**Progress Report for ODGB Meeting, 1 February 2017**

## Governance Activities

A suggested schedule of meeting for 2017 was circulated before Christmas. We are suggesting the following meeting dates for 2017 - Tuesday, 25th April, Wednesday 26th or Thursday 27th July and Tuesday 17th October for the remainder of the year and are asking Board members to confirm their availability on these dates as soon as possible.

No date has been set as yet for the next meeting of the Public Bodies Working Group but it is intended to convene a meeting of the group to discuss the draft Strategy prior to its publication.

## Open Data Strategy

On foot of the meeting with representatives from the library group on 30 November, Philip Cohen (DIT), Kate Kelly (RCSI) and Brian Galvin (HRB) submitted written papers which were circulated to the Board for information.

On foot of the draft Strategy circulated to the Board, observations were received from Dennis Jennings. The Open Data Team met with Dennis to discuss his document on Wednesday 11 January and a revised draft Strategy incorporating Dennis’ suggestions was circulated to the Board on 13th January. No further observations from the Board have been received to date. The draft Strategy will be the main focus of discussion at the ODGB meeting of 1 February. Once the draft Strategy is approved by the ODGB, it will need to be submitted to Government for approval. A decision needs to be made as to whether it needs to go out for public consultation again notwithstanding that it takes account of the consultation on the foundation document which forms the basis for the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy has also been circulated to the Open Data Public Bodies Working Group for comments (on 25 January 2017). Some obs have been received back which will be considered at the ODGB meeting.

## Updated Actions List

The Open Data Unit has updated the Actions Arising document, using the “RAG” approach set out in previous communications.

Open Data Support

Both of the ‘Request for Tenders’ for Open Data technical support and Open Data Training have now been finalised. The Framework tender for open data training is now live at <https://irl.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/publicpurchase_frameset.asp?PID=107526&B=ETENDERS_SIMPLE&PS=1&PP=ctm/Supplier/publictenders> with a closing date for receipt of applications of 1 March 2017. The Framework tender for Open Data technical support is expected to be published in the coming week with a closing date for applications of mid-March.

## Data Suggestions

Suggestions made through the ‘Suggest dataset’ feature <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/suggest> continue to be followed up on by the Open Data Team with limited success. In/out patient waiting times were made available as open data by the National Treatment Trust Fund in December as were datasets from the Road Safety Authority on NCT pass rates (requested by Jason Roe who met with the Board in October). A large number of suggestions have been received in the past 2 months, mainly from Open Street Maps Ireland.

The allowing of ‘open comments’ on the portal to facilitate open dialogue on data suggestions is now available.

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow. The portal now links to approximately 4,800 datasets from 94 publishers. In December the number of visitors to the portal was 5587.

The ‘latest news’ section is updated regularly and there are now 5 ‘[showcases’](https://data.gov.ie/showcase) on the portal. Regular tweets are also being sent.

## New Datasets and Highlights

Increase in number of datasets: <https://data.gov.ie/stats>

* 216 in November and 95 in December

These include:

* 57 Health datasets from the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund.
* 29 Housing and Zoning datasets from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Affairs
* 120 from the CSO – Irish Health Survey results
* Dataset on Local Property Tax collection rate from Revenue and NCT pass/failure rates from the RSA

## New Features

Derilinx is working on the following feature:

* A ‘contact us’ page is being included on the portal (Previously ‘contact us’ was through an envelope icon on the home page). This was on foot of a suggestion received through the ‘suggest a dataset’ function. The ‘contact us’ tab will be displayed prominently on the menu bar of each page of the portal and brings the user to an online form with a number of options such as ‘report a fault’, ‘submit feedback’, etc.
* The Open Data Team are working with Derilinx and the OGCIO to customise a query tracking system to enable dataset suggestions received via the portal and via other channels to be monitored and managed centrally. Due to the volume being received, it is proving necessary to have some sort of system in place to ensure that follow up is being tracked in an efficient manner.
* A short video explaining the concept of ‘Open Data’ which was developed by the European Open Data portal has been put on the Home Page of the portal.

## National/International Engagement

The Open Data Unit are working with members of the Irish Government Economic & Evaluation Service (IGEES) on a short summary paper on the evaluation/assessment of the Open Data Initiative.

The Open Data Unit continues to engage with Capgemini regarding the European Data Portal Landscaping Survey and related matters. The recently released European Data Portal introductory video has been added to the homepage of data.gov.ie and translation has been arranged for an Irish language subtitled version which the EDP will create. The Open Data Unit will complete the Landscaping survey for 2017 in May/June.

A member of the Open Data Unit attended the Analytics Institute Inspire event on 26 January. Four data analytics experts spoke on issues of relevance, use cases, best practices and challenges.

The Open Data Unit are supporting and will attend a hackathon taking place on Friday 10th February in DCU using HSE, LGMA and other government open data to try and make finding and using government services easier. The hackathon will feature open datasets for eircoded health and local government services and the prize money is being sponsored by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.  The hackathon is open to everyone and further details including how to register are available at this link  <https://medium.com/tradecraft-of-transformation/finding-stuff-is-hard-x-gov-hackathon-may-be-the-answer-3b36026036fb#.2ngbpptt2>.

## Engagement Fund

The agreed funding was paid to all of the successful applicants to the Open Data Engagement Fund in early November and details of the successful applicants and the level of funding paid has been put on the open data portal. The successful applicants have been asked to report back on progress on their projects at end March and the Open Data Team will follow up with them in this regard. Two training events arising out of the fund have been scheduled for 10 and 21 February and a member of the Open Data Unit will attend the second event.

## National Geospatial Strategy

The Open Data Team are continuing to engage with the OSI regarding publication of the National Geospatial Strategy. While no decision has been made it is possible that the Strategy may be jointly submitted by the Ministers for Public Expenditure & Reform and Justice and Equality for Government approval for the publication and implementation of the strategy in Q1 2017. A draft will be circulated to all government departments in advance for observations. It is anticipated that a public consultation process will also be undertaken before publication.

Engagement with Public Bodies

The Open Data Unit is setting up a schedule of communications/meetings with Public Bodies to promote further publication of data in open format. It is expected that this will commence in the coming weeks.

Open Data Unit

1 February, 2017

Ends/