the second due in 2015-2016;
- Championed by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform;
- Ongoing and developing relationship with VCSE;
- Government commitments – big debate around FoI fees.

“Whilst the national action plan does not fulfil all of civil society’s aspirations, it represents a positive step towards greater openness”

Civil Society Representatives in the first Irish Open Government national action plan
In NI? Reform lead with DFP

- Ten principles including openness, relating to data and policy development, especially with charitable and community sectors;
- Want to better engage with civil society;
- Some initial activities such as Innovation Laboratories.

In “renewing, redesigning, rethinking, restructuring and reforming, our government is about enhancing citizen’s experience of public services”

Simon Hamilton MLA, Minister for Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland Executive
Summarise

- Survey;
- Interviews;
- Key Issues;
- Recommendations.
Awareness of OGP Action Plans

- Aware OGP: 22%
- Aware UK Plan: 9%
- Aware Irish Plan: 11%
Involvement OGP Action Plans

- **UK AP**
  - Very involved: 0%
  - Little involved: 4%
  - Not at all involved: 96%

- **Irish AP**
  - Very involved: 0%
  - Little involved: 1%
  - Not at all involved: 99%
Current UK AP – that are critical for NI?

- Quality health service info: 85%
- Open procurement: 80%
- Anti corruption: 74%
- Legal framework whistle blowing: 72%
- Code for Councils: 72%
- Info government for reuse: 71%
- Participation in own health care: 68%
**NI Executive – Rating by criteria and GCs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OGP Criteria for Membership</th>
<th>+/- Rating for Northern Ireland (Very good/good score minus very poor/poor score)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen engagement</td>
<td>- 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure</td>
<td>- 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal transparency</td>
<td>- 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to information</td>
<td>- 30</td>
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**OGP Five Grand Challenges**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OGP Five Grand Challenges</th>
<th>+/-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More effectively managing public resources</td>
<td>- 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing public integrity</td>
<td>- 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing corporate accountability</td>
<td>- 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving public services</td>
<td>- 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating safer communities</td>
<td>- 22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OGP Campaign in NI?

- Very important: 76%
- Fairly important: 23%
- Not at all: 1%
- Interested: 53%
- Not interested: 47%
## Priorities for OG Network - Critical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transparency in government</td>
<td>92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political leaders commitment</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Reform of accountability in NI</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coverage in all parts of NI</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United civic voice</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public procurement transparency</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embedding OG in Councils</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NI specific OGP commitments</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public participation policy making</td>
<td>68%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Issues - Survey

- Awareness and involvement;
- Open government is very important;
- Significant interest in a network;
- Poor ratings;
- Leadership and politicians as drivers;
- Transparency, engagement, policy making and managing resources;
- Lack of knowledge or awareness re technical issues/datasets?
- Ideas for going forward.
Key Issues - Interviews

• Lack of awareness and knowledge – not all;
• Concept important – democracy, growth, datasets, benefits;
• UK – Whitehall – not transferred – N-S links;
• Early cohesion in civic society – concept, process, public advocacy – 24 months – Assembly elections and PfG;
• Lack of current maturity in political-public discourse;
• Lack of co-ordination across departments – political champion – driver with VCSE;
• Technical aspects important but can be narrow and excluding;
• Utilise existing initiatives;
• Issues – procurement, commissioning, health, policy development;
• Few examples of good open government.
Recommendations – sample

- Launch and support an open government network;
- 18-24 month timeline and action plan;
- Dialogue within VCSE re expectations - cohesive & realistic programme;
- Programme to develop awareness and understanding including taster workshops, social media, blogs and articles;
- Develop relationships with UK and Irish stakeholders and look for learning including speakers and good practice;
- Identify specific sector and political champions;
- Set targets for a small number of critical themes – with government;
Finally

Peter Osborne

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Lizetta Lyster
UK Cabinet Office, Transparency Team
Transparency and Open Government in the UK

Northern Ireland Civil Society Network
The Cabinet Office Transparency Team is working across government to achieve meaningful reform.
Make things open, it makes things better

The 10th design principle from the Government Digital Service:

“We should share what we’re doing whenever we can.
With colleagues, with users, with the world…”
This will lead to...
Open and accountable government
Improved public services
Economic growth

- economic
- businesses
- markets
- material
- start-up
- supplies
- future
- lasting
- new
- innovation
- scientific
- common
- demand
- creation
- address
- incubate
- generate
- best
- value
- raw
- jobs
- true
- billion
- reap
- issues
- knowledge
- companies
- Institute
- potential
- research
- enhance

growth

stimulating
unlock

data
Objectives

• Get high-quality, open data out of government and into the public’s hands

• Reach a wider audience of data users

• Maintain the UK’s international position as a leader on open data and transparency
Achievements so far

• Over 15,000 datasets published on data.gov.uk, including information on more than £188 billion of public spending

• 2012 Open Data White Paper, which set out policies aimed at enhancing access to government data, building public trust in data and making smarter use of it

• Launched the Open Data Institute (ODI)

• Changes to FOI to give citizens broad and reliable access to government data
Achievements so far

- National Information Infrastructure – world first
- G8 Open Data Charter
- Chairmanship of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Hosted OGP London Summit in 2013, over 80 countries, 37 brand new commitments achieved through UK leadership
Who do we work with?

- Across government – with other departments, public bodies and local authorities
- Public Sector Transparency Board
- Open Data User Group
- Open Data Institute
- UK OGP Civil Society Network
International co-operation
Leading to greater innovation and new connections
With high level political commitment
Partnership between government and civil society

- Co-creation of domestic open government commitments, leading to greater ambition and more traction across government
- More innovative means of implementation
- Building a broader, more diverse network of reformers
UK in the OGP – story to date

- First NAP published September 2011
- UK OGP Civil Society Network self-formed and welcomed by government
- Independent Reporting Mechanism report on first NAP published in September 2013
- Second NAP published in October 2013
Implementation of second UK NAP

• Continuation of joint approach – government and civil society working together to deliver commitments
• Open and transparent about progress
• Continuing to identify further stretch and ambition in commitments
What next?

• Continuing to work to broaden engagement on the OGP at both a national and local level

• Self-assessment of second NAP

• Independent Reporting Mechanism report on second NAP

• Third NAP due to be published in January 2016
Don’t forget to join the network:

Either:
• Complete the card on your table

Or:
• Tweet #I’mIn to #OpenGovNI
Felicity Huston
Launch of the Northern Ireland Open Government Network

NOVEMBER 5TH 2014

The OGP Ireland Experience
Anne Colgan
Key dates

When did Ireland sign up? May 2013

When did Ireland submit its first Action plan? July 2014

When Ireland formally joined OGP? July 2014
OGP Consultation

Input from Four Working Groups – On/Offline

Meeting I
10 July

Meeting II
8 August

Meeting III
5 September

Input from Public – Submissions & Online

Action Plan + Engagement Proposals
The National Action Plan

• **3 strands:** (OD/transparency, citizen engagement, Strengthening governance/accountability)
• National/local
• Capacity building
• Long term/short term
• Copper fasten planned initiatives
Features of the ROI Process

- Civil Society initiative and leadership
- Champions
- Government openness
- Rich CS diversity
- Tight timeframe
- FOI as ‘driver’
Potential Benefits

• Important public commitments
• New focus on Open Government
• Capacity Building
• Building partnership
Challenges

• What is this?
• Who is civil society?
• Who is government?
• Wider public on board?
• Digital divide
• Building partnership
Making it work: What Civil Society Needs

- Evidence of Government commitment
- Cohesion and dialogue
- Be strategic!
- Supports
- Time
- Ambition
Making it work: What Government Needs

- Evidence of commitment
- Willingness to engage
- Flexibility
- Lead role
- Whole of Government approach
Making it work: What the Partnership Needs

- Relationship building before ‘negotiation’
- Make use of multiple disciplines
- Mind the process
Focus for the Action Plan!

- Actions that are potential levers?
- Short, medium, longer term actions?
- Capacity Building actions?
- Impact?
- Implementation
Why do this?

“In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself”

(James Madison, 1808-1817)
"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood."

(James Madison, 4th American President, 1809-1817)
Why do this?

- Government’s right to govern meets the citizens right to influence
- Openness, transparency, accountability are the key
- Accessible information
- The power of powerful questions
- A prize worth pursuing!
UK Open Government Manifesto

Welcome to the UK Open Government Manifesto!
We want to know how you think government and public services in the UK can be improved through greater transparency, participation and accountability.

What specific open government reforms would you like to see the next UK government make? How do you think they should be implemented? And what effect do you think it will have on citizens and society in the UK and beyond?

Perhaps you think a specific data set should be published, or information should be released in a particular way. Maybe you would like to see a reform to the way freedom of information is implemented, or think there’s an important part of government that requires greater scrutiny. Is there a particular issue or decision making process in which you think the public should be involved? Are there particular communities or social groups that you think government should engage in policy discussions?

When submitting your proposal, please consider the following questions:

- **What?** - make your proposal clear and specific.
- **Why?** - set out clearly why you consider it to be important.
- **Who?** - state who you think should be responsible for fulfilling the commitment.
- **How?** - suggest how the commitment might be enacted.
- **When?** - propose a realistic timescale for implementing the commitment.

Get reading, commenting and rating the ideas of others and contributing your own!

Fight corruption in the UK & abroad

by [RachelDavies](#) on October 14, 2014 at 01:31PM  ⚫  0 comments so far  ⚫  1 tag so far

[Read and Rate] [Votes so far ⭐️⭐️⭐️⭐️]  0.0 (0 votes - averaged)
Group Discussion

1. What is the most important issue a Northern Ireland open government network should focus on?
2. What are the key principles that should govern how the open government network works in NI?
3. If the open government network could only deliver one thing in its first twelve months what should that be?
4. What is the first network activity that should happen after this event?
Thank you

Don’t forget to join the network:

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Or:
• Tweet #I’mIn to #OpenGovNI