

**Meeting of the Open Data Governance Board (ODGB)**

**via Webex 10:00am – 12:00pm, Thursday, 21st September, 2023**

**Minutes**

Present: Aoife Sexton, Barry Lowry, Dr Adegboyega Ojo, Andrew O’Sullivan, Cianán Clancy, Helena Campbell, Sarah Glavey, Caoimhe Judge, Jason Sherlock, Fiachra Cumiskey

Chair: Aoife Sexton

Secretariat: Helena Campbell (DPER)

Apologies: Martin Quigley, Declan Smyth, Bahareh Heravi

# 1. Welcome. Minutes of the February meeting and matters arising

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. It was noted that the board never received a response to comments, or a final report of a the SFI research paper on the Impact of Open Data. A discussion around governance and structure was held and a follow up on this issue discussed.

**Action 1 (Secretariat):**

Publish minutes of February ODGB meeting on the portal.

**Action 2 (Secretariat):** Correspondence to SFI and writer that we do not approve the paper to be published, and do not give permission to be associated with it. Reputational risk potentially at stake.

# 2. Progress update from the Open Data Unit (ODU)

The ODU provided an update of progress and activities since the last meeting. A progress report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and will be posted on [data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/) following the meeting.

Some of the progress highlighted include:

* The ODU have received two new staff members- Fiachra Cumiskey (CO) and Jason Sherlock (AO).
* Final Reports were received from winners of the 2022/2023 Engagement Fund of work completed on their projects up to July 1st 2023. Preparation is underway for Engagement Fund 2023/2024. An update on the four projects was given to the board.
	+ Our Engagement Fund helped fund the prize money for the winners of the Smart Dublin Air Quality Hackathon, which was a weekend-long event in February 2023. The air quality data collected as part of the “Google Air View Dublin” Project was used, and can be found on Smart Dublin’s Open Data platform.
	+ The DataLink Hackathon and the Women in tech Hackathon, ran by Data Soc at UCD, took place in April this year. Their aim was to inspire more people to be interested in open data and data science.
	+ The “Wellbeing Analysis from Census Data” run by eTownz, is an ongoing project across different locations, using 2016 CSO open datasets. Its’ aim is to analyse and compare wellbeing metrics, in hopes to identify areas for improvement in wellbeing and use these results to inform policy decisions.
	+ The Dublin City Tourism Open Data Challenge is in the works at the moment. It aims to fund events/projects that use open data to help make a lasting impact on tourism in Ireland.
	+ All projects have been asked to write a blog to feature on the portal.

* The Open Data Tracker has proved vital for ensuring the public's questions about datasets available on the open data portal are answered. In 2023 so far, 450 portal tickets were submitted. Work has completed to further develop the tracker to produce real-time reports and dashboards on the type of queries received.
* The ODU attended the NDI Champions Group meeting on June 29th 2023.
* The Open Data Training programme is back after summer break in collaboration with UrbanTide and a significant numbers of public servants have registered to attend the September, October and November training days.
* The ODU have plan to soft launch the 2023-2027 Open Data Strategy in the coming weeks with an official launch at the Open Data Conference. The ODU have completed the final draft of the 2023-2027 Open Data Strategy and presented it to the Management Board of DPENDR.
* The ODU, in collaboration with Derilinx, are redesigning data.gov.ie to enhance user experience. The new portal is in its final stages of development.
* The ODU attended an Information Session by Data.Europa Academy on Strategic Data Spaces.
* The ODU is working alongside Derilinx and the OGP under the Technical Framework to provide green and social hours to a number of organisations.
* The ODU represented Ireland at the EU Open Data Committee meeting in Ljubljiana in May.
* The ODU represented Ireland at the OECD Expert Group on Open Government Data in Paris on the 14th and 15th of September.
* The ODU has given a talk on their experiences on the Hale & Hearty Action to a European Statistical Training Programme seminar.
* The ODU has provided support to a number of PSBs on data related matters such as Eircodes, OIC appeals and INSPIRE compliance.

**Action 3 (Secretariat):** Publish the February Progress Report on the portal.

**Action 4 (Secretariat):** Note Agenda Item for next meeting: Walkthrough of work done on portal and what future portal support will look like.

**Action 5 (Secretariat):** Upon request, a board member to receive the final report of an Engagement Fund recipient when received.

# 3. Discussion on Open Data Strategy 2023-2027

Members were presented with a final draft of the Open Data Strategy 2023 – 2027 and the feedback was well received. All in agreement that the Strategy can be published.

The Issue of metrics was raised and it was broadly agreed that for future reviews that a ‘metrical measure of success’ is desired, along with case studies or success stories.

Measuring for Success Progress on implementing the commitments within this Strategy will be continuously measured, evaluated, and reported on. We will incorporate a broader set of outcomes to measure the impacts of our interventions on societal well-being, as per the commitment set out in the Programme for Government. Risks and dependencies surrounding our priorities and goals will also be continuously monitored and managed. A key focus of our evaluation approach will be on identifying lessons learned that can be applied to future work.

It was highlighted that it is difficult to measure metrically but options of metrical measure will be explored. This should not happen without non-metrical measures of success; both should be included in any measure of success. How to analyse goals and to touch all bases, 4 stakeholder groups that the ODS could target is Corporate, Students use, Academia use, and PSBs.

The board agreed to sign off on the strategy. The next steps for the strategy will be getting it to government for final approval and to the Minister to sign off on it.

**Action 6 (Secretariat):**

Publish the Open Data Strategy 2023 – 2027.

