**Progress Report for ODGB Meeting, 5 July 2017**

## Governance Activities

The Public Bodies Working Group met on 30 March – the next meeting will be held on 11 July in conjunction with workshop with Wendy Carrerra and officials from EU Commission/Capgemeni. A representative from Met Eireann has joined the group.

Suggested dates for the next meeting of the Board are 19, 26 or 27 September (afternoon) and Board members are asked to confirm their availability on these dates as soon as possible. A further meeting before the end of 2017 will also be scheduled.

## Open Data Strategy

The draft Strategy was discussed at the Government meeting held on 20 June and Government agreed to its publication and for the Minister to hold a short 2 week consultation on the draft Strategy. It was also agreed that if there were no substantial changes following consultation, the Strategy would be finalised without being returned to Government. It is intended to publish the final version in mid-July. Details of the consultation have been posted to the Open Data Portal blog and on Twitter.

Open Data Support

Both tenders for open data technical support and training have been evaluated with the successful tenderers notified. The contract for the training framework was awarded to [Urban Tide](https://urbantide.com/) and the contract was signed on 12th June. The contracts with the successful tenderers for the open data technical support framework will be signed in early July. The standstill period ended on 14th June.

The existing contract for technical support for the Open Data Portal and Initiative is due to expire on 3rd August. There is a provision to extend the contract for up to a year and this option will be availed of while a new RFT is being drafted. This matter was discussed with the Office of Government Procurement.

## 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. Some 58 suggestions have been received to date, 35 are still open and 23 are closed.

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow although the number added in May was low at 9 (down from 104 in April). The portal now links to approximately 5,241 datasets from 97 publishers. There was an influx of datasets from the Central Statistics Office and Ordnance Survey Ireland during June bringing the total of datasets up to 5,250 from approx. 4,880.

The ‘latest news’ section is updated regularly and there are now 10 ‘[showcases’](https://data.gov.ie/showcase) on the portal. Blog posts included on the portal in the past 2 months include details of the portals win at the eGovernment Awards in May, details of the Open Data Summit in June where the portal was exhibited. Some blogs were included from the successful applicants of the 2016 Engagement Fund including details of visualisations using pedestrian footfall and crime datasets from Cyril Connolly, IADT, Dun Laoghaire, (these are also included as a showcase on the portal), a blog on a hackathon organised by Open Knowledge Ireland using datasets on hospital waiting lists. Information on the [consultation](https://data.gov.ie/content/minister-donohoe-launches-public-consultation-process-national-open-data-strategy-2017-2022) on the Open Data Strategy is also available on the blog. Three further Engagement fund projects have concluded and blog posts are available for these and will be uploaded shortly: Objective Quality of Life Index, Agricultural Correlations using open data and Linked Data and the Generation of RDF from non-RDF resources.

 Regular tweets are also being sent.

## New Datasets and Highlights

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

* 360 (approx.) in June, 9 in May, 104 in April.

These include:

* CSO Census datasets
* OSi boundary datasets
* dataset series on the " The Ecosystem and Ecosystem Service Map" from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
* Monthly tax receipts from D/Finance
* Survey of R&D in the Higher Education Section 2014-2015
* Archaeological datasets (TII/DRI)

There were 7340 visitors to the portal in May.

## New Features

* During May, changes made to the portal included relocation of a number of the menu tabs to make the portal more user friendly.

## National and International Engagement

The Open Data Unit responded to the European Data Portal landscaping exercise, conducted by Capgemini (the consultants engaged by the EU Commission to build the European Data Portal, <http://www.europeandataportal.eu/>) in June.

A European Commission survey on how the PSI Directive is being implemented in Ireland has been completed and returned. This was widely circulated to all departments and bodies under their aegis for input.

The Open Data Unit supported and attended the Ireland eGovernment Summit and Awards ceremony held on 26 May in Dublin Castle and won ‘best award’ in the general category. Further details of the winning projects are available [here.](http://www.egovawards.org/awards-2016/award-winners/)

The Open Data Unit also exhibited the portal at the Data Sharing Global Summit which took place in the National Conference Centre on 15/16 June. The Portal was also mentioned as a best practice example at the Digital Government Conference in June.

The Open Data Portal was highlighted at the launch of archaeological datasets by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Digital Repository of Ireland on 19th June.

A meeting is scheduled between the Open Data Unit and Wendy Carrerra (EU Commission/Capgemini), Open Data Norway, Derilinx and IGEES for 12th July. The focus of the meeting is on Open Data Impacts and evaluation of Open Data.

Engagement with Public Bodies

The Open Data Unit are continuing to engage with pubic bodies on Open Data albeit at a slow pace. A meeting was held with the newly recruited Open Data Officer in Met Eireann on 27 June and meetings have been set up with a number of other public bodies to take place over the coming weeks.

Open Data Unit

5 July, 2017

Ends/