**Action 7 (Secretariat):**

Agenda Item for next meeting: Exploring Metrical and Non-Metrical Measures of Success. This to include 1st attempt of strawman.

4.Open Data Conference

The board were informed the National Open Data Conference will take place on the 24th October during Transformation week. A provisional agenda of the conference was shown to board members and discussions were held regarding the potential agenda of the conference, including sharing tangible outcomes. A slight alteration of the agenda was made. The theme of the conference was agreed upon. Potential speakers that were explored included recipients of the Engagement fund, Derilinx Staff, Government Departments, Garda, Domestic and International speakers. The Open Data Unit are to start preparations in regards to the marketing and communications surrounding the event.

**Action 8 (Secretariat):**

Reword legislation item on the agenda to ‘Call-to-action’.

5.Open Data Maturity Survey 2023

Survey responses and feedback are ongoing with the EU survey, and the OECD survey. The ODU are completing these surveys and responses will be sent to the relevant EU and OECD section when appropriate. The deadline for the Open Data Maturity survey is the 28th October and results are due to be released in early December. For the OECD survey, the deadline will be sometime around late September/early October.

6.Data.gov.ie Portal Update

The data.gov.ie portal was discussed. The ODU had been working to enhance user experience and develop a new look and feel for the site. It was agreed that there is a new and better look to it. It will go live very soon after some unforeseen minor delays. It was agreed at the next ODGB meeting the ODU would offer a walkthrough of the new site to the board. At this next meeting, the board would also like to hear about any future plans for the portal in detail

7.AOB and next meeting

A review of board members was discussed with the potential of gaining new members with diverse skillsets. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda for the next meeting. Also it was highlighted to remove past board members from the portal website. It was also agreed to hold the next meeting in early December this year online, with a view to holding the 1st meeting in 2024 in person or hybrid. In regards to the risk register, a further meeting with the Secretariat and Chair will be held to discuss this.

**Action 9 (Secretariat):**

Doodle poll regarding potential December meeting times to go out ASAP and time agreed at least one month in advance.

**Action 10 (Secretariat and Chair):**

Agenda item for next meeting: Review current board members and discuss how to increase the diverse skillset of the board.

**Action 11 (Secretariat):**

Remove past board members from the portal and update any bios/images.

# **Appendix 1 ODGB Actions List**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Board meeting**  | **No.**  | **Description**  | **Responsible**  | **Due By**  | **Status**  |
| September 21st 2023 | A1 | Publish minutes of 7th February 2022 meeting on the portal. | **Secretariat** |  | In Progress |
| September 21st 2023 | A2 | Correspondence to SFI and writer that we do not approve the paper to be published, and do not give permission to be associated with it, including our intellectual property. | **Secretariat** |  | In Progress |
| September 21st 2023 | A3 | Publish the September Progress Report on the portal.  | **Secretariat** |  | In Progress |
| September 21st 2023 | A4 | Note Agenda Item for next meeting: Walkthrough of work done on portal and what future portal support will look like.  | **Secretariat** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A5 | Upon request, a board member to receive the final report of an Engagement Fund recipient when received. | **Secretariat** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A6 | Publish the Open Data Strategy 2023 – 2027. | **Secretariat** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A7 | Agenda Item for next meeting: Exploring Metrical and Non-Metrical Measures of Success. This to include 1st attempt of strawman. | **Secretariat** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A8 | Reword legislation item on the agenda to ‘Call-to-action’. | **Secretariat** |  |  |
| September 21st 2023 | A9 | Doodle poll regarding potential December meeting times to go out ASAP and time agreed at least one month in advance.  | **Secretariat** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A10 | Agenda item for next meeting: Review current board members and discuss how to increase the diverse skillset of the board. | **Secretariat and Chair** |  | Done |
| September 21st 2023 | A11 | Remove past board members from the portal.  | **Secretariat** |  | **In Progress** |
| 7th Feb 2023  | A.1 | Publish minutes of 2022 meetings on the portal and replace red line copy of the minutes of the last meeting | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023  | A.2 | Publish the February Progress Report on the portal. | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.3 | Agree on date for a virtual meeting with Fatemeh by sending a doodle poll of potential dates. | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.4 | Circulate the scoping document of the paper. | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.5 | Contact Science Foundation Ireland for further information on the potential future use of the paper. | **Secretariat**  |  |  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.6 | Send an electronic copy of the strategy to Board Members for feedback, with reminders on Friday the 10th and Monday the 13th of February | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.7 | Review draft strategy document and send feedback to the ODU by Wednesday the 15th February | **ODGB**  |  | **Done**  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.8 | Meet again to discuss and update the Risk Register to reflect ODGB concerns only | **Secretariat and Chair**  |  |  |
| 7th Feb 2023 | A.9 | Mark the Data Governance Act presentation as completed in the ODGB actions list | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |
| 12th May 2022  | A.1  | Publish minutes of February meeting on the portal  | **Secretariat**  |  |  |
| 12th May 2022  | A.2  | Publish the February Progress Report on the portal  | **Secretariat**  |  |  |
| 12th May 2022  | A.3  | Develop promotional pitch for H&H.  | **Secretariat**  |  |  |
| 12th May 2022  | A.4  | Compile statistics on the uses of Open Data and high level information on queries received.  | **Secretariat**  |  |  |
| 12th May 2022  | A.5  | Circulate a doodle poll of potential dates.  | **Secretariat**  |  | **Done**  |

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Open Data Unit

Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform

XXth November, 2